



THE COLLEGE OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
OF CANADA



LE COLLÈGE DES
MÉDECINS DE FAMILLE
DU CANADA

APRIL 2020

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Besroul Forum/Family Medicine Forum: November 4–7, 2020

Besroul Forum: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 *Conference may be affected pending COVID-19 status

Call for abstracts extended deadline: Wednesday, April 29, 2020

New theme for 2020: This year we welcome our usual broad scope of scholarly topics, reflecting our community's diversity. However, the 2020 Besroul Poster Presentations will also include a pandemic/COVID-19 theme. We invite you to consider your global partnerships as you reflect on how the pandemic has impacted your work relative to previous years. Consider the ways you might share the rich but challenging experiences you face as family doctors. Visit the website to review the [2020 submission guidelines](#).

Hot off the press!

[Go online](#) to read the *2019 Besroul Forum Report*, both the Executive Summary and the full report.

The Besroul Centre at the 23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors

Abu Dhabi, November 25–29, 2020 *Conference may be affected pending COVID-19 status

The Besroul Centre, in collaboration with a number of partners, has submitted four abstracts for the World Conference of Family Doctors (WONCA 2020) and looks forward to hearing from others that have submitted as well. If you are planning to attend WONCA 2020, please let us know so we may continue to collaborate.

WONCA/Besroul prizes for emerging researchers

Dr. Sadok Besroul has generously sponsored \$10,000 (CAD) as a prize for the best research presentation, to be awarded every two years (alternating between the WONCA World Conference and the Besroul Forum). The inaugural presentation will be made at WONCA 2020 in Abu Dhabi this November.

Are you submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation at the WONCA World conference in Abu Dhabi? Visit the [conference website](#) for eligibility details and applications.

Besroul working group updates

Medical Education and Training

The first meeting of the advisory group took place in February. The group's task is to oversee the direction of and provide guidance for medical education and training activities within the Besroul Centre. The group is looking to develop educational resources that will be available for different jurisdictions. More details will follow

as they are developed. The group is collaborating with Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on capacity building as the university develops the family medicine postgraduate training program for September 2020. An abstract will be presented at WONCA 2020.

The Besroure Café takes place the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th. Discussions will continue to include shared lessons regarding COVID-19. We encourage our African colleagues to join us. If you have not received the invitation please contact Vera Shewell, Besroure Centre Administrative Coordinator, at vshewell@cfpc.ca. Find more information on this 12-month pilot project on the [Besroure Café web pages](#).

Community Engagement

Terms of Reference are being finalized and group structure in progress. An abstract will be presented at WONCA 2020.

Research and Narratives

We are proud once again to welcome Dr. Sumeet Sodhi as the new lead. Dr. Sodhi has extensive experience in global health programs, research, and advocacy. She also has an established track record of leadership and innovation for the design, development, and implementation of health research, operations and knowledge translations programs. Dr. Sodhi has already been extremely helpful with our fellowship and COVID-19 efforts, and we look forward to growing the research arm of the Centre!

A podcast partnership between the Besroure Centre and Canadian Family Physician (CFP)

Using the Besroure Centre's network of international partners, Dr. Christine Gibson interviews family physicians around the world who are helping to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, finding the common thread of humanity between those on each side of the mask. [Listen](#) to the perspective from partners in Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Australia, and Brazil.

The Besroure Centre fellowship program in medical education research

The Besroure Centre, through the generosity of Scotiabank and MD Financial, has offered a learning opportunity to its global network in the form of a fellowship program. The Centre reached out to our memorandum of understanding-based relationships and received a number of nominations. Following a rigorous selection process we are excited to announce that the recipient of the Besroure Fellowship 2020 is Dr. Rodriguez, family physician at the Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. We will support her research program virtually, awaiting developments in the Global COVID-19 pandemic. We received many outstanding applications and the decision was a challenging one. We thank everyone who applied with a reminder that opportunities will soon be available for the 2021 fellowship.

Besroure partner profile

Dr. Christine Gibson is a family physician and systems entrepreneur from Calgary, and Executive Director of Global Familymed Foundation which provides assistance to specific family medicine program partners. As co-lead of Besroure's Narrative working group, she participates in community-based storytelling research and activity. For the COVID-19 response, she has been interviewing various partners of the Besroure Centre to learn

about how the discipline of family medicine adds value to the local context, for learning and sharing. The podcasts are posted through CFP at <https://cfppodcast.libsyn.com/>, the blogs at <https://www.cfp.ca/blog>, and you can learn more about her at www.christinegibson.net. If you are one of our international partners and willing to tell your story, please reach out to her at contact@christinegibson.net

World Health Organization training course

The World Health Organization's [training course](#) provides a general introduction to COVID-19 and emerging respiratory viruses. The course may be used by public health professionals, incident managers and personnel working for international organizations.

Articles of interest

- The Centre's Director, Dr. David Ponka, is featured as [WONCA's Family Doctor](#) this month.
- A recent entry for the Besroul Papers in *Canadian Family Physician*: [Telemedicine in the Driver's Seat: New role for primary care access in Brazil and Canada](#)
- Find a compilation of articles published in *The Lancet* journals in the [Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre](#)
- *SciELO*—[40 years of Alma-Ata: Challenges of Primary Health Care in Brazil and in the World](#)
This issue focusses on the family health strategy and includes community and family medicine. The intention is to discuss the fundamental importance of primary care, in the Americas and Ibero-American regions, and to underline how primary care plays a critical role at the intersection of clinical medicine and public health. The issue includes 23 articles on the topic, written by almost 80 authors representing nine countries (Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Jamaica, Haiti, United States of America, Canada, Portugal, and Spain).
- British Medical Journal [Contributions and challenges of general practitioners in China fighting against the novel coronavirus crisis](#)

International events at a glance

The Besroul Centre's participation in upcoming conferences 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 Besroul colleagues at these events (all pending COVID-19 status):

- [23rd WONCA World Conference of Family Doctors](#): Abu Dhabi, November 26–29, 2020
- [RIFRESS](#): Brussels, Belgium, October 7–10, 2020