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Waltham Forest GP recognised for contribution to international mental health

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) which represents over 550,000 doctors across 150 countries and territories has awarded the WONCA Fellowship to Professor Gabriel Ivbijaro, a GP in Waltham Forest and member of Waltham Forest Local Medical Committee.

This is WONCA's most prestigious award and is presented to individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the organisation. It is being given to Professor Ivbijaro for his long service to WONCA, including time as the Chair of the WONCA Working Party on Mental Health, and for his services to mental health services generally, in particular to mental health services at community level in North East London.

Professor Ivbijaro received the award at the WONCA World Conference 2016 held on 4 November in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He said:

"I'm delighted to be honoured by WONCA for my work in primary care particularly for primary care mental health globally. Nobody is immune from mental health difficulties yet many people with mental health issues and their families face stigma and discrimination. I would like to dedicate this award to each and every one of you that is making a contribution towards tackling mental health stigma"

He went on to say "I must confess there was a lot of inner satisfaction and happiness for me during the ceremony. It was very colourful and the atmosphere was brilliant with many friends and well-wishers in attendance. After the award I had the opportunity to celebrate with many GPs and friends. I'm sure I will be continuing the celebrations in London. Our practice team in Waltham Forest and I work with many colleagues in the area and each and every one of them have contributed to my success."

Professor Ivbijaro works for Waltham Forest Community and Family Health Services and received his MBE for services to the NHS in 2012.