Building Capacity in Family Medicine in Low and Middle Income Countries

An International Strategic Consultation Meeting

for

The Sadok Besrour Centre for Innovation in Global Health

November 9 - 11, 2012
Kingbridge Centre
Ontario, Canada
Executive Summary

From November 9 to November 12, 2012, Canadian and international delegates convened at the Kingbridge Conference Centre for a Strategic Consultation Meeting on family medicine capacity building in low and middle income countries (LMIC). Organized by the Global Health Committee of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the purpose of the Consultation Meeting was to develop a mission, vision, and action plan for the Besrour Centre for Innovation in Global Health.

Thanks to the generous support of Dr. Sadok Besrour, the Consultation Meeting will be the first of three such annual gatherings of Canadian departments of family medicine and their LMIC partners to collectively determine the role and collective actions of the Besrour Centre.

Participants in this year’s Meeting included representatives of the CFPC, faculty from academic departments of family medicine across Canada, and delegates from 10 LMICs at various stages in the development of family medicine. Over the course of the Strategic Consultation Meeting, participants elaborated the following four strategic directions for the Besrour Centre:

#1. Strengthening continuing education and knowledge support for family physicians towards a comprehensive, effective, and community responsive scope of practice.

#2. Adapting standards for family medicine accreditation and certification.

#3. Developing a cadre of effective family medicine faculty.

#4. Building knowledge for family medicine through scholarship, and evaluating the impact of family medicine on health outcomes.

The strategic directions were framed by a statement of the vision, mission, and values of the Besrour Centre, which the delegates collaboratively shaped. Through breakout group discussions and broader consultation, the delegates further defined the Besrour Centre’s functions by identifying implementation priorities for the short, medium, and long term, and

Vision

A global catalyst for innovative collaborations in Family Medicine towards a healthier world for all.

Mission

The Besrour Centre for Innovation in Global Health will reduce health inequities by enhancing the positive impact of Family Medicine on the health of vulnerable populations at home and across the world through collective learning.

In the context of Family Medicine we will:

- Share knowledge to promote high standards of medical education and community based care
- Support training and capacity building
- Encourage scholarship and disseminate knowledge
- Engage with all sectors involved in primary care
- Enable sustainable, multilateral partnerships
- Promote the convergence of primary care and population health.
identified their corresponding key enablers and expected outcomes.

The formal and informal exchanges of ideas, knowledge, and experiences between the delegates were invaluable to the strengthening of global capacity building initiatives in family medicine. The CFPC Global Health Committee has summarized the proceedings and outcomes of the 2012 Strategic Consultation Meeting in the following report, which will serve as a blueprint for the Besrour Centre for Innovation in Global Health.

Values

- **Equity** – by recognizing the inherent dignity of every human being and the just distribution of resources and access with respect to marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- **Justice** – by ensuring that individuals and groups have fair and impartial access to the benefits of society including the right to health.
- **Excellence** – by striving and adhering to the highest standards of quality, integrity, professionalism, leadership and evidence informed and patient centered care.
- **Reciprocity** - by promoting the collaborative and multidirectional exchange of experience, knowledge and capacity building between and amongst partners and their communities.
- **Respect** - for each other’s cultures, norms and perspectives.