

**OCTOBER 30–31, 2019
VANCOUVER, CANADA**

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL BESROUR FORUM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**FAMILY MEDICINE:
LEADING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL HEALTH**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eighth Annual Besroul Forum, organized around the theme “Family Medicine: Leading the future in global health,” was held over one and a half days in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Fifty participants attended the various sessions in person and 18 attended online, with representation from 12 countries. The Forum included six sessions, ranging from gathering medical school deans’ perspectives on community engagement strategies at their institutions to highlighting a successful Besroul Centre consultation partnership in Argentina. At all sessions time was allotted for small-group discussions and reporting, which offered participants the opportunity to grapple with the various topics in their own contexts and share experiences and learnings with their groups.

A unique aspect of this year’s conference was a live demonstration of the Besroul Café, a regularly scheduled, synchronous online discussion designed to foster capacity building in family medicine education globally. Following the Besroul Café live demonstration, participants’ feedback included the importance of keeping these co-learning spaces solution focused. Others suggested that recording the sessions will allow for asynchronous participation, extending the benefit to those who were unable to join the live events. Also, participants acknowledged that technology can serve only to support, not replace, the relationships we build that allow for meaningful engagement and co-learning to occur.

The Besroul Forum Scientific Committee hosted the annual poster session, encouraging scholarly dialogue, collaboration, and exchange among participants. Notably, this year’s poster session winners were Amanda Marcinowska, Dr. Tibor Schuster, Dr. Yves Bergevin, and Dr. Isabelle Vedel from McGill University; and Dr. Alex Cassenote from the Santa Marcelina Primary Health Care Network, Sao Paulo, Brazil, for research titled “Identifying primary health care research priorities in underserved regions of Sao Paulo, Brazil.”

- 68 participants representing 12 countries
- First live demonstration of the Besroul Café
- Strong shared values of co learning, collaboration, innovation, and sustainability emerged

Finally, the hour-long interactive Strategic Planning Session included 25 participants (19 in person and six attending via Zoom technology) from nine countries: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. Using Slido technology, the session focused on participant input centred on three key questions:

1. Imagine the Besroul Centre three to five years from now. What are three specific words that could be used to describe its success? How should we evaluate our success?
2. What are the changing needs of our community and stakeholders, and are there opportunities that we should be leveraging?
3. Given our community needs and strengths, where should we focus over the next three to five years?

Shared values emerged from both the online and in-person participants, with key themes including co-learning, collaboration, innovation, and sustainability.

Dr. Sadok Besroul provided the closing remarks for the 2019 Besroul Forum, expressing that he felt hopeful as he anticipates moving forward with this momentum.