



THE COLLEGE OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
OF CANADA



LE COLLÈGE DES  
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE  
DU CANADA

## Happy New Year and a warm welcome to new members of our Besroul Community!

### Family Medicine Forum 2018

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) call for abstracts for Family Medicine Forum (FMF) 2018 is now open, with the following submission deadlines:

- Sessions and workshops: February 15, 2018
- Posters and free-standing papers: April 9, 2018

### Besroul Forum 2018

The Besroul Forum will take place in tandem with FMF during the week of November 12th, 2018, in Toronto, Canada. Please mark your calendars as we begin to plan the Forum. Note that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the United Nations' Alma-Ata Declaration.

### Working group updates

- **Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Ethics:** Currently under development is a letter to the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, urging the Government of Canada to consider the Besroul Centre as a catalyst for primary health care (PHC) research advancement in Canada and worldwide.
  - **Ethics sub-working group:** The group is refining its ethical framework and tools document —about establishing ethically sound, academic, international partnerships—based on the feedback received at the 2017 Besroul Forum.
- **Besroul Papers and Research:** The group continues to work on the Brazil-Canada journal series, with the aim of being published in [Canadian Family Physician](#). The purpose of the collaboration is to compare successes and challenges in PHC in both countries.

The working group brought together Besroul partners from the Americas at the 2017 Besroul Forum to reflect on the evolution of family medicine on the continent since Alma-Ata. The group has since submitted a

manuscript—the opinion and analysis *The Contribution of Family Medicine to Primary Health Care Development in Americas – Forty Years after Alma Ata*—in response to the Pan American Health Organization’s call for papers for a special issue of the *Pan American Journal of Public Health* on the theme “Primary Health Care in the Americas: Forty Years after Alma-Ata.”

- **Scientific committee:** The committee is currently gathering feedback from its inaugural poster session at the 2017 Besroul Forum to be incorporated into its planning for the 2018 poster session.
- **Faculty Development:** The group is exploring opportunities for collaboration with the CFPC Education department, including the CFPC Section of Teachers, and the Besroul CPD working group to better respond to the educational needs of its international partners. Together, these groups are developing a matrix of educational activities and products to be shared globally and to be used as a tangible way to better align global partners with the CFPC education communities.  
  
The group is also exploring a joint curriculum redevelopment initiative with the Faculdades Santa Marcelina in São Paulo, Brazil. Discussions are currently under way.
- **Continuing Medical Education:** The consensus from the Forum discussions is to look at the CPD needs of family physicians and support CPD that aligns with stakeholders’ objectives beyond those of individual physicians. The next meeting is to be confirmed.

## Ariadne Labs request for proposal

Ariadne Labs is a Boston-based organization focused on creating scalable health care solutions for global impact. In collaboration with the Primary Health Care Performance Initiative and the WHO, along with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ariadne Labs is developing a PHC measurement and implementation consortium. A request for proposals for the development of a report on gaps in PHC research was circulated; the grant application was for up to US\$20,000.

The Besroul Centre partnered with the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, the University of Toronto’s Department of Family and Community Medicine, WONCA, and 10 other national and international institutions to submit a grant proposal. The submission focused on the optimization of leadership and management competencies and processes at the individual, facility, and systems levels to ensure robust primary health care.

The team was not successful in its bid, but was provided with the opportunity to have the proposal re-reviewed for region-specific funding, should funding become available in 2018.

The Besroul Centre is also a collaborating member on WONCA’s submission to Ariadne Labs RFP regarding organization and models of care and PHC financing. The WONCA submission was successful, and development of the proposal is under way.

## Synergies in Health Equity Consortium

To ensure alignment among the various CFPC committees and working groups that have a health equity mandate, the Synergies in Health Equity Consortium (SHEC) has been formed with the following groups: the Besroul Centre, the CFPC Global Health Committee, the CFPC Indigenous Health Committee, and the CFPC Health

Equity Committee. The Besroul Centre remains engaged in discussions with the consortium, which is currently seeking a project of common interest to work on.

## **WONCA Africa**

The Besroul Centre has been in communication with WONCA Africa to explore how our institutions can better work together in areas of mutual interest. Discussions are under way.

## **Besroul Partners in the Gulf Region**

The Besroul Centre is excited to see family medicine emerging on the horizon for policy makers in the Gulf region. The CFPC has been approached by Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for input and potential collaboration on how to develop robust family medicine in their respective countries. Discussions are under way.