



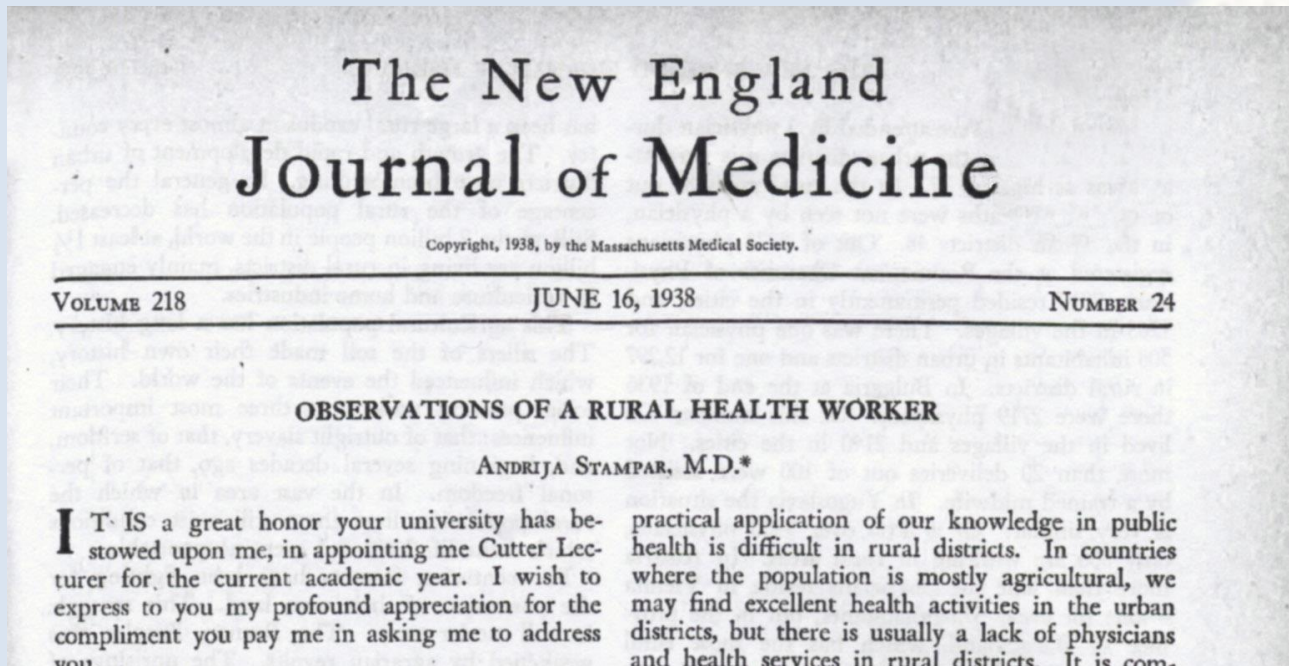
Enhanced access to health
services in rural areas

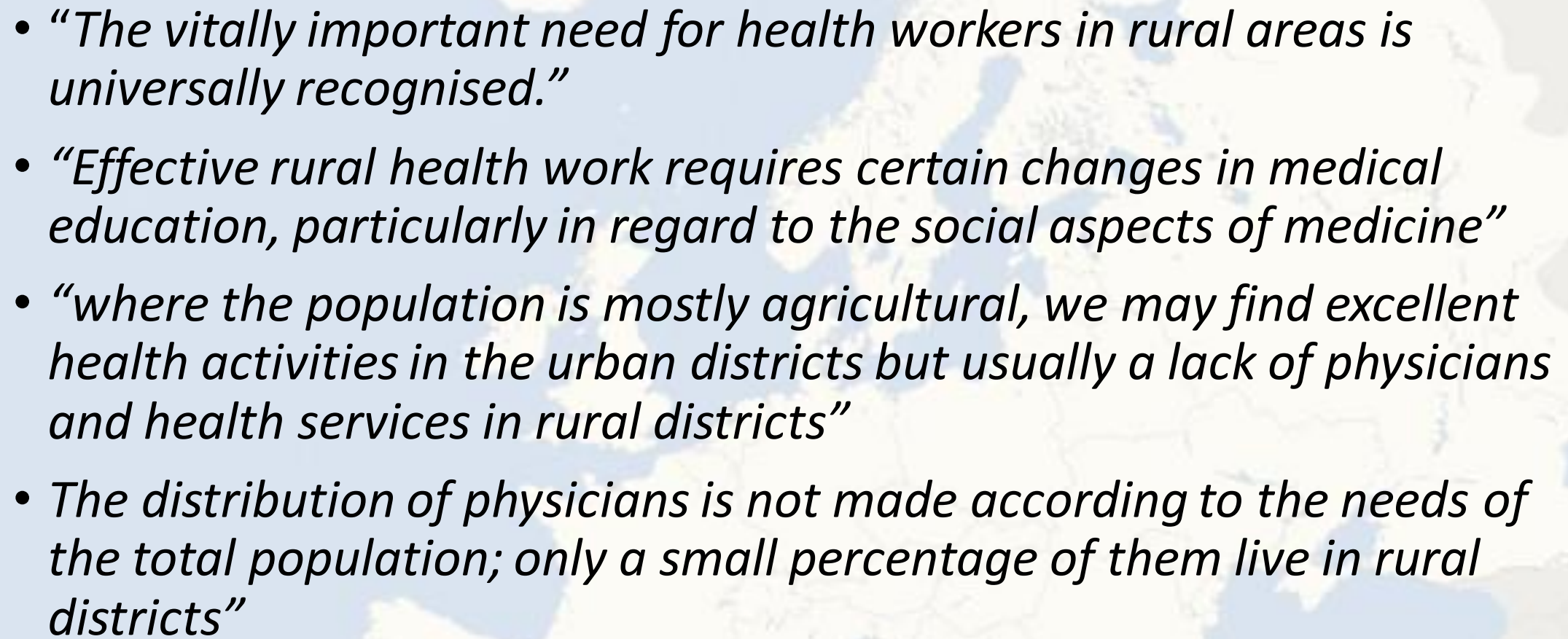
**A Blueprint for Rural Practice in
Europe:
Setting the scene**

Professor John Wynn-Jones
Past President of EURIPA

Andrija Stampar

1888-1958



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- *“The vitally important need for health workers in rural areas is universally recognised.”*
 - *“Effective rural health work requires certain changes in medical education, particularly in regard to the social aspects of medicine”*
 - *“where the population is mostly agricultural, we may find excellent health activities in the urban districts but usually a lack of physicians and health services in rural districts”*
 - *The distribution of physicians is not made according to the needs of the total population; only a small percentage of them live in rural districts”*

The primary care workforce in Europe: a cross-sectional international comparison of rural and urban areas and changes between 1993 and 2011:

Eur J Public Health. 2020 Sep 1;30(Suppl_4):iv12-iv17.doi: 10.1093/eurpub/ckaa125.

- Rural areas have problems in attracting and retaining primary care workforce. This might have consequences for the existing workforce.
- In rural areas, GPs work more hours and provide more medical procedures to their patients.
- Apart from these differences between locations, overall ageing of the GP population is evident.
- Dedicated human resource policies for rural areas are required with a view to an ageing GP population, to the individual preferences and needs of the GPs, and to decreasing attractiveness of rural areas.

- *Workforce issues are the biggest challenge, person centred planning and delivery is the antidote.*
- *Radical and disruptive approaches which put more emphasis on primary care, multi-agency working and community ownership, in an environment which accommodates at least some appetite for risk are important.*



APPAG Rural
Health and
Social Care



Launched February 2022

www.ncrhc.org/news/appg-rural-health-and-care

Defining medical deserts — an international consensus-building exercise

Monica G Brînzac, Ellen Kuhlmann, Gilles Dussault, Marius I Ungureanu, Răzvan M Cherecheș, Cătălin O Baba

European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue 5, October 2023, Pages 785–788, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad107>

- The agreed definition highlight five major dimensions: ‘Medical deserts are areas where population healthcare needs are unmet partially or totally due to lack of adequate access or improper quality of healthcare services caused by (i) insufficient human resources in health or (ii) facilities, (iii) long waiting times, (iv) disproportionate high costs of services or (v) other socio-cultural barriers’.

European Rural and Isolated Practitioners Association

Blueprint for Rural
Practice in Europe June
2022



<https://www.euripa.org/resources/view/blueprint-for-rural-practice-in-europe>

The Blueprint: A Vision for European rural health care over the next 25 years

- Aims to ensure that rural communities have access to high quality, safe and effective health care irrespective of where they are
- Defining and describing rural
- Family medicine at the heart of rural healthcare
- The nature of Rural General Practice including extended roles and scope, public health & community engagement, occupational health, mental health and generalism
- Future challenges for rural health care

The workforce

- Multi-professional, cross sectoral & community engaged approach
- Recruitment: Grow your own
- Extended rural placements in training
- Targeted rural post graduate training
- Retention
- Team working
- Leadership, mentorship and support
- Digital care
- Emergency care and retrieval
- Promotion of research and academic skills
- Advocacy for rural health
- Planetary health

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- The primary care workforce in Europe: a cross-sectional international comparison of rural and urban areas and changes between 1993 and 2011: *Eur J Public Health*. 2020 Sep 1;30(Suppl_4):iv12-iv17.doi: 10.1093/eurpub/ckaa125.
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- Defining medical deserts—an international consensus-building exercise
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