



4th Annual Besrou Global Health Conference

Family Medicine at the Heart of Health Systems: Reaching for evidence

Executive Report

November 11–14, 2015
InterContinental Toronto Centre Hotel
Toronto, Canada



THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS OF CANADA
LE COLLÈGE DES MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE DU CANADA



Executive Summary

The Besroure Centre is a hub of collaboration that brings together Canadian and international family medicine experts, academics, communities, patients, and key stakeholders to advance the discipline of family medicine as a pathway to health equity around the world.

The 4th annual Besroure Global Health Conference (Besroure Conference) in 2015 was an opportunity for the Besroure community to unite and explore ways to advance family medicine on a regional and a global scale. The conference brought together approximately 100 delegates from almost all university departments of family medicine across Canada and international partners from 14 countries. The theme of the conference was “Family Medicine at the Heart of Health Systems: Reaching for Evidence.” With a goal of informing and influencing policy, participants highlighted the key role of research and the types of evidence required to develop an effective discipline of family medicine. Participants also identified research foci and strategies to direct Besroure partners in collecting data to capture the growth of family medicine from local and collective perspectives.

Over the course of the 3-day event, participants posed incisive questions and explored ways to establish family medicine as an effective element of health systems around the world. Conference activities included a variety of interactive sessions, small group discussions, a deans’ round table, a world café exercise, and presentations from Besroure partners and special guests.

Delegates discussed the contributions of family medicine to health systems by offering their reflections on what constitutes impactful evidence in support of family medicine and how to gather it. In doing so, several research priority areas were identified, including the impact of family medicine on population health and on the health care workforce, and family medicine as a pillar of patient-centred care—accessible, comprehensive, coordinated, cost-effective, quality care. Delegates also identified various types of qualitative and quantitative data at both the patient and system level, and underscored the usefulness of process and outcome indicators.

Delegates explored how the Besroure Centre could help gather, synthesize, and apply this evidence to effectively influence global policy. Drawing upon local and collective experiences of the Besroure community, various methods were suggested, including the use of case studies as comparative evidence on models of care, a consensus methodology to demonstrate the effect and impact of family medicine, cost-analysis studies, a participatory rural action approach, and an appreciative inquiry approach. It was suggested the Besroure Centre could play a role in supporting this process and promoting its application by taking part in the generation of knowledge; increasing primary care research capacity; synthesizing information; assisting in branding family medicine in different contexts; disseminating knowledge through local and global partnerships; and advocating for family medicine to key stakeholders.

The Besroure Centre will develop a more detailed Besroure Research Plan over the coming months based on the input collected from Besroure partners during the 4th annual Besroure Conference and throughout the year. The Besroure Centre will also ensure its priorities continue to be aligned with the Besroure community through the continued efforts of its working groups and through its strategic plan. The conference concluded with participants collectively voting to hold the 5th annual Besroure Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, immediately prior to the 2016 WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors in November.