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2016 Besroul Conference

Please expect to receive the information package for the 2016 Besroul Conference this week. The package contains important information about the conference schedule, delegate expense entitlements, accommodations, visa application details, and the 2016 WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors. If you have any questions regarding the information package, please feel free to [contact us](#).

The Besroul Conference Planning Committee convened earlier this month to discuss the conference program. More information about the conference theme will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

Working Group updates

- **Advocacy, Community Engagement, and Ethics** will be engaging in the consultation process for renewing Canada's international development assistance policy, launched by the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie at Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Visit the [GAC website](#) for more information about the process.
The group held an initial meeting this month to discuss preparing the document that will be submitted to GAC. We look forward to highlighting the importance and value of family medicine as a development priority for Canada, and for achieving the health-related sustainable development goals.
- **Continuing Medical Education** has had an article (Achieving competencies in family medicine through continuing professional development) accepted by the *Education for Primary Care Journal's* special WONCA edition; necessary revisions are under way.
- **Narratives and FM Papers** has had an article accepted for publication in *Canadian Family Physician*.
- **Besroul Papers and Research** continues to develop a plan outlining the Besroul community's contribution to the Primary Health Care Performance Initiative by engaging with international partners to identify indicators for family medicine .
- **Faculty Development** continues to analyze the results of the faculty development focus groups conducted in November 2015, intended to assess the faculty development needs of Besroul partners.

Reflection on Tunisia

We are pleased to report the successful completion of the Besroul Centre's first consultation project. The Centre collaborated with INASanté, which wanted help producing a manual to guide the development, evaluation, and accreditation of continuing professional development activities for health professionals in Tunisia. We completed this task within the 3-month time frame with the help of an expert consultant. The

manual was developed, reviewed by national stakeholders, and presented during a validation seminar in Tunis at the beginning of June. Feedback from INASanté indicates the manual was well received by the seminar participants. As we look to future endeavours, we hope to draw on the lessons learned from this successful collaboration and use it as a model for future consultancy projects.

External Conferences

2016 WONCA Europe

Dr Katherine Rouleau, director of the Besroul Centre, presented a keynote address at the 2016 WONCA Europe Conference in Copenhagen, “From individual to collective efforts towards health equity or what family medicine can learn from Canada geese?” The presentation drew from published literature and examples of equity-focused efforts in Canada and elsewhere to explore how family medicine can be used at the individual and collective levels to advance health equity.

2016 Public Health

The Besroul Centre participated in the 2016 Public Health conference held in Toronto. The conference is the largest annual public health gathering in Canada and a key knowledge sharing event. It brings together leaders and change agents from public, private, and volunteer organizations that contribute to health and wellness. The Centre was also showcased at the conference’s College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) booth.

Current collaborations

- **West African College of Physicians (WACP):** We continue to build a strong Besroul-WACP-CFPC collaboration, including meetings this month with the CFPC Research department to identify critical next steps toward developing practice -based research networks in Nigeria.

Recognitions

Congratulations to Dr Mahamane Maïga, Besroul Centre partner and advocacy working group member, on receiving the prestigious Humanist Medal from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Sherbrooke University. For more information, [refer to this link](#).