



Welcome to Dr. David Ponka, the new Director of the Besrou Centre!

We are thrilled to announce Dr. David Ponka will assume the role of Director of the Besrou Centre as of September 4th. David previously served as the Besrou Centre Research Director and the Chair of the Besrou Centre Advisory Council. A family doctor in Ottawa, he is also an associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. David has extensive experience in caring for vulnerable and migrant populations in Canada and abroad in countries such as Haiti, Chad, and Guyana, where he tries to support integrating research into the growing discipline of family medicine. He has served as a medical adviser to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and is a member of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation and Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity. David earned his medical degree from McGill University, holds CCFP (EM) and FCFP Special Designations, and has a master of science degree in international primary care from the University of London. He enjoys raising his three young girls to think and act as global citizens.

Besrou Forum/Family Medicine Forum 2019

We are pleased to confirm that the 2019 Besrou Forum will take place on day one of the College of Family Physicians of Canada's Family Medicine Forum (FMF) in Vancouver, Canada.

Besrou Forum: Wednesday, October 30, 2019

FMF: Wednesday, October 30, 2019, to Saturday, November 2, 2019

To register, visit the [FMF online registration](#). Take advantage of early-bird registration rates by September 4, 2019. Additional details specific to the Besrou Forum will follow.

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts for the 2019 Besrou Poster Presentations. The Scientific Committee has reviewed the abstracts and notifications are being sent to authors end of August.

WONCA Africa Regional Conference: June 2019

The Besrou Centre had the privilege of participating in the 2019 WONCA Africa Regional Conference held in Kampala, Uganda. Canadian and other international Besrou colleagues were among representatives from 32 countries who are committed to delivering people-centred primary care in Africa for this event.

This conference highlights important work being done in various African countries. The year 2019 has brought with it a growing interest in universal health coverage in the region, lending the opportunity for the global family medicine community to strengthen its networks and advocacy efforts in this area.



Along with other partner organizations, the Besrou Centre assisted in developing *Kampala Commitment 2019*, a document outlining family doctors' commitment to advocating for universal health coverage and building the capacity of primary health care teams in Africa. The Besrou Centre fully supports this effort. Please see the attached document for complete conference highlights.

African Forum for Primary Health Care

The Besrou Centre is a supporting organization and member of the newly formed African Forum for Primary Health Care (AFPHC). The AFPHC brings together the leadership of all health workers (family doctors, clinical officers/associates, nurses, midwives, public health professionals, community health workers, and many others) to ensure the entire primary health care team has a voice in primary care policy-making in Africa. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please [sign up here](#).

The Besrou Café

An exciting idea generated at the WONCA Africa conference is the development of the new Besrou Café. The Besrou Café is a proposed online platform that will allow frequent real-time discussions between Canadian and international partners on various topics related to education and training in global family medicine, as identified by stakeholders. Occurring in both official languages of the Besrou Centre, the Café will facilitate regularly scheduled, thematically structured, peer-to-peer discussions to take place between Besrou Forum conferences. Its initial target audience would be early- to mid-stage family medicine teachers, providing a forum for ongoing mentorship, innovation, and collaboration within the global family medicine sphere.

To manage competing time zones and regional interests, the Besrou Café will start as a 12-month pilot program within one region. The WONCA Africa Conference identified many shared challenges and interests within the region related to family medicine education. The creation of the Besrou Café is therefore well timed as a way to follow up on the discussions started at WONCA Africa. A pilot version will be ready for demonstration at FMF in Vancouver this fall.

Working group updates

Medical education and training

The Besroul Centre is exploring a new structure for its Educational Working Group (formerly the Faculty Development and CPD Working Group) over the summer. We would like to get your input so we can make this working group more effective. Our first step will be to refresh our mailing list of partners.

If you are still interested in participating in the working group in some capacity (major or minor), please contact Vera Shewell at vshevell@cfpc.ca.

Research and quality improvement

- **Papers and Research Working Group:** Four Besroul papers have been submitted to *Canadian Family Physician* for publication. A scoping review of primary care physician leadership development in low- and middle-income countries has also recently been completed by Christine Leung, a master's student at the University of Ottawa.
- **Narratives and FM Mapping Working Group:** The working group has invited colleagues from El Salvador to contribute their story of the development of family medicine in their country to the Narratives site.
- **Community Engagement Working Group:** This group has met for the first time to discuss the need for a community engagement working group in the Besroul community. Co-leads for the group have been identified—Dr. Ben Langer and Dr. Alain Pavilanis—and they are working to define the group's scope, processes, and outputs. The group is currently working to develop a set of activities for the upcoming Besroul Forum on October 30, 2019.

Canadian Medical Association

The international health department of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is working to create a comprehensive network of Canadian physicians who are involved in various global health initiatives. Their goal is to establish synergies between doctors and optimize the delivery of health care on a global scale. If you are a Canadian physician who is engaged in global health endeavours, the CMA would like to hear from you. Please contact Kate Graham at Kate.Graham@cma.ca.

Mental health in primary care: Research focus

The Besrouer research community has begun to identify a number of key research opportunities, including in mental health in primary care.

In June 2019 Dr. David Ponka and Ophelia Michaelides assisted in a mental health needs assessment in the Asembo Bay region of western Kenya.

The Besrouer Centre and Moi University are providing academic and collaborative support to a community-led mental health initiative that was spearheaded through a

partnership between the Rotary Club of Asembo Bay and HERA Mission (a community development foundation that has been integrated in the area for the past 12 years). The Mwangaza Mental Health Train-the-Trainer Intervention is pilot program for community health volunteers in Asembo Bay that is locally supported, relevant, and scalable. “Mwangaza” is the Swahili word for light.



World Health Organization

The Primary Health Care team of the World Health Organization (WHO) produces an informative newsletter that is pertinent to our collective efforts to strengthen family medicine and primary care as a pathway to health equity and achieving health and well-being for all. We invite you to share your email addresses with the WHO so you can receive the newsletter directly from them. If you are interested, simply [subscribe here](#).

CPD opportunity: Certificate in Local and Global Health Equity

The [Certificate in Local and Global Health Equity Program \(September 2019 to August 2020\)](#) is now open for registration. Delivered entirely online, this accredited program is designed to provide maximum flexibility and access while simultaneously connecting you with a team of local experts in an interactive and engaging discussion of the challenges in local and global health equity.



CertificateInGlobal
HealthProgram-July.

- **Twelve online modules:** This program consists of 12 individual modules covering topics in local and global health equity. The modules will be delivered from **September 2019 to August 2020** and each will be delivered over a **four-week period**.
- **Accredited:** This one-credit-per-hour Group Learning program meets the certification criteria of the CFPC and has been certified by the Office of Professional & Educational Development, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University for up to **48 Mainpro+® credits**.
- **Completion certificate:** Each participant will receive a certificate once all the modules are completed.
- **Registration fees:** The cost is \$600 for physicians and \$450 for non-physicians.

To register for this program go to www.med.mun.ca/ghc.

Articles of interest

Dr. Clayton Dyck, Besrour Centre Lead, Medical Education and Training, and Dr. Brent Kvern, CFPC Director, Certification and Examination, have published a *CFP* blog post: "[Teachers are teachers everywhere.](#)"

International events at a glance

Please find below a list of upcoming conferences that we invite you to consider attending:

- [The Network: Towards Unity for Health 2019](#): Darwin, Australia; September 10 to 13, 2019
- [North American Primary Care Research Group \(NAPCRG\)](#): Toronto, Canada; November 16 to 20, 2019