

Besroure Centre Learner Group: The next generation of leaders in global family medicine

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Context

The Besroure Centre works to support collaboration between partners around the world, with the goal of promoting family medicine and health for all. In 2016, the Besroure Centre was approached by interested learners, hoping to create a forum where medical learners interested in global family medicine could connect. The Besroure Centre Learner Group was created in response to this identified need.

Purpose

The purpose of the Besroure Centre Learner Group is to explore how learners interested in family medicine in an international context can connect, and to create opportunities to become engaged in this field, while advancing the vision and mission of the Besroure Centre.

Membership

The Besroure Centre Learner Group is an online community that meets in person annually at the Besroure Forum. The first meeting occurred in 2017. Members were recruited via information sent to the CFPC Section of Residents as well as to Canadian enhanced skills programs with a focus on global health, and by word-of-mouth. In June 2018 there were a total of 14 members, of which 11 were residents and 3 medical students. Nine universities in Canada are represented, with one member from the United States.

Projects

Newsletters addressing issues of interest to learners are sent to the membership bi-monthly and Working Groups from the Besroure Centre connect with administrative support at the Centre to ensure opportunities are shared. Members are involved in international research papers with both the Narrative Medicine and Research Working Groups, as well as the Indigenous Health Working Group at the CFPC.

Challenges and Next Steps

Succession planning and harnessing social media to share information about the Learner Group are current challenges. Future directions for the group include diversifying the membership to include learners beyond those in medical school and to welcome members from around the world. Continued evaluation of the group and member needs will further determine how to best support learners explore global family medicine.