

The Besroure Centre for Global Family Medicine
Dr. Patrick Chege Memorial Research Award Poster Presentation

Step-wise evolution of partnership Memorandums of Understanding in the building of Family Medicine Capacity in Guyana

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Background:

In December of 2014, an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Family Medicine, University of Ottawa (uOttawa); Ministry of Health, Guyana; and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation that committed to developing the inaugural Family Medicine Training Program in the country. Since then, the MoU has been renewed twice, with the most recent being in the summer of 2022. Each MoU has step-wise revisions recognizing the built capacity and supporting further growth and independence. This poster outlines some of the components of the three sequential MoUs, metrics of partner involvement, and the Guyana Family Medicine Training Program's growing capacity and independence.

MOU #1 (January 1, 2015 – March 1, 2018)

uOttawa had primary responsibility for the development and delivery of the educational content and clinical supervision. This was achieved by way of in-country Program Directors and regular visiting faculty. The first cohort of four family medicine graduates successfully completed the program by the end of the first MoU.

MOU #2 (May 1, 2018 -May 31, 2021)

uOttawa supported the transition of program leadership to graduates of the Family Medicine Training Program and supported local capacity for clinical teaching and supervision. An

additional nine family medicine graduates were achieved through the second MoU, and local Co-Directors were identified.

MOU #3: (Being finalized - 3 years)

The third MoU aims at continued support of leadership development, research capacity, and aligning established curriculum with a Caribbean residency standard of four years. The Guyana program is expanding its internal capacity for teaching and clinical supervision, and faculty development.

Identified Challenges:

Some challenges identified include turnover of key program champions, political and policy changes impacting funding priorities, limited coordination and capacity within local programs for teaching and clinical supervision, resource limitations including variable Internet access, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lessons to Share:

There are stages in program development and capacity building, with the need for stepwise evolution in deliverables. The Guyana Family Medicine Training program has been supported by sequential MoUs, with each one being negotiated to ensure a healthy partnership that ensures a successful and sustainable training program.