Mapping Family Medicine Around the World (work in progress)

Authors: Elvira Sathurni*§, Isabella Aversa*§, Calandra Li*§, Carlos Khalil*§, Althaf Azward *§, Farhana Afreen*§, Jenna Lazarou*§, and Neil Arya**§
*presenting author, § Wilfrid Laurier University, **corresponding author

Context: Family medicine has been recognized and integrated into the healthcare system in varying contexts around the world. This study is aimed at better understanding of family medicine on an individual country basis following on previous published work.

Objective: To develop an interactive map of family medicine around the world to understand the role of family medicine in the healthcare system and its effect on health systems performance for each country.

Design: The design of the study involves a systematic initial search with different databases followed by a snowball process and aid from key informants.

Settings: The Americas, Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe, where family medicine is taught and practiced, incorporating the training and certification of family physicians and their practices across the world.

Participants: Data will be collected on a country level using a variety of literary sources including the Graham and Besrour websites as well as other peer-reviewed journals. During the initial search, a family medicine hedge (filter) consisting of certain parameters, which encompass low/middle-class countries and family medicine, will be used to identify qualifying literature.

Outcome Measures: The outcome of this study is a map displaying the use of family medicine in regions of the world. Subsequently, health system performance in each country will be quantified using parameters. The website developed will have up to date information about family medicine practice on a country level. This information will be posted and modified through a wiki process.

Findings: The completed map of family medicine around the world will expand the understanding of family medicine training and role within the healthcare system in each country. Later health performance indicators will be gathered, and correlations sought. Parameters by which performance can be measured across settings will help evaluate how the delivery of the family medicine model of primary care can affect health systems performance. Such data will not be available by the time of FMF.

Conclusion: Researchers, policy makers and health care personnel around the world will be able to access an accurate picture of family medicine with relevant data from each country.