

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON

Rural Health

Rural Health as a social, economic and cultural engine



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE DELLA SALUTE

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF



LODI • ITALY AUDITORIUM DI LODI
VIA POLENGHI LOMBARDO, 13

SEPTEMBER 08-11, 2015

Organized by

International Centre for Rural Health of Milano

Università degli Studi di Milano

Department of Health Sciences

In collaboration with

EURIPA

European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association

IARM

International Association of Rural Medicine and Health

ICOH

Scientific Committees of Rural Health, Occupational Toxicology,
Toxicology of Metals, Occupational Health and Development.

WONCA

Working Party in Rural Practice



The Event will host the 19th Congress of the International Association of Rural Health & Medicine” IARM.

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More than half of the human population lives and works in rural areas, mainly engaged in agricultural activities. This ancient human activity produces food and uses land. In a world where the demand for food is quickly growing, the quality and quantity produced by agriculture may ensure the health of billions people. However, modern agriculture is also capable of causing resource depletion and environmental pollution. Despite major social, cultural, ecological and demographic relevance, rural areas are largely neglected by research and social protection. Rural inhabitants are suffering from an evident gap in quality of life, sanitation, income, and distribution of social protection and economic benefits, including occupational health protection and service. The International Congress on Rural Health calls all international experts in rural health, along the lines already

defined by the World Health Organization in the "Health for All" program. The main objectives are to reinforce Primary Health Care and Occupational Health services in the rural sector as the way to achieve universal health service coverage, and to integrate Occupational Health services within Primary Health Care. All main stakeholders involved in rural health will be present, and with them the main international organizations active in the sector. The venue for the Congress will be Brescia, a historical town located in the Region of Lombardy. Brescia is characterized by a strong agricultural vocation and has a unique richness of enterprise. Boasting a unique and marvelous landscape, several monuments, and a natural hospitality, Brescia is an ideal host city for the Congress. Moreover, Milan, center of the Lombardy Region, will host the 2015 Universal

Exhibition "Energy for Life, Feeding the Planet", during which rural agriculture will be strongly highlighted. Participation in this event will be a unique opportunity to visit EXPO 2015 and participate in the global debate on agriculture in rural areas. Importantly, rural communities are organized in villages, where agriculture and related activities are carried out very often by entire families, in which women, children and elderly represent an important demographic.

Background

The village is the target of all preventive interventions in rural areas. Only a healthy village, inhabited by healthy dwellers, can produce healthy food for the entire community and respect for the living environment.

At the end of the 16th International Congress on Rural Health, held in Lodi (Italy) in June 2006, the "Lodi Declaration on Healthy Villages" was approved, and the Global Movement on Healthy Villages was launched.

The Lodi Declaration highlights that due to the complexity and specificity of rural areas, the approach to rural health needs to be holistic, crosscutting, and integrative. Cross cutting needs include different levels of expertise, (involving for example academia, rural health practitioners, rural community leaders); amongst disciplines (involving general medical practitioners, occupational and environmental me-

dicine, agronomic sciences, veterinary medicine, rural sociology, and health systems); and among countries, particularly addressing rural differences between the industrialized world, growing developing countries and countries in transition. This was partially achieved by the Cartagena Declaration issued during the 17th International Congress in Agricultural Medicine and Rural Health in October 2009, by means of which the region of Latin America committed to strengthening Rural Health and Medicine in this developing region. However, the following specific objectives remain to be achieved:

- Promoting and enforcing universal coverage and access for disadvantaged populations to Primary Health Care and Occupational Health Care, to improve the health status of rural workers and dwellers and to reduce social inequalities;

- Improving the overall quality of rural enterprises, to produce adequate amounts of high quality food, taking into account both nutritional, safety and hygienic issues;
- Reducing the environmental impact of agricultural activities all over in the world, through the diffusion of “green economy” principles and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Reducing the burden of disease attributable to occupational and environmental risks in the workplace, to environmental pollutants generated by agricultural activities, and to the consumption of unhealthy diet.

The opportunity

Milan is planning to hold the Universal Exhibition in 2015. The central topic is “Energy for Life, Feeding the Planet”, by means of which the centrality of agriculture and rural areas in the world will be strongly highlighted. This event constitutes a unique opportunity for organizing a four day event, and calling professionals, experts and stakeholders from different areas of health and rural sciences jointly to address the varied aspects of agriculture and rural health, aimed at prioritization, making rural health problems visible, and finding feasible and sustainable solutions for rural populations.

The proposal

This event targeting international rural health experts will be organized to ensure the participation of the main national and international agencies and organizations involved in Rural Health. In particular, the World Health Organization (WHO) whose life-long efforts towards “Health for All”, is now reinforcing Primary Health Care services as the way to achieve universal health service coverage. Furthermore, since the den Haag Conference, it enhances the integration of Occupational Health services within Primary Health Care. As well, the International Labour Office (ILO), International Professional

Associations such as WONCA, representing family doctors and, in particular, the WONCA party on Rural Practice, the International Committee on Occupational Health (ICOH), and any other organizations willing to support activities focused on working towards the above mentioned objectives and to bring their contribution.

We invite all relevant key persons and stakeholders involved in Rural, Environmental, Occupational and Community Health to support us in the organization of this event.

Organizing Institutions in Milan

THE WHO CC "International Centre for Rural Health" of the University Hospital San Paolo, Milan in collaboration with the Department of Health Sciences of the University of Milan.

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Programme

Programme

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Hall

13:00 - 16:30

Registration

Auditorium

17:00 - 18:30

Opening Ceremony

Welcome of the National and International
Authorities and Institutions

18:30 - 19:15

Opening Ceremony

Opening Lectures

Hall

19:30 - 20:45

Opening Ceremony

Get-Together Party

Auditorium

21:00 on

Social Events

Concert

(open to the public)

Programme

WEDNESDAY 09 SEPTEMBER 2015

Auditorium

09.00 - 9.45

Keynote Lecture 1

Biological Agents

09.45 - 10.30

Keynote Lecture 2

Physical Agents

Hall

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee Break

Auditorium

11.00 - 13.00

PLENARY SESSION 1

The new ICD-11 and the ILO list of occupational
diseases WHO - ILO - FAO

13.00-14.30

Lunch and Poster Discussion

14.30-16.30

PARALLEL SESSION 1

Biological Agents

14.30-16.30

PARALLEL SESSION 2

Physical Agents and Healthy Agricultural Work

Hall

16.30 - 17.00

Coffee Break

17.00 - 18.30

PARALLEL SESSION 3

International Organizations for Rural Health and Basic Occupational Health necessities in agriculture

17.00 - 18.30

PARALLEL SESSION 4

Towards the full coverage of health care in rural areas: primary health care and workers' health

19:30 on

Social events

Programme

THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

Auditorium

09.00 - 9.45

Keynote Lecture 3

Chemical agents and environmental health

09.45 - 10.30

Keynote Lecture 4

Musculo-skeletal diseases

Auditorium

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 - 13.00

PLENARY SESSION 2

Occupational Health & Primary Health Care

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch and Poster Discussion

14.30 - 16.30

PARALLEL SESSION 5

Chemical agents and environmental health

14.30 - 16.30

PARALLEL SESSION 6

Musculo-skeletal diseases

Hall

16.30 - 17.00

Coffee Break

17.00-18.30

PARALLEL SESSION 7

From food safety to food health:
regulation and promotion

17.00-18.30

PARALLEL SESSION 8

Animal health & human health:
the One-Health approach

19:30 on

Social Events

Programme

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

Auditorium

09.00 - 09.45

Keynote Lecture 5
Green economy: safe production and
environmental protection

09.45 - 10.30

Keynote Lecture 6
Gender issues at work in rural areas

Hall

10.30 - 11.00

Coffee Break

11.00 - 13.00

PLENARY SESSION 3

Closing Ceremony
Milan Declaration (?)

Organizing Secretariat

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