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ASPIRE global leader program

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Background & Aim: The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) recently published that “leadership training has a direct impact on the ability of physicians to make continual system improvements.” This literature goes on to call for “new programs are needed to develop ... leadership and management” by “working through the fundamentals.” With this goal in mind, the ASPIRE Global Leader Program has been developed to augment medical student, resident, and junior GP/FP staff all-around skills while simultaneously increasing their involvement within their national organizations and WONCA. The name ASPIRE is a mnemonic with the letters representing its foundation: Academics, Students, Pre-conferences, International Collaboration, Research/Residents, Exchanges.

This program aims to improve each participant’s individual capabilities and then use these newly forged skills to help others. The goal is that each participant becomes personally invested in the program for the improvement of junior WONCA members and beyond.

Method: We propose a tiered program, with ASPIRE levels 1-3, as well as an ASPIRE-Instructor level available to any participant meeting the proposed criteria. This step-wise progression serves to guide participants through achievement of desired goals of the program, the creation of a more enriched experience, and the potential to progress to the next tier.

The recommended ASPIRE team will consist of 1 ASPIRE World Chair, separate from WONCA Junior Physician Executive, and 7 Chairs representing each regional level. Each position will serve up to a 3 years for a single term. In addition to approving projects and guiding participants up the ASPIRE tiers, the chairs will continually evaluate and make adjustments in order to improve the overall experience.

Conclusion: After completing all steps, qualified individuals will have accomplished a groundwork that will help them guide and lead others in multiple aspects of family medicine in the global setting.