

## LETTER

# Upgrading the ICPCM institutional website and interactions with related ones (IJPCM and GLADP websites)

Roger Montenegro MD

Contener Foundation for the Defence of the Rights of Patients, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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### Correspondence address

Dr Roger Montenegro, Juncal 2425 8°B, 1425 Buenos Aires, Argentina. E-mail: montenegro.r8@gmail.com

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## To the Editor

The First Geneva Conference on Person-centered Medicine, held in May 2008, was intended to present and discuss what had been learnt up to that time about person-centered principles and the work which was being progressed on the conceptual basis of person-centered medicine. The aim was to engage major international medical and health organizations in order to identify promising organizational steps for the further development of person-centered medicine and healthcare. The challenge to be faced was to develop specific concepts, competencies, procedures and resources to facilitate the application of a truly person-centered approach in everyday clinical practice [1]. The conference demonstrated the importance of collaboration in this venture among different medical specialists and across health professions, so that science and humanism could be articulated together in order to work respectfully with our patients towards every person's greater health and life project's fulfilment.

The first Geneva Conference was so successful that, in late 2008, the personcenteredmedicine.org website was created in order to disseminate its proceedings and significance. The website is considered a key facility to connect with the public, so the domain personcenteredmedicine.org was registered at a very early time. As time elapsed, it became the home and institutional website of the International College for Person-centered Medicine (ICPCM) [2]. Over recent years, there have been changes in design and content. The objective has been for this site to display what has already been achieved and written about person-centered medicine, as well as what will come.

As the home page of the website shows, special attention has been given to the institutions which work in collaboration with the ICPCM. Their logos are clearly displayed in the middle of our home page, from where their websites can be directly accessed. The most prominent of these are shown in Box 1.

### Box 1 Collaborating Partners of the ICPCM

- World Medical Association (WMA)
- World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)
- International Council of Nurses (ICN)
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
- International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)
- World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH)
- World Federation of Neurology (WFN)
- International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)
- World Association for Sexual Health (WAS)
- World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry (WADP)
- International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
- World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)
- International Association of Medical Colleges (IAOMC)
- European Association for Communication in Health Care (EACH)
- European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI)
- Medical School, University of Milan
- University of Geneva
- WHO Centre for Public Health Education and Training, Imperial College, London. UK
- University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG)
- Paul Tournier Association

The Fourth Geneva Conference, which took place in May 2011, was organized by the ICPCM, the World Medical Association (WMA), the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and the World Health

Organization (WHO), in collaboration with all of the other institutions together with the International Federation of Ageing (IFA) and University of Buckingham Press. The conference was given great visibility via the website. Its overall theme was “Articulating Person-centered Clinical Medicine and People-centered Public Health”, inspired by the WHO World Health Assembly Resolution promoting people-centered care. By means of a set of sessions, the conference examined how the values and clinical care practices of person-centeredness could be organized in diverse settings, from the bedside to the community. There was a Pre-Conference Workmeeting which addressed three substantive projects related to the informational framework of the ICPCM: the *International Journal of Person Centered Medicine* (IJPCM), which is a joint venture of the ICPCM and the University of Buckingham Press; the ICPCM institutional website and its interactions with related sites; and the development of a bibliographical clearing house and institutional databases [3].

Our website offered the Conference Program, the Registration, Submission and Abstract Forms and accommodation facilities and maps to those attending the conference and will soon offer summaries of the activities that took place during the conferences. For example, it is important to note that the first General Assembly of the (then) International *Network* of Person-centered Medicine (INPCM) took place at that time. It was attended by representatives of major international organizations and individual scholars. The main agenda item was the presentation and discussion of an Institutional Plan that reviewed the organization’s identity, mission, activities, structure, governance and support. This established an International *College* of Person-centered Medicine as the institutional successor of the INPCM and asked the Board to take steps to implement it and report to the 2012 General Assembly. The General Assembly approved this Developmental Plan by acclamation [3].

In addition, the conference report will offer information about the core conference session which was held in the WHO Executive Board Room and commenced with a session on ‘Making Progress in People-centered Care: Country Experiences,’ with the aim of identifying health system conditions that are conducive for people-centred care. Dr. Carissa Etienne, WHO Assistant Director General, greatly emphasized the necessity to link person-centered clinical medicine with people-centered public health and to involve a wider and wider range of professional and patient organizations to implement and promote such a perspective [3]. Information relating to the annually recurring Geneva Conferences and other, related, initiatives will be announced on the website.

In addition to the information described above, the website visitor will find information on both historical and very recent publications. Perhaps one of the most prominent of the latter is the *International Journal of Person Centered Medicine* (IJPCM). The IJPCM is the official journal of the ICPCM and is edited by Professor Andrew Miles of Imperial College London UK [4]. Its Editorial Board is constituted by objectively distinguished professionals from all major medical specialities and health disciplines. The Journal has Regional Editors for North

America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania and the interests of the Journal are summarized in Box 2.

Box 2 The principal areas of interest of the IJPCM

- Medical epistemology and the nature of knowledge for the individualisation of clinical practice
- Reductionism & complexity in clinical care
- Methodologies for the individualisation of clinical practice and for the evaluation and development of person-centred medicine
- Methodologies for the development, use and evaluation of person-centered history taking, diagnosis, prognosis and follow-up
- Clinical practice recommendations and guidelines for PCM
- Narrative-based medicine
- Values-based medicine
- Transcultural medicine
- Psychosocial and psychosexual medicine
- Social and environmental care in PCM
- Spiritual and religious care
- Economic aspects of PCM and policies for the funding of PCM
- Individualised/personalised (genomic) medicine
- Sociological aspects of PCM
- The medical humanities and PCM
- Ethical and medico-legal implications of PCM
- The role of the family and of friends in caring and decision making
- Health service policies and policy-making for PCM
- The development and use of information technology and medical informatics for the development, application and evaluation/audit of PCM
- Person-centred design and operation of healthcare facilities
- The national and international health politics of PCM
- The role of medical education and PCM
- People-centred care (population approaches to clinical care)

Other key contributors to the ICPCM website are the Sections on Diagnosis and Classification of both the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) and the Latin American Psychiatric Association (APAL). These are working on the review of the Latin American Guide on Psychiatric Diagnosis (GLADP), which is closely connected to the design of a new Integrative Diagnostic Model. They have developed an informational and working site which makes access to immediately relevant information easier for team members located over wide geographical regions. Activities and progress made on the different tasks they deal with can be accessed through this site.

The ICPCM site is permanently open to change, to cater for the needs of the professional community involved in the PCM initiative. We do not expect it to be sophisticated from the technological point of view. Rather,

we are interested in offering relevant thematic contents which might enrich team working and networking. Consequently, contributions to enhance its development are invited and appreciated.

## References

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