



2018 Besroure Forum Highlights and Next Steps

Building on Astana 2018: Global Family Medicine for Healthy Communities

About the Besroure Forum

- The seventh annual Besroure Forum brought together more than 120 delegates from almost all Canadian university departments of family medicine and partners from more than 14 countries, including new participating country partners such as Argentina.
- This year the world celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration and called on the global community to recommit to the goal of primary health care for all. During the 2018 Besroure Forum delegates engaged with policy-makers, academic leaders, and fellow family physicians from Canada and around the world to explore the impact family medicine has had on providing high-quality primary care to communities worldwide.
- With this objective in mind, delegates exchanged ideas about the important roles deans play in the establishment of family medicine within educational institutions; participated in action-focused quality improvement workshops; explored the unique research, education, community engagement, and leadership strengths and needs of the global Besroure community; and celebrated family medicine innovations from around the world through the voices of the Besroure community.

Highlights

- **Alma-Ata Declaration 40th Anniversary Dinner and Dialogue:** At a panel discussion on November 13th, the Besroure community welcomed leaders from the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the Ministry of Health of Argentina, the Ministry of Health of Tunisia, and a family physician from the Global South to discuss their unique perspectives on the impact family medicine has had on providing high-quality primary care. Delegates learned about:
 - The WHO's vision for primary health care in the wake of the new Astana Declaration and the importance of having partners such as the Besroure Centre support the implementation of sustainable primary health care that empowers individuals and communities and is aligned with national policies, strategies, and plans
 - The importance of investing in people—or health human resources—to develop high-performing primary health care systems and how measuring human capital can be an important advocacy tool to ensure political will is sustained and outcomes improve
 - How different ministries of health are working to shift the focus of their national health systems toward primary health care through the development of family medicine in their regions
 - Shared stories and thoughts from family physicians around the world that demonstrate how the principles of people-centred, community-based and comprehensive care, particularly for the most vulnerable espoused at the highest levels of policy are in fact a lived reality for family physicians working on the front lines around the world
- **Socially accountable family medicine and the critical role of deans and academic leaders:** In an interactive panel discussion delegates engaged with deans from Canada, Indonesia, Madagascar, and Tunisia to discuss the various approaches their medical schools have taken (or plan to take) to make their schools socially accountable. Through real examples at the undergraduate, graduate, and administrative levels, the panelists explored their unique and crucial roles as academic leaders in fostering a basis for the discipline in educational institutions around the world.

- **Family medicine innovations from around the globe:** The Besroul Forum and Family Medicine Forum communities heard first-hand from Besroul partners from South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Southeast Asia on how they are building capacity in family medicine in their settings through innovative projects designed to serve their communities. They provided key learning moments for Canadian and international family medicine champions to support innovation in their own practices and the ongoing development and strengthening of family medicine globally.
- **Modified World Café – the Besroul Centre’s Current and Future State:** During an introspective exercise delegates exchanged ideas in small groups about the needs and strengths of the Besroul community in various spheres of activity, including: research, medical education and training, community engagement, and primary health care leadership. The Besroul Centre will use the results of this exercise to guide the design of its activities to improve how it serves the global family medicine community in diverse settings. (Details will follow in the full conference report.)
- **Interactive workshops:** Delegates participated in several action-focused sessions on quality improvement, the creation of a faculty development workshop, and an appreciative inquiry approach to personal narratives in family medicine.
- **Closing session:** Members of the Besroul community shared their reflections in a closing session on November 16th. The concepts of empathy, reciprocity, solidarity, humility, and empowerment were highlighted as the values espoused and displayed by Besroul community members and family medicine.
- **Poster session:** The second annual Besroul poster session displayed more than 20 posters from around the world submitted by collaborating authors from Canada and the Global South. This year’s posters inspired lively scholarly dialogue among participants of the Besroul Forum and FMF. Congratulations to the recipients of the Best Poster Award, *Attitudes, Barriers, and Enablers Towards Conducting Primary Care Research in Banda Aceh, Indonesia!* The runner-up for Best Poster Award and delegates’ favourite award went to *Mapping Family Medicine Around the World*.

Next steps

1. **WONCA Africa – June 6 to 8, 2019, in Kampala, Uganda:** Members of the Besroul community are urged to register for [WONCA Africa](#), where the Besroul Centre plans to showcase numerous collaborations and workshops. The deadline to submit abstracts to the WONCA Africa planning committee is December 31, 2018. More information about the Besroul Centre’s participation and availability of financial support will follow in 2019. In the meantime, members are encouraged to express their ideas about the types of sessions and activities they’d like the Besroul community to engage in at the conference.
2. **Web platform for the Besroul Centre:** Delegates expressed the need to expand how the work of the Besroul Centre is shared, particularly through social media and other technological platforms. The WHO has offered a Web platform for the Besroul community to use. The Besroul Centre will reach out to WHO partners for more details and follow up with the Besroul community at large with more information on how to access this platform.
3. **Modified World Café follow-up:** Action items from each of the four focus groups—Research, Medical Education and Training, Community Engagement, and Primary Health Care Leadership—will be incorporated into the Besroul Centre’s strategic plan and shared with the community.
4. **RIFRESS – March 20 to 23, 2019, in Rabat, Morocco:** The Besroul community has been invited as an important partner to the inaugural meeting of the Réseau international francophone pour la responsabilité sociale en santé (RIFRESS) and encourages community members to register. More info is available [here](#).
5. A **Dropbox folder** has been set up to house all 2018 Besroul Forum presentations.