



Besroure Forum/Family Medicine Forum: November 10–13, 2021

The Besroure Centre for Global Family Medicine (Besroure Centre) will be joining the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)'s virtual Family Medicine Forum (FMF) taking place November 10–13, 2021. You can find details at <https://fmf.cfpc.ca/>.

Call for Poster Abstracts for FMF 2021

The Besroure Centre is currently accepting abstracts for posters.

- Submission deadline: Friday, April 30, 2021
- Submit to: Besrourecentre@cfpc.ca
- Poster guidelines: <https://www.cfpc.ca/CFPC/media/PDF/CFPC-Besroure-PosterGuidelines2021-Eng-Final.pdf>

Pandemic-related research: While we encourage clinical research, program evaluation, quality improvement, and medical education projects (provided a scholarly approach is taken), the committee is especially interested in work focused on family medicine concerns in the later phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. Areas such as chronic disease, mental well-being, and collaboration with public health efforts are of particular interest.

Abstract mentorship: We encourage novice and experienced researchers to submit abstracts. If you are interested in such a mentorship, the Besroure Scientific Committee is available to provide support. Please reach out to us and a committee member will be pleased to connect with you to offer advice, answer questions, or provide constructive feedback.

Working Group Updates

Advocacy and Community Engagement

The committee recognizes the need to engage CFPC members in the functioning of the Besroure Centre and a think tank is being organized to seek opinions about how to better integrate the Besroure Centre and its work into the functioning of the CFPC.

Medical Education and Training

FM Pivot: Building on the experience and knowledge gained by our global family medicine community through the COVID-19 pandemic, five teams of dyads—which include a Canadian and an international partner—have been developing FM Pivot modules. The initiative features theme-based interactive educational modules, webinars, platforms for discussion, and opportunities for sharing resources. The first module ‘Developing and Adapting Research’ will be available in the coming months. Read Dr. Clayton Dyck’s blog at <https://www.integratedcare4people.org/blog/post/developing-family-medicine-and-primary-care-worldwide-through-global-collaboration-and-co-learning/> to learn more.

Research and Narratives

The Primary Health Care Research Consortium (PHCRC) has invited the Besroul Centre to lead an international study about primary care perspectives on the integration of primary care and public health during the COVID-19 vaccine programme rollout in low- and middle-income countries. More details will follow once the survey is disseminated.

Besroul Centre Collaborations

United Arab Emirates

The Besroul Centre is collaborating with the Emirates Family Medicine Society (EFMS) in a joint effort to strengthen family medicine and primary care services. A memorandum of understanding is in progress, and capacity building initiatives include participation in webinars and conferences. We were invited to participate at their 4th Annual Emirates Family Medicine Society Congress which took place in March 2021. We are also engaging subject matter experts to present at their ‘Empower EFMS Webinar Series 2021’ taking place from February to April 2021. Sessions about gastrointestinal diseases and diabetes management took place in February; sessions on obesity and cardiovascular diseases are being scheduled.

Aga Khan Foundation (East Africa)

The Besroul Centre met with the members of the Aga Khan Foundation. Discussions about potential collaboration for a Kenyan mental health project have taken place and are continuing.

IntegratedCare4People

The Besroul Centre recently announced that, in partnership with the WHO Service Delivery and Safety Department and the Andalusian School of Public Health to support the WHO Framework on Integrated People-Centred Health Services, we have started a Community of Practice project.

The Besroul Centre is excited to share this platform with our colleagues! Join us as we network with other communities of practice and engage in rich discussions while sharing knowledge, best practices, lessons learned, and much more. We welcome you to register at <https://www.integratedcare4people.org/signup/community/41/>. Complete your profile and join the conversation. The Besroul Centre community awaits you!

International survey on the integration of primary care and public health in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns

The Primary Health Care Research Consortium has invited the Besroul Centre to lead an international study on the role of family medicine/primary care in COVID-19 vaccination campaigns around the world. This is in part a follow-up to a 2020 study, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32900707/>, that did not show a relationship between the perceived strength of primary care and early COVID-19 outcomes, but did demonstrate the importance of primary care-public health integration.

This will be survey based and we are alerting you to expect the opportunity to contribute in the weeks to come. We appreciate your willingness to participate.

Besroul Centre's First Annual Report

The Besroul Centre's first annual report is soon to be published. The report will share several of the Besroul Centre's major accomplishments toward the advancement of family medicine locally, nationally, and globally. The report illustrates the level of recognition of our position among the most important decision makers in global health. We are excited to be sharing this very first annual report with you in the coming months!

Besroul Partner Update

Dr. Henry Owuor, a family physician in rural Kenya, has been leading a team that is advocating for incorporation of mental health in primary care in Nyamira County Referral Hospital. The Mental Health Unit has been moved to a more spacious office, and social workers have partnered with the team to make the endeavour more successful. The Mental Health Staff have been involved in ward rounds and taken care of people exhibiting mental health conditions including substance abuse during quarantine and/or isolation for COVID-19. They have also supported staff facing depression and anxiety during the pandemic. Warm handoffs between the medical team and the mental health unit, as well as joint consultations, have become the norm for primary care in the unit. In addition, monthly data are displayed in the unit to track the workload. Thank you Dr. Owuor for leading this amazing work.

Besroul Partner Profile



Dr. Baraa AlGhalyini is an assistant professor and the Chair of the Family & Community Medicine Department at the College of Medicine, Alfaisal University, Riyadh, and a family physician at the Department of Emergency Medicine at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. She founded the Health Promotion Exhibition, an annual event at Alfaisal University to promote health and well-being across the community.

In 2016 she became the first University of Toronto alumni representative in Riyadh and is the first appointed Saudi adjunct faculty at the Department of Family and Community Medicine in Toronto (2006 to the present) where she continues to participate actively in the academic fellowship and Global Health Programs. Dr. AlGhalyini has been awarded Fellowship in the College of Family Physicians of Canada (FCFP) and has contributed immensely to the field of family medicine teaching, continuous professional development, and research.

The Besroul Centre is proud to have Dr. AlGhalyini as a long-standing partner, a member of the Besroul Centre's Advisory Council, and a co-lead on the FM Pivot Module (to be launched in early spring). Thank you Dr. AlGhalyini for your commitment to family medicine.

Articles and Information of Interest

Fitzgerald M, Shoemaker E, Ponka D, Walker M, Kendall C. Global health and social accountability: An essential synergy for the 21st century medical school. *J Glob Health*. 2021;11:03045. Available from: <http://www.jogh.org/documents/2021/jogh-11-03045.pdf>.

Dyck C. Developing family medicine and primary care worldwide through global collaboration and co-learning [blog]. IntegratedCare4People website. January 2021. Available from: <https://www.integratedcare4people.org/blog/post/developing-family-medicine-and-primary-care-worldwide-through-global-collaboration-and-co-learning/>.

World Health Organization request

Request from the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care at the University of Toronto in concert with the WHO's Integrated Health Services Department

To support delivering high-quality primary care worldwide as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage, the WHO is developing a primary care tool kit to improve and standardize data across primary care settings. Evidence-informed checklists and encounter forms will be developed, allowing for the creation of a standardized data set and international registry for primary care. The WHO Collaborating Centre on Family Medicine and Primary Care at the University of Toronto reached out to the Besroul Centre to share a request for examples of the forms or documents typically used in family care settings and, if applicable, examples of documents used by other primary care providers. These providers may include physicians, nurses, clinical officers, midwives, allied health professionals, and community health workers.

The Besroul Centre is pleased to share this request with our community in hopes of contributing to this very important initiative. Contact kathernine.rouleau@utoronto.ca for further details.

International Events at a Glance

The Besroul Centre's schedule for upcoming conference participation is listed below. At some events we provide sessions and workshops while at others we attend as delegates. We invite you to consider joining your Besroul colleagues at these events (all pending COVID-19 status):

WONCA Europe Region Conference July 6–10, 2021

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/Europeregionconference2021.aspx>

The Network: Toward Unity For Health (TUFH), Virtual Conference July 20–23, 2021

<https://tufh2021.com/>

WONCA Rural Health Conference, Kampala, Uganda August 5–7, 2021

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/WorldRuralhealthconference.aspx>

International Association for Medical Education (AMEE), Virtual Conference August 27–30, 2021

<https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2021>

23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors, Abu Dhabi, November 25-28, 2021

<https://www.globalfamilydoctor.com/Conferences/WONCAWorldconference2021.aspx>