



Newsletter Number Three

June is here and that means that this year's 13th Rural Health Forum is now less than two weeks away!!

The Call for Abstracts closed in April and the Scientific Committee has been busy reviewing the submitted abstracts. There will be 5 sessions for oral presentations, 6 workshops, an international student session and two panel discussions.

This year there will be a 'real' poster walk with 18 posters that will run throughout the Forum. Everyone will have the opportunity to vote for the top five posters and then the five authors will give a short presentation each on Friday evening, when again everyone is able to vote for the Best Poster.

The final programme is now available on the web site and all the Abstracts will be published in the Abstract Book which will be published as a special edition of the Journal Advances in Clinical and Experimental Medicine (<https://advances.umw.edu.pl/en/home/>).

Registration remains open at the standard rate and bookings can also still be made for the Welcome Reception and the practice visits (both free of charge) as well as for the Rural Dinner and the tourist trip. Places are limited so please be sure to register as soon as you can:
<https://forum.euripa.org/page/registration>



Our first **international student session** will focus on the Rural Seeds Rural Stars project:

Developing a Practical Guide for Rural Health Promotion and Advocacy.

Rural Seeds (www.ruralseeds.net) is a network made up of students and young doctors with the aim of being a worldwide network of training awareness and guidance for rural practice, using the guidance and knowledge available in the WONCA Working Party on Rural Practice and its members.

The Rural Stars Project was launched by Rural Seeds in 2024 to support rural healthcare workers in advocating for rural healthcare in their communities and to improve the longevity of the rural workforce.

The workshop outcomes will contribute to the development of the guidebook. Rural healthcare professionals play an important role in the promotion and development of rural health in their communities. By developing this practical guidebook we aim to support them in this role to empower them and their rural communities.

Even if you aren't able to join us in Lincoln you can join this session by zoom. It will take place on **Thursday 20th June 2024 at 17:45 – 18:45 local time in Lincoln (UTC +1)**The link to register is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdOmorT0uH9DZU9LXOXdtVLZ8P3OSZtAW>

Collaborating Partners:





This year for the **practice visit**, we will visit the **Marisco Medical Practice** in Mablethorpe on the coast and also the **Campus for Future Living**. The Campus will provide a base for the development and testing of Medi-tech applications. It will also support the continued professional development of clinicians, with both clinical and non-clinical medical placements. There will also be the opportunity for training and development of people working in care, and the campus will oversee a self-employed 'Care Network' of carers. A social enterprise coffee hub will be based at the campus too.

The Campus is a new initiative and to mark the visit EURIPA will hold a **tree planting ceremony**. The Mablethorpe **Town Crier** will read out a proclamation to mark the occasion of the tree planting. It will be impressive! (A town crier is a person who is employed by a town council to make public announcements in the streets. Town criers have an elaborate 'uniform' wearing a colourful jacket, breeches and a tri-corn hat).

In the last Newsletter we mentioned **Planetary Health** and that we will have a tree planting ceremony on Friday morning (see above) and a 'planetary health' lunch on the Saturday to close the Forum. In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to **Take a Pledge for Planetary Health**.

The objective is to increase the awareness of planetary health among rural primary healthcare practitioners (RHPC) and to appreciate that even small positive steps can advance planetary health. We want RHCPs to tap into opportunities in their own local and national primary care context. If done at scale all over Europe a significant contribution in the reduction of the carbon footprint of delivering healthcare can be achieved. Delegates will be asked to pledge they will implement one small change. They can choose between five Quality Improvement areas and will receive information on how to implement the small change step-by-step. Six months after the Forum they will be contacted to find out how their pledged change has been actioned.

You can find out more: www.euripa.org/page/planetary-health

And finally, delegates are also being asked to complete an on-line **Survey**. We can spend a lot of the time in the workshops discussing where we work and the challenges being faced as rural clinicians. This year we are asking everyone to complete a survey that will help identify

As a result, we can learn about where colleagues are working, what is good about it and what the challenges are. The survey has been sent out to all registered delegates at the beginning of June, so do please complete it.

The results of the survey will support us in Lincoln but will also contribute to understanding rural health across Europe. It will help focus EURIPA on the most relevant priorities for Research and Education as well as identifying good practice.

So, not long to go now. If you haven't already registered please do consider joining us in Lincoln. As well as the new initiatives outlined above we will have, as usual, an inaugural address on Thursday afternoon and two key note speakers on Friday afternoon. We are looking forward to hearing from Professor Jonathan Van Tam (Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medicine & Health Sciences at the University of Nottingham), Dr Pauline Wilson (NHS Shetland) and Dr Toni Dedeu (WHO European Centre for Primary Care. Come and here them speak!

See you in Lincoln!

Collaborating Partners:

