



APRIL 2016

2016 Besroul Conference

Members of the Besroul Centre met with Brazilian partners during a site visit to Rio de Janeiro this month to discuss current and future collaboration, including the planning of the 2016 Besroul Conference. The Besroul Centre's commitment to holding the 2016 Besroul Conference in Rio de Janeiro has been re-affirmed, and planning efforts are underway to confirm Rio as the Besroul 2016 location. The 2016 Besroul Conference planning committee has held an initial meeting to begin discussing the content and theme of the upcoming conference.

We will keep you updated on key developments regarding conference planning in the upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, please watch for 2 very important documents coming your way: (1) '**Conference Planning Survey**' and; (2) '**Save the Date**', which also includes **VISA requirements** for exit/entry into Brazil. We encourage you to start your VISA process as soon as possible. It's a busy year in Rio due to the Summer Olympics and the WONCA World Conference 2016, therefore the application process may take longer than normal.

Article of Interest

R. Mash et al (2016). Strengthening primary health care through primary doctors: the design of a new national postgraduate diploma in family medicine. *South African Family Medicine*. 58(1) 32-36. [click here](#)

WHO Primary Health Care Improvement Global Stakeholders Meeting

The Besroul Centre, through the attendance of Katherine Rouleau, Director Besroul Centre, participated in the PHC Improvement Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on April 7–8, 2016. For a backgrounder, please see attached. The WHO and stakeholders acknowledged the central role of primary health care in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Although the role of family medicine was not a main focus of the meeting, there were a number of family physicians in attendance, all of whom clearly integrated their conviction about the role of family medicine in advancing the global primary health care agenda. While the meeting highlighted the lack of capacity in data analysis and lack of district-level data as significant barriers in achieving improved PHC, the broad discourse of the meeting highlighted potential roles for Canada and the Besroul Centre as important contributors to robust primary care. The Besroul Centre continues to explore its specific contributing areas within this greater global discussion.

Research

As a follow-up to the WHO Primary Health Care Improvement Global Stakeholder meeting, the Besroul Centre met with the World Bank Group to discuss potential collaboration around projects in the areas of measurement and improvement. With primary health care back on the global political agenda and universal health coverage as a focus of the global health community, the WBG and Besroul Centre identified several potential synergies between the two institutions. Discussions are ongoing to identify a concrete short term focus of collaboration.

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Smart Global Development Conference

Several members of the Besrouer Centre community attended the Smart Global Development Conference in Ottawa this month, organized by the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada (AKFC), Academics Without Borders (AWB) and International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada. The conference explored the role of higher education in attaining the sustainable development goals set forth by the UN. For key takeaways from the conference, please see attached.

Upcoming Conferences

For those interested in upcoming conferences related to social accountability, global health equity and more, please [click here](#).

Current Collaborations

- **Tunisia:** The development of the CPD manual for health professionals in Tunisia is well underway. A first draft has been reviewed by Tunisian national stakeholders, and will be presented during a validation seminar in Tunis at the end of May/beginning of June.
- **China:** Dr Ivy Oandasan, Director of Education, CFPC, and Dr Brian Wang, President, Chinese Canadian Medical Society of BC, recently presented on primary care in the Canadian health care system at the Chinese Medical Doctors Association (CMDA) conference in Beijing from April 23–24, 2016 to an audience of 200. Their presentation was met with enthusiasm and many questions. Several points of collaboration between the CMDA and the CFPC were identified. A more detailed report to follow in the next edition of the Besrouer newsletter.

Recognitions

Congratulations to the recipients of the Sadok Besrouer Foundation Award of Excellence in Health Sciences, awarded this month at the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, Tunisia. This distinction is awarded on an annual basis in recognition of medical excellence in training and research. Please [click here](#) for more information.