

Emerging perspectives of Family Medicine in Burkina Faso for reinforcing primary care health system

Josette Castel, MD, MSC, FCMF^{1*}, Maman Joyce Dogba MD, PhD¹, Léonie Claudine Lougué/Sorgho, MD²

¹Département de médecine familiale et médecine d'urgence, Faculté de Médecine, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada

²Unité Formation Recherche/ Sciences de la santé, Université Ouaga 1, Burkina Faso, West Africa

The Program for Improving Maternal and Child Health, WUSC (World University Service of Canada), in partnership with Université Laval and Farm Radio International, has been implementing a second phase (PASME 2) since June 2016 in three rural areas in Burkina Faso. In order to improve quality of maternal and child care, this program has focused, among other aims, on implementing a patient-centered approach in all healthcare facilities in the selected areas.

To that end, the program has two main goals: i) to sensitize current health professionals on patient-centered care through a culturally adapted training on patient-centered care; ii) to jointly develop, implement and evaluate, with the Ministry of Health, strategies for the training of a new generation of primary care specialists in Burkina Faso. In fact, the institutionalization of family and community health training is believed to be a key strategy for reinforcing the public Health System based on primary care.

To achieve the first goal, an ongoing participatory action research has enabled the development of a three-days interactive workshop on patient-centered care in Burkina Faso. This innovative workshop followed an ethnographic study in Burkina Faso on what patient-centered care mean to patients and clinicians in the context. The first workshop will be delivered in Koudougou in October 2018.

The second goal is being achieved through the creation of a discussion space between Université Laval and the dean of faculty of medicine in Ouagadougou. First, the discussions aim to identify, adapt or develop educational tools that could be routinely integrated in the curriculum of future health professionals. Second, the discussions will yield a tangible development plan for a new generation of family practices specialists. End results expected could be for example improvement of medical training based on population needs, better quality of care.

Patient-centered care and primary care specialists are expected to be key factors for consolidating a responsive Health System in this country for the years to come and the process is going on step by step to offer socially adapted training grounded on local needs.