

September 2020

Congratulations to the first recipients of the Global Co-RIG Program!

The Besroul Centre for Global Family Medicine at the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is pleased to announce the two inaugural recipients of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Impact Grant (Global Co-RIG) Program:

- University of Cape Town in South Africa: “Innovations to reduce morbidity and mortality amongst people with diabetes in vulnerable communities in Cape Town, South Africa”
- Syiah Kuala University in Indonesia: “Family Health Cadre Empowerment Program: An innovation for chronic disease management during the COVID-19 pandemic in low-and middle-income countries”

These grants were made possible through the generous support of the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine, the Fondation Docteur Sadok Besroul, and the Besroul Centre for Global Family Medicine at the CFPC.

The pandemic has put immense pressure on health care systems. The goal of this initiative is to advance efforts that aim to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19. In particular, the program is seeking innovative ideas that reduce the virus’s impact on highly vulnerable populations around the world that have limited access to primary care.

The CFPC and the Besroul Centre for Global Family Medicine congratulate the first Global Co-RIG recipients!

Project summaries

“Family Health Cadre Empowerment Program: An innovation for chronic disease management during the COVID-19 pandemic in low-and middle-income countries.”

This project based in Indonesia aims to establish the Family Health Cadre Program at the family and community levels to bridge the gap between family doctors and patients with chronic disease. It will empower family members to help patients manage their chronic diseases, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to cadres (small groups of people specially trained for a particular purpose or profession) for vaccination and nutritional programs for children, these cadres will be involved in improving the management of conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and tuberculosis. Doctors will work with a community coordinator to assign families their own Family Health Cadre. The Family Health Cadres will communicate with the family doctor through an e-health app, a telecommunication program established by the Association of Indonesian Family Physicians in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Innovations to reduce morbidity and mortality amongst people with diabetes in vulnerable communities in Cape Town, South Africa.”

For this project, the Division of Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town, the Department of Health in the Western Cape province, and the Division of Family Medicine and Primary Care at Stellenbosch University will work together to improve the health of communities in the wider Cape Town metropolitan area. The community-oriented primary care approach by family physicians and their multidisciplinary teams will enable the local health service to respond in innovative ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. These innovations are expected to have a positive impact on mortality and morbidity for people with type 2 diabetes. There will be home delivery of medication by community health workers; patient education and counselling; and active screening, testing, and early intervention for people with diabetes. The outcomes of these innovations aimed at people living with diabetes in these vulnerable communities require urgent evaluation and may offer valuable lessons to the local context and elsewhere, especially in response to the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic (the impact of interrupted care related to chronic conditions).