

The Besroure Research Group:  
A global collaborative to advance family medicine research

**Authors:**

Dr. David Ponka\* (University of Ottawa), Dr. Russell Dawe\* (Memorial University of Newfoundland), Dr. Innocent Besigye (Makerere University), Dr. Katherine Rouleau (Besroure Centre), Ophelia Michaelides (Besroure Centre)

**Background:**

Most research on family medicine is performed in Western contexts, with little knowledge of implementation in Low-Middle Income Countries (LMICs). One of the roles of the Besroure Centre for global family medicine at the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is to enable the family medicine research community in the Global North and South to build and maintain connections through collaborative research, scholarship and quality improvement activities aimed at strengthening family medicine globally.

**Program Description:**

The Besroure Research group is a global online community. Its goals are to offer a vehicle of dissemination for the work of the Besroure Centre and to link Canadian researchers with family doctors in LMICs to undertake actual research. The Besroure Research group has evolved over the past 5 years to achieve these goals by (1) laying the foundation; (2) finding focus; and (3) continuing to exchange collaboration.

**Evaluation Methods:**

To evaluate its progress, the group uses data collection methods that include literature searches, questionnaires, interviews and in-formal communication between collaborators.

**Results:**

Preliminary findings suggest the following activities have contributed to achieving the overall goals of the Besroure Research Group:

- Laying the foundation: A 2015 survey assessing baseline academic skills found that 35 members of the non-Canadian Besroure research community had a diverse range of academic skills and a keen interest in a coordinated Besroure research workplan.
- Finding focus: An in-person research skills workshop was delivered to approximately 40 Besroure Centre community members from over 20 countries. The workshop explored the development and design of a research question and its implementation.
- Continuing to exchange collaboration: Continued collaboration between partners in response to requests from the global Besroure research community has led to: the launch of a Besroure Scientific Committee in 2017; the development of a cross-comparative series of journal articles comparing Brazil and Canada's primary care systems; and contribution to global stakeholder research such as the WHO's policy development around primary health care.

**Conclusion:**

Over the last 5 years, the Besroure Research group has continued to define the scope of family practice around the globe and to fill the knowledge and skill gaps in family medicine research globally.