

Québec-Madagascar Partnership; taking up the challenge of social accountability

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Introduction and objective

Improving primary care is a challenge for a developing country like Madagascar. The country can draw on international partnerships that are encouraged by the Besroul Center which has developed an ethical framework of win-win partnerships. In this work, we present the Quebec-Madagascar partnership as a positive example of a beneficial and lasting partnership.

Activities

Laval University (UL) Quebec and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Antananarivo (FMUA) began their collaboration in 2011, with student and teacher mobility. In 2015, the FMUA Dean was present at the first Besroul Conference. Since then, based on shared values and a common vision, this partnership has continued to grow stronger. A Decanal and Malagasy ministerial visit is planned for the fall of 2023 for an immersion in the Canadian healthcare and university system.

Expected results

Structural reforms of the university and the Malagasy healthcare systems are expected, in particular with the set up of the department of family medicine and the creation of this specialty, as well as the organization of teacher training courses at Laval University for Malagasy teachers with a view to the establishment of a Pedagogy department.

On the Canadian side, this collaboration fits perfectly with the policy of Social Accountability (SA) and the university mission of the UL. Its students and teachers are enriched by encounters, by different health contexts that can only improve their proficiency, cultural awareness and understanding of health issues and determinants. This partnership also enables the UL, through the visibility of its actions, to develop an international leadership that can encourage other universities to work to reduce inequalities in a spirit of global solidarity.

Conclusion

This is a unique opportunity for the two universities to be able to allow their healthcare professionals to work together on projects that will better meet the diverse needs of the clientele they will have to serve. This partnership, developed on solid foundations and from a win-win perspective, is truly a privileged avenue for the two faculties to meet their SA mission and work towards improving the health of their populations.