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The contribution of family medicine to global health

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Background & Aim: While Family Medicine is a backbone of European health systems, globally many countries have not introduced this cadre. In this workshop we will explore the contribution and limitations of family medicine and its training curriculum as a key vehicle for delivering quality primary health care globally, and what the specialty may look like in less resourceful countries.

Method: This is an interactive workshop. After an initial presentation using cases from countries worldwide, participants will join a discussion about the global role of family medicine. Different organizations and methodologies currently active in stimulating Family Medicine worldwide, like WHIG, PiP and Primafamed, will be presented and examples of partnerships between Colleges of Family Medicine and Universities will be shared.

Results: The workshop will help participants reflect around the common assumption that family medicine is necessary for developing successful health systems, and the scope of the specialty's global responsibility. Strengths and challenges of existing activities and strategies to stimulate Family Medicine and their training curriculum will be discussed and analyzed.

Conclusion: Family Medicine is context-sensitive and needs to be dynamic and adaptive to the needs of populations in order to be the vehicle to provide improvements in Global Health. This workshop illustrates and contributes to how this may be achieved.