

24 June

World Young Doctors Day

Theme: Working Conditions of Young Doctors



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World Young Doctors' Organization

World Young Doctors' Day 2014

Report

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1. Introduction

The second edition of World Young Doctors' Day was held on 24 June 2014. This year's theme was Working Conditions of Young Doctors, a topic that lies close to the heart of young doctors, not only for their own personal wellbeing, but especially also for the sake of patient safety and quality of healthcare. Many aspects of the working conditions of young doctors are urgently in need of improvement, though the focus and needs naturally vary from country to country.

In this report you can read about the weeklong online international awareness campaign WYDO in collaboration with the Junior Doctors' Network – Hellas (JDN-Hellas) conducted, another campaign that JDN-Hellas carried out specifically on the conditions of Greek young doctors two Young Doctors Cafés, in which young doctors shared concerns and exchanged ideas for improvement and a seminar in Ethiopia.

As a spinoff of World Young Doctors' Day 2014 we opened a vacancy call for members of the coordinating team of a new Global Working Group on Working Conditions of Young Doctors. This working group will follow up on ideas that were generated and work towards concrete action for improvement on the ground.

2. International online awareness campaign

By Sophie Gubbels and Jade Khalife, WYDO board members

From 24-29 June 2014 an international awareness campaign was conducted on social media. Each day covered a specific subtheme related to working conditions of young doctors.

Day 1: Job satisfaction and working environment

Day 2: Brain drain

Day 3: Financial crisis and hospital conditions

Day 4: Burn out & mental health

Day 5: Working hours

Day 6: Healthcare reform

For each subtheme relevant news articles, scientific studies and other interesting links were shared on Facebook and Twitter. At the end of each day a digest was sent to the WYDO community mailing list and posted on the WYDO LinkedIn group.

Messages were widely shared on social media of other organizations, such as the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), Public Health in the Arab World, Doctors & Future Doctors From All Over The World! and Lebanese Doctors Worldwide.

3. Online campaign of Greek young doctors by Junior Doctors' Network – Hellas

By Kostas Roditis. member of the World Young Doctors Day team and founder of JDN-Hellas

Junior doctors have to learn how to deal with long shifts, lack of sleep, study hours, increased responsibilities, hard competition, and also a personal and social life. This amount of pressure can lead to both physical and mental illness. In Greece, residency is considered to be a full-time and exclusive occupation but it is not yet determined how satisfied residents feel in their working environment.

Junior Doctors' Network – Hellas (JDN-Hellas) organized a week-long online awareness raising campaign on its official page on Facebook, as well as on its official twitter account from 17 till 24 June 2014. During the campaign, interesting facts originating from the results of a survey performed by JDN-Hellas among Greek residents entitled "How satisfied do you feel in our working environment?" were shared with junior doctors all over the country, as well as junior doctors of Greek origin working abroad. These were organized in slides, two for each day of the campaign, bearing the logos of both JDN-Hellas and WYDO, as the two organizations joined forces during the WYDD 2014.

The campaign was very well received by Facebook as well as Twitter users, reaching more than 500 views daily on Facebook for each slide, while on Twitter JDN-Hellas' followers increased by 200% during the week of the campaign and the campaign's posts were retweeted by local news agencies.

Campaign slides were also translated in English and reached fellow young doctors abroad through the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and European Medical Students Association (EMSA) channels.

Last but not least, the initiative was concluded with the compilation of a scientific paper entitled "*How satisfied do you feel in our working environment? A survey to assess job satisfaction among Greek junior doctors*" which will be presented by JDN-Hellas representatives as a poster at the upcoming "Zagreb International Medical Summit - ZIMS 2014", which will be taking place in the city of Zagreb, Croatia in November 2014. The abstract will be published in "Lijecnicki vjesnik", the official journal of the Croatian Medical Association.

This is the second online awareness raising campaign organized by JDN-Hellas since its establishment in February 2014, which followed the previous one organized on the occasion of World Health Day 2014.

Young doctors in Greece face lots of difficulties while training in their specialty with bureaucracy being the major problem, leading to less work efficiency, while supervising doctors often present incompetent. JDN-Hellas will continue advocating for more healthcare investments especially in times of economic crisis, and a better management for fairer salaries must also take place, because good health is the foundation for a stable society and Greek public health is the result of the work of hard-working Greek junior doctors.

4. Young Doctors Cafés

The concept of Young Doctors Cafés is new in WYDO. The idea is to organize local meetings, where young doctors can get together in an informal setting and exchange experiences. Young Doctors Cafés do not necessary have a fixed structure or theme, but in this case we piloted the concept in relation to World Young Doctors' Day and its theme. Two successful Young Doctors Cafés were held around the 24 June 2014.

Antwerp, Belgium

By Paul Yonga, WYDO board member and National Focal Point for Kenya

The 15th of June was a memorable day for young doctors from Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Indonesia, Bangladesh, The Netherlands, and Belgium currently based at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, who converged for the Young Doctors Café 2014 aboard a boat sailing through River Schelde in Antwerp, Belgium. The café, though enjoyable, offered an opportunity to explain about WYDO and its activities, and also to moderate discussions on working conditions of young doctors across the globe. Issues such as financial compensation of doctors, working hours, career progression, as well as omission from their participation in key policy formulation issues regarding healthcare were discussed

during the 2 hour boat ride. It was clear from these discussions that these problems cut across continents, and that WYDO is a key institution that can contribute to the discovery of most of the solutions since it unites young doctors from across the globe.



Dakar, Senegal

By Arsène Amadohoué, member of the World Young Doctors Day team

On 24 June young doctors from Benin, Mali, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Chad, Congo Brazzaville and Cameroon met in Dakar, Senegal. They discussed what the positive aspects and the main challenges are in terms of working conditions in their countries. The pyramidal administrative organization of the health

system was mentioned to positively affects working conditions of young doctors. The participants identified the following issues as areas that need improvement:

- the absence of a real policy of medical education of young doctors based on the HR needs in their countries
- non-employment of skilled young doctors
- the organization of the private sector
- the lack of diagnostic tools to confirm clinical diagnosis
- the lack of health insurance for young doctors
- the absence of electricity in the majority of rural areas
- the absence of continued medical education

These are important findings that will be presented to the previously mentioned Global Working Group on Working Conditions of Young Doctors to follow up on.

A more extensive report of the meeting can be found here:

<http://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/second-edition-of-the-world-young-doctors-day-the-working-conditions-of-young-doctors-a-clear-and-still-present-uhc-threat-in-sub-saharan-africa/>



5. Consultancy meeting in Ethiopia

By Eyob Ale, WYDO National Focal Point for Ethiopia and member of the Ethiopian society of general medical practice

Introduction

The Ethiopian society of general medical practice is a non-profit organization established by general medical practitioners 18 years back with the aim of improving the health care service of our country and fighting for the right of physicians in this country in general and its members in particular. The organization has been engaged in different health education programs, research, publications in medical journals and fighting for right of its members for the past several years. Some of these activities have benefited and changed the lives of millions of Ethiopians during these times. We have also worked with different partners at local and international arena.

Due to several internal and external circumstances the activities of the Ethiopian general medical practice society have been weakened in the past three years and at this juncture of time it became very important to organize a consultancy meeting with our members and the physician population to discuss the current situation of the organization and how to proceed in future and also how we can strength our fight for the right of physicians which is worsening on daily base. This meeting was organized in connection to WYDO's activities for World Young Doctors Day 2014.

Objectives of the consultancy meeting

- To identify the challenges of the Ethiopian general medical practice society
- To identify the challenges of young doctors in Ethiopia
- To come up with ideas how to strengthen the leadership skills of young doctors
- To introduce the vision of the World Young Doctors' Organization and how to participate
- To motivate members to actively participate on the organizational activities
- To come up with possible strategies about the fight for the rights of physicians

Program No	Activity	Time	Moderator, facilitator
1	Guest arrival	1:30-2:00 pm	Organizers
2	Welcoming address	2:00-2:10 pm	Dr. Luelseged
3	Opening remark by honourable guest	2:10-2:20	Dr. Hermela
4	Brief note about the importance of organizing this meeting and introduction to World Young Doctors Organization	2:20-2:40	Dr. Eyob
5	Tea break	2:40-3:00	
6	Short history of EGMPs, challenges and the future	3:00-3:30	Dr Getachew
7	Discussion	3:30-4:30	
8	Summery and closing remark	4:30-5:00	Dr luelseged

Discussion

The consultancy meeting was held on June 21, 2014 at Minlik second hospital where the head office of the Ethiopian general medical practice society is located. There were more than 20 participants from different hospitals, mainly general practitioners.

Dr. Lulseged welcomed all participants and emphasized that active participation and lively discussion was expected from the participants.

Dr. Hermela is young doctor who has graduated from Addis Ababa University and is working as a medical director in Gambella hospital which is remote area. She shared her experiences and appreciated the work of the society and said it is a good opportunity for the Ethiopian society of general medical practice to work with WYDO.

I explained to the participants the mission and vision of WYDO and the benefits and contribution they can make to the organization. I also suggested the participants to visit the WYDO website and social media pages.

Dr. Getachew gave a remark about the history of Ethiopian society of general medical practice and the achievements in the past.

Finally, the challenges of Ethiopian medical practice were discussed and possible ways forwards were suggested by participants.

