



## World Rural Health Conference (WONCA) 2022

**Hosts:** World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), Fáiite Ireland (Ireland's National Tourism Development Authority)

 Limerick, Ireland

### About Rural WONCA:

- Brings together rural healthcare professionals, experts, and stakeholders to address the most pressing issues facing rural and community health.
- Empowers local communities to take charge of their own health outcomes.
- Focuses on improving equitable access to healthcare for rural populations across the globe.

# RURAL REVOLUTION

No Doctor No Village campaign  
steps up to the challenge



## Impact:

- Progressed the agenda of the “No Doctor No Village” grassroots community campaign, started in response to the impact of the global financial crisis on rural healthcare.
- Published the “Limerick Declaration on Rural Healthcare”, a blueprint for improving high-quality healthcare in rural and remote areas.
- Established Ireland’s first ICGP National Standing Committee for Rural General Practice.
- Appointed the first Professor of Rural General Practice at the University of Limerick, cementing rural health as an academic priority.
- Introduced a Rural GP Fellowship Programme, backed by a €1.8 million investment from Ireland’s Health Service Executive (HSE).
- Created a Rural Ambassador Programme, providing scholarships to doctors from lower-income countries.
- Hosted the WHO global meeting on developing a Rural Health Equity toolkit – setting the stage for systemic change worldwide.



**“As the first event of its kind in Ireland, WONCA 2022 provided a unique crossroads for a diverse community of healthcare professionals, students, and educators to engage with the theme of ‘Improving Health, Empowering Communities’. Fáilte Ireland, in partnership with the Shannon Region Convention and Sports Bureau, provided both practical and financial support to help bring Rural WONCA 2022 to life. This collaboration aimed to promote long-term sustainability in rural healthcare across Ireland, changing attitudes, lives, health and ultimately, the world.”**

— Professor Liam Glynn, Conference Ambassador, University of Limerick



## Intended Use of Grant Funding:

- **Sustain and expand the Rural Ambassador Programme:** support long-term delivery and expansion to future Rural WONCA conference destinations.
- **Establish a Rural Practice Innovation Network:** create a permanent network for knowledge-sharing, advocacy, and collaboration, including the launch of a global rural health equity toolkit.
- **Support future rural healthcare workers:** provide student placements, travel support, and mentorship to encourage recruitment and retention in rural healthcare.

