WICC Annual Meeting 2026

Background

The launch of ICPC-3 marks an important milestone for WICC and for primary care classification internationally.

Unlike previous revisions of ICPC, ICPC-3 was developed through a dedicated international consortium established for this purpose. While many WICC members contributed to the work, the development process was organized largely outside WICC's traditional structures.

Following the completion of ICPC-3, a separate governance model was established within WONCA. A foundation and governing board were created with the intention of taking responsibility for the maintenance, development and dissemination of ICPC-3. WICC was represented in this structure but did not have primary responsibility for the ongoing management of the classification.

In practice, however, this arrangement proved difficult to sustain. The financial basis for the foundation was limited, and WONCA ultimately decided not to continue with the model as originally envisioned.

As a result, responsibility for the future maintenance and development of ICPC-3 has increasingly returned to WICC. WONCA has asked WICC to take a leading role in supporting the continued development of the classification, managing future revisions and changes, and contributing to training and support for new users.

This creates both an opportunity and a challenge for WICC. The question is therefore not whether WICC should become involved in ICPC-3 maintenance, but rather how WICC should organize itself to fulfil a responsibility that has now effectively been returned to the committee by WONCA

The committee has extensive experience in classification development and maintenance, and many of the competencies required already exist within the organization. At the same time, to increase the international use of ICPC-3 require more structured processes for handling change requests, coordinating development activities, supporting implementation and engaging with users.

The annual meeting in Ghent provides an opportunity to discuss how WICC can best fulfil this role and to identify priorities for the coming years.

Theme of the meeting

How can WICC best organize its expertise and activities to support the continued maintenance, development and implementation of ICPC-3?

This question does not imply a fundamental change in WICC's role. Rather, it recognizes that the introduction of ICPC-3, and the return of maintenance responsibilities to WICC, may require greater attention to implementation, maintenance processes and engagement with users than was needed during the development phase.

The purpose is therefore not to redesign WICC, but to consider how existing expertise and structures can best support ICPC-3 in the years ahead. We also need to get an overview of the available human resources and the possibility of engaging WICC members who are willing to take part in this work.

Edited: 06-10-2026

Key Topics for Discussion

Governance and stewardship

How should responsibility for maintenance and future development of ICPC-3 be organized? What decisions should be made by WICC, by designated editorial groups or by WONCA? How should priorities be established?

Managing change requests

As use of ICPC-3 increases, proposals for modifications and improvements are likely to become more frequent. How should such proposals be submitted, reviewed and prioritized? Can the ICPC-3 Workbench become the primary mechanism for managing this process?

Supporting implementation

An increasing number of countries and organizations are considering implementation of ICPC-3. What role should WICC play in supporting users? Should educational materials, training activities or implementation guidance become part of WICC's activities?

Strategic development

ICPC-3 will continue to evolve. How should WICC identify future priorities? What relationships should be developed with SNOMED CT, ICD-11 and other systems?

Open Access

The possibility of making ICPC-3 available under an Open Access model remains an important strategic issue. What contribution can WICC make to this process?

Suggested Outcomes

Agreement on priorities for the coming year.

Clarification of governance and maintenance processes.

Identification of responsibilities and working groups.

Clarification of the role of the Workbench in future maintenance.

Discussion of WICC's contribution to Open Access activities.

Agreement on follow-up activities between annual meetings.

Edited: 06-10-2026

WICC Annual Meeting

How can WICC best organize its expertise and activities to support the continued maintenance, development, and implementation of ICPC-3?

Brussels / Ghent, Belgium

October 10-12, 2026

AGENDA

Open Day + Meeting with WONCA
Saturday Oct 10, 2026
Morning:
Amazone Vzw Asbl
10 Rue du Méridien, 1210 Bruxelles
Afternoon:
WONCA
Av. des Arts 7/8, 1210 Bruxelles

Time (GMT)	Activity
08:30 – 09:00	**Tea/Coffee**
09:00 – 13:00	**Welcome & Introductions** 9:00-9:30 Welcome reception 9:30 Gustavo Gusso – opening words (5 min) 9:35 Dirk Van den Steen (European Commission DG Santé) – keynote of 30 minutes (20min +10min discussion) 10:05 Harris Lygidakis Introducing ICPC-3 and Making ICPC-3 Open Access (10 min +10min discussion) 10:25 Wingyin Chen (Care7) – practical implementation of ICPC-3 and building information in a care environment (15 min) 10:40 Robert Vander Stichele - SNOClass - policy and science of implementing ICPC-3 (15 min) 10:55 Coffee break (20 min) 11:15 Round of quick contributions • Elena Cardilo – Use of AI for clinical coding • Gustavo Gusso – Overview of Classifications in South America • Oystein Hetlevik – Future of Primary Care Classification in Norway • Laurent - The French touch in primary care coding: 3 classifications or none? 12:25 Maria Pilar Astier Peña (20 mins) 12:45 Jan de Maesener final words (15 mins) 13:00 Lunch at RIZIV (Ministry of Health)
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 16:00	**Meeting with Pilar and Harris and Belgium representatives at WONCA** Strategic plan for the coming years WICCs role What can be done in order to WONCA better promote ICPC?
16:00 – 17:30	Transfer to Ghent

Edited: 06-10-2026

WICC Meeting

Sunday Oct 11, 2026

Universiteitstraat 4, 9000 Gent

Time (GMT)	Activity	Discussion leader / Speaker	Minutes
08:30 – 09:00	**Tea/Coffee**		
09:00 – 09:30	**Objectives of the Annual Meeting** • Discussion of priorities and expected outcomes	Gustavo Oystein	
09:30 – 10:30	**Governance of WICC** **Governance of ICPC-3** • Governance structures • Editorial responsibilities • Maintenance processes • Discussion	Preben Gustavo	
10:30 – 10:45	**Tea/ Coffee**		
10:45 – 12:30	• Implementation of ICPC-3 at Unisanté • Mapping French ICPC-3 to SNOMED-CT	Laurent Alexandre Gouveia Benjamin Fauquert	
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**		
13:30 – 15:00	**ICPC-2 Update** **ICPC-3 Workbench and Change Management** • Demonstration and discussion • Change request workflow • Editorial review process **Open Access and Organization of Future Work** • Update on Open Access ICPC initiative • Funding and legal considerations • Planning work between annual meetings	Elena Cardillo Gustavo Gusso Gustavo Gusso Oystein Elena Cardillo Laurent	
15:00 – 15:15	**Tea/ Coffee**		
15:15 – 17:30	**Belgian Experience Session** • Belgian thesaurus development • Terminology services • Translation and implementation experiences • Experiences using ICPC-3 (Austria, Belgium, and others) • Discussion	Diego	
Evening	Social programme and conference dinner		

Edited: 06-10-2026

WICC Meeting
Monday Oct 12, 2026
Campus UZ Gent (access via Steenakker 70), Building The Core - room Together - Entrance 37a/b

Time (GMT)	Activity	Discussion leader / Speaker	Minutes
08:30 – 09:00	**Tea/Coffee**		
09:00 – 10:30	**Practical Working Session** • Review of selected change proposals • Discussion of editorial procedures • Workbench exercises	Gustavo Oystein	
10:30 – 10:45	**Tea/ Coffee**		
10:45 – 12:30	**Action Plan and Next Steps** • Priorities for the coming year • Responsibilities and timelines • Planning of interim online meetings	Gustavo Oystein Laurent Elena	
12:30 – 13:15	**Lunch**		
13:15 – 14:30	**Future Development of ICPC-3** • Special Guest Session: Collaboration with HPO (Human Phenotype Ontology) via Video Call • Strategic priorities • Collaboration with other classification and terminology systems	Marc Jamoulle Peter Robinson (Online)	
14:30 – 15:00	**Summary, Conclusions, and Closing Remarks**	Gustavo	

Edited: 06-10-2026