

FM360: Development of an international exchange program evaluation process

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Background: Family Medicine 360 (FM360) is an international exchange program within the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) that provides family physicians the opportunity to enrich their personal and professional development with a global health exposure. FM360 was founded in 2013 and exchanges are offered in 34 countries across 6 WONCA regions, but the program is new within Canada.

Objective: The development of an evaluation strategy has been identified as a priority for the FM360 program within Canada. The goal of this project is to assess evaluation strategies used by other exchange programs, to conduct a needs assessment regarding evaluation of FM360, and to develop a draft evaluation process. A careful assessment of value for learners is pivotal for the maintenance of an exchange program.

Methods: A multi-part evaluation strategy has been developed beginning with a literature search assisted by the CFPC institutional librarian, followed by a review of the needs of potential FM360 participants. The literature search includes French and English publications relating to the evaluation of international/global health exchanges or rotations for medical students or residents. The needs assessment will consist of interviews with potential program participants from Canada as well as incoming participants from international partners. Based on the results of the literature search a future survey of FM360 participants will include pre- and post-exchange Likert scale questions and open-ended narrative feedback questions to evaluate the quality of FM360 and its international exchanges.

Results: This program is a work in progress. At the Besroul Forum the initial evaluation strategy, literature search results, and needs assessment findings will be presented, and feedback will be solicited on ways to improve and implement our evaluation plan.

Conclusions: Evaluation is a crucial aspect of any global health project, especially any project involving the exchange of learners. Learners must feel supported and their insights and suggestions for improvement should be heard. A robust evaluation program is the best way to ensure this happens.