



Besrou Forum/Family Medicine Forum (FMF): November 4–7, 2020

New world, new experience—FMF 2020 will be taking place virtually. The Besrou sessions will be held on Day 2, Thursday, November 5, 2020. Register now! Please visit the [FMF website](#) for details.

Thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts for poster presentations. If you missed the deadline and still wish to submit, please contact besroucentre@cfpc.ca.

23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors, Abu Dhabi

The Organizing Committee in consultation with WONCA World Council has decided that the WONCA World Conference 2020 – Abu Dhabi, will be postponed to November 25-28, 2021. Further details [online](#).

Besrou Centre Welcomes Its New Manager: Valerie Baron



Valerie Baron has long and varied experiences in the field of Global Health. She holds a master's degree in international development from the University of Guelph. Valerie has managed large complex Global Affairs Canada projects and worked for World Vision International in various capacities, most recently as their Global Technical Advisor for Education. She has displayed a solid track record of success overseeing and supporting the full cycle of project management, from planning to closeout, as well as delivering complex international development programs.

The Manager role at the Besrou Centre is critical to ensure stakeholder engagement and continued alignment with the various departments of the College to ensure that we deliver on the global components of our strategic plan. We are thrilled to welcome Valerie and are happy to note her penchant for cooking, good food, and the outdoors.

Besrou Working Group Updates

Medical Education and Training

Drawing on the family physician experience with the COVID-19 pandemic, the group is developing the FM PIVOT Educational Resource. It aims to improve capacity and resilience of our global and

local health systems through capacity building of family physicians in responding and adapting to future global health emergencies. It will achieve this through a thematically based, competency focused, collaboratively developed platform of educational activities and resources, based on the WHO's PrimaryCare4People site.

Advisory Group

The Advisory Group met at the end of May to review and prioritize medical education activities and to identify champions for these activities.

The **Besroul Café** monthly discussions continue, with the last two focussing on COVID-19. Go [online](#) to listen to recordings of discussions. Café sessions are held last Tuesday of each month and we encourage our African colleagues to join us for future discussions. If you have not received an invitation, please contact vshewell@cfpc.ca. Visit the [website](#) to find more information about this 12-month pilot project.

The group continues to work toward online capacity building sessions with partners at Syiah Kuala and McMaster University.

Community Engagement

The group has developed its Terms of Reference and is proceeding with a tool kit for use by Besroul partners on best evidence about community engagement.

Research and Narratives

The group continues to work with the 2020 Besroul Fellow, Dr. Trinidad Rodriguez, on the Medical Education Research project.

Global COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Impact Grant Program (Co-RIG Global)

Thanks to the generous support of the CFPC's Foundation for the Advancement of Family Medicine (FAFM) and the Fondation Docteur Sadok Besroul, the Besroul Centre is seeking two proposals valued up to C\$50,000 each for a global COVID-19 pandemic innovation response. The primary care response to COVID-19 must support innovation that targets and protects highly vulnerable populations who are faced with the lack of access to primary care.

This initiative aims to have the greatest impact for reducing morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19. The family practice innovations that are likely to have a high degree of impact in reducing the harms of COVID-19 include education innovations, practice innovations, and responses that address equity and inclusion. The request for proposal will contribute to how innovative family practices will likely have a high degree of impact in reducing the harms associated with COVID-19.

Besroul COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee

This committee has come together to collaborate on COVID-19-specific projects, with the current focus on the Global COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Impact Grant Program (Co-RIG Global). The Committee oversees the Request for Proposal process.

Live-Stream Webinar: The COVID-19 Pivot: Approaches to the global pandemic from an international perspective

Held on May 21st, this live-stream webinar gathered physicians from three different countries to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in their area and on their clinical practices. Hosted by Dr. David Ponka, Director at the Besroure Centre for Global Family Medicine, it included guests Dr. William Goldberg (emergency physician, New York City, United States), Dr. Elena Klusova (family physician, Ibiza, Spain), and Dr. Nisanth Menon (family and emergency physician, Kochi, India). Go to the [Clinical Live-Stream Webinars page](#) to listen to the recording.

A Podcast Partnership Between the Besroure Centre and Canadian Family Physician

Interviews with 10 countries have taken place! Using the Besroure Centre's network of international partners, Dr. Christine Gibson has interviewed family physicians from around the world who are helping to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. [Listen](#) to the perspectives from partners in Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Rwanda, Ethiopia, China, and more. The site has received thousands of visits to date! Tunisia interview French only [here](#).

Besroure Partner Profile

Dr. Trinidad Rodriguez is a family physician from Santiago, Chile. She works in academic medicine at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and at a primary care centre with an underserved population. She is also working on a project at the Health Innovation Center at the Universidad Católica that proposes a strategy of health care for infants, children, and adolescents (ICA), which emphasizes implementing the principles of the family and community health model in primary care and focusses on attachment theory and nurturing relationships with caregivers. In that project Dr. Rodriguez is in charge of designing a program that enables multidisciplinary health teams to be part of a change in the strategy of care given to ICAs and their families—a capacity building initiative.

Articles/Information of Interest

- Ponka D, Coffman M, Fraser-Barclay KE, Fortier RDW, Howe A, Kidd M, et al. [Fostering global primary care research: a capacity-building approach](#). *BMJ Global Health*. 2020;5(6):e002470
- [Being a resident of family medicine in Africa in 2019: A picture from the 6th WONCA Africa Conference in Kampala](#), co-authored by Adelson Guaraci Jantsch (Brazil), and Clayton Dyck and Molly Whalen-Browne (Canada)

- [CFPC COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

Employment opportunity at the World Health Organization

See details [online](#).

International Events at a Glance

The Besrouer Centre's schedule for upcoming conference participation is listed below. At some events we provide sessions and workshops while at others we attend as delegates. We invite you to consider joining your Besrouer colleagues at these events (all pending COVID-19 status):

- Réseau international francophone pour la responsabilité sociale en santé (RIFRESS): Brussels, Belgium, March 3 to 6, 2021
- 23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors: Abu Dhabi, November 25 to 28, 2021