

History ?

Development of Family Medicine in Turkey

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The time period when one of the kilometer stones in Family Medicine (FM) in the world Francis Peabody emphasized in 1923 that “as a result of specialization in medical sciences patients standing abandoned and so there has to be a specialization branch to take charge of humans completely”, Republic of Turkey; after Turkish War of Independence, in health area; new structuring and fighting for contagious diseases and vertical (care specific) organization were started to application. In those dates physician count was 554 in our country for 12 million populations.

In 1947, when Dr. Behcet Uz was the Minister of Health (MoH), for health centers a new specialization education started with the name of “General Health Specialization” , but; this application ended in 1955. In these years there was improvement in FM in the world (FM/GP applications in England 1947, Canada FM College 1954)

In 1970s when discussions about primary care were in spotlight, “family physician” term also started to use. These years were following to formation of Millis and Willard Reports in USA (1966) and American Board of Family Practice (1969). In these years there were two kilometer stones for international improvement of FM (1974; Leeuwenhorst, 1978; Alma Ata).

In our country “Specialization in Family Medicine” took place in Physician Specialization Regulations by 05 July 1983 (Spain 1979, Italy and Norway 1985, Greece 1986) and first department set up in Gazi University. Specialization education started in 1985 in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir MoH education hospitals.

Association of Family Medicine (AHUD) founded in 25 July 1990 (After that in 2 March 1998, with the decision of Council of Ministers that name changed as Turkish Association of Family Medicine “TAHUD”.)

Ministry of Health, Health Project General Coordination organized a group study in Ankara about “Family Physician Education to Improve Primary Care Health Services” in 1-2 September 1992.

First “Family Physician Trainer Course” in our country coordinated between 26 – 30 April 1993 in Ankara by Ministry of Health (with educational support of Royal College of General Practitioners) and 88 family physician specialists had trainer certificate.

According to YOK (The Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Turkey) decree in 16 July 1993 (number: 12547); “it is suitable to set up family medicine departments in medical faculties”. Following to this decision in 17 September 1993, Family Medicine Department set up and resident training started in Trakya University/Edirne.

First National FM Congress organized in Istanbul through 25-26 November 1993. In 27 May 1994 as a first Assist Prof as a family medicine specialist appointed to staff (Osmangazi University/Eskisehir).

By MoH, Ankara in 1994, than Bursa and Izmir in 1996 “Family Medicine Application Centers” opened, but this application couldn't grow up and not reached to success. In following years similar applications announced to start in Bilecik but couldn't accomplish!

“Branch Directorship of Family Medicine” set up in MoH, Basic Health Services General Directorship in 26 October 1994 and further years changed as a department.

In this period, AHUD have initiated postgraduate educations for family medicine specialists and residents. (“*Immunization Course*” 10-11 April 1995 in Izmir was the first activity that certificated in this area.)

In April 1995; “Family Medicine Specialization Curriculum” published by MoH, Health Projects General Coordination preparation at the result of some studies with more than 200 applicants, previous years. Same year, FP symposiums realized in Trakya ve Cukurova Universities.

AHUD had role in WONCA Europe Regional Meeting in 7 September 1995 and improved international relationships.

Our 2 friends succeeded in FM Assoc Prof examination in 1996. Five of 23 family physician specialists who succeeded in Assoc. Prof. examination until 2007 appointed to Prof degree.

Turkish Board of Family Medicine (TAHYK/TBFM) lined up in 6 December 1998, studies in this topic accelerated especially in 2004; as a result of wide participated and long breath studies, “*Family Physician Specialization Education Core Curriculum*” and “*Assistant Report Card*” published.

Journal of Turkish Family Medicine; has been regularly published since 1997. It is registered in Turkish Medical Index. Besides; last years grasping of discipline importance in our country, growing staffs and with the increased experience published book and scientific journal count had an increase (PRN Aile Hekimligi Dergisi, Aile Hekimligi, Turkish Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care-on line..).

Until today, 7 national FM congresses organized. After 2001, without congress coordination years, organized National FM Days count has reached to 4. Scientific activities of TAHUD substations in their regions going on with a progressively increasing manner, their number reached 8. Besides, existing 38 FM department's pre and post graduate period activities going on with growing manner.

As a first international activity EGPRW (EGPRN) Meeting organized in Ankara through

8-11 May 2003. Additionally “WONCA Europe 2008” will be organized by TAHUD in September 2008 in Istanbul.

TAHUD, affiliated to international corporations in its area and its representatives are actively taking part as executive members.

According to (9 December 2004, 25665) “Law in Family Medicine Pilot Application” and with its support (6 July 2005, 25867) “Ordinance in Family Medicine Pilot Application” laws, pilot application started in Duzce since 2005 and recently expanded to 10 cities and aimed to increase 22 cities in 2007.

In steps of regulations’ development and application, having discipline–system conflicts, transition period educations and pilot applications even major spotlight topics of FM specialists and country.

Today Family Medicine is beside a young discipline have dynamism that brings community needs, believe to express qualified service, educated staffs that working beside futures and experience; is one of assurance of healthy future of our country.