

■ STRENGTHENING THE BRAND, EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS AND SUPPORT

Coming Together as a Community: Research Day 2014 a Great Success

When the writs were dropped for the current provincial election, the student-led Research Day Planning Committee got some surprising news. With just a few days until the big event, some panelists could no longer attend, citing the need to avoid public commentary during the campaign. But thanks to seven months of solid planning, confidence and team work, the potential bombshell was little more than a blip for the highly successful event.

The Research Day audience — current and incoming students, faculty, alumni and guests — went away impressed with a smooth event, engaging speakers, thought-provoking presentations and lively social opportunities. “This day is about much more than presenting research, this is a day for the IHPME community to come together,” says Avi Biswas, who chaired the student-driven Committee. “The turnout this year exceeded our expectations. There was absolutely no food left over, which was actually great to see.”

One of the Committee’s goals was to attract more incoming students to the event. “Two years ago, I attended as an incoming student and was inspired by the research and very excited that I’d be part of IHPME,” says Avi. There were targeted e-mails encouraging incoming students to attend, and Committee member Patti Leake acted as host and ice-breaker for the group, ensuring they knew their way around and had the chance to meet people. The results were impressive. There were about 50 incoming students in attendance, up from 10 to 15 in previous years.

Another new feature was the enhanced participation among alumni. Former President of the Society of Graduates — Sue Vander-Bent — provided opening remarks. The Society of Graduates also had a presence, staffing a booth where students could learn more about alumni activities.

The theme for Research Day 2014, chosen by students, was “Change Management: Challenging the Status Quo” and featured Camille Orridge (CEO of the Toronto Central LHIN), Tony Easty (Senior Scientist at the UHN) and Shirlee Sharkey (CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare). Dr. Douglas A. Conrad, Professor of Health Services at the School of Public Health, University of Washington was invited to provide keynote remarks. Students specializing in health economics had the opportunity to have lunch with the visiting professor.

“This year’s Committee was a collaborative group that took an original approach to Research Day,” says Rhonda Cockerill, Graduate Coordinator. “They built strong relationships in preparing for the event, and that collegial atmosphere carried over to the event itself.”

As with any Research Day, the highlight was the full and diverse roster of student presentations, with over 70 students taking part. “Once again, the creative thinking, academic excellence and dynamic presentations on display at Research Day was truly impressive. The dedication of our students and their determination to make a difference in the health care system inspires us to strive for continual improvement in our programs at IHPME,” said Adalsteinn Brown, IHPME Director.

■ AVI BISWAS, CHAIR, 2014 RESEARCH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Student-led committee collaborates on a day to remember

When does planning get underway for Research Day?

We held our first Committee meeting on October 23 and met about once a month, with more intense activity leading up to the event. It was a challenging undertaking. There were a lot of details to cover off. There were important decisions to nail down, such as deciding which panelist speakers could be of interest to the variety of IHPME students as well as devising finance and communications strategies. I was really impressed by the commitment of the team in planning over a 6 month period, and this dedication is well reflected in how smoothly Research Day ran in the end.

What’s your favourite aspect of the event?

I really enjoy the way it brings the whole IHPME community together. I first attended Research Day as an incoming student and it made an immediate positive impression. There are many fellow students you don’t see every day in the building. They’re at various stages of their research and project work while some have even graduated. So, it’s a great day to



Avi Biswas



Planning Committee (Pictured): Natalie Neumann, Natalie Warrick, Nelson Shen, Sarah Carsley, Matt Machina, Patti Leake, Jennifer Lake, Jennifer Innis, Avi Biswas. (Not in picture): Sandra El-Khazen, Lady Bolongaita, Irina Voronin, Julia Roy, Dima Saab, Rossini Yue

Research Day Award Recipients

JoeyIn Srigley - Thomas & Edna Naylor Award (best dissertation or paper from a graduating student - HSR & CEHCR MSc/PhD)

Kristen Pitzul - Ted Goldberg Award (most promising HSR PhD student)

Bimal Bhindi, MSc, and Glen Hazlewood, PhD - Claire Bombardier Awards (most promising CEHCR MSc and PhD students)

Colleen Seereeam - Maureen Dixon Memorial Award (best oral presentation. related to Community Care and Continuity of Care)

Melissa Kwaitkowski et al. - Robert Duff Barron Award (best poster related to Public Health Policy)

■ ORAL PRESENTATION AWARD WINNERS:

David Rudoler Group 1: Physician Roles and Engagement in the Health Care System)

Rohan D'Souza - Group 2: Brain and Stroke

Erin Cordeiro - Group 3: Health Policy and Public Health Policy

Renata Axler - Group 4: Organizational Learning, Management and Knowledge Translation

Mark Tatangelo - Group 5: Advances in Musculoskeletal Injuries and Rehabilitation Sciences

Yelena Petrosyan - Group 6: Diabetes Care and Management

Dima Saab - Group 7: Community Care and Continuity of Care

Andrea Covelli - Group 8: Cancer Care and Management

Anna Durbin - Group 9: Patient Engagement and Access to Care

Sunita Singh - Group 10: Kidney Injury and Transplantation

■ POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD WINNERS:

Joe Pedulla - G.B. Rosenfeld Poster Award for best poster (MHSc/MHI)

Stacey Morrison - IHPME GSU Poster Award for best poster (MSc HSR/QIPS)

Natasha Lane - Eugene Vayda Poster Award for best poster (PhD HSR)

Kevin Schwartz - IHPME GSU Poster award for best poster (MSc CEHCR)

Teja Voruganti - Gillian Hawker Poster Award for best poster (PhD CEHCR)

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reconnect and sustain those relationships.

What's the biggest challenge in planning Research Day?

I think every year the Research Day Planning Committee wants to take the event a bit further, and outdo the previous year. That's a challenge because it has been consistently good for many years. A lot of work goes into planning an event like this. Something you might not realize when you're just an attendee looking from the outside. We had over 300 attendees this year, and while I can't isolate a particular challenge, the large turnout and overall experience was testament to the work done behind the scenes from supporting panelists with probing questions to organizing logistics and regular e-mails to increase awareness. One of the things we did a bit differently is that while Committee members had defined roles – such as Communications or Finance – we didn't make them formal titles. The result was that while someone was responsible for certain aspects everyone felt that they could contribute ideas outside their area of responsibility. It led to some very productive discussions and creative thinking.

Would you do it all again?

I really enjoyed the experience. I think I grew into the lead role, running meetings, coordinating tasks and things like that. I was lucky work with a hard-working and supportive team and really value the friendships we've made. So, I'd probably be happy to be involved again in some way – and I would encourage other students to get involved, too.

IHPME Rising Star

Congratulations to Dennis Ko on receiving the 2013-14 CIHR-IHSPR Article of the Year Award for "Prevalence and extent of obstructive coronary artery disease among patients undergoing elective catheterization in New York State and Ontario". This award recognizes published research that has significantly contributed to the advancement of the field of health services and policy research in Canada.

■ PUBLISHED WORKS

Kerry Kuluski, Ashlinder Gill, Gayathri Naganathan, Ross Upshur, R Liisa Jaakkimainen and Walter P Wodchis published: "A qualitative descriptive study on the alignment of care goals between older persons with multi-morbidities, their family physicians and informal caregivers", *BMC Family Practice*

IHPME Events

■ Health Technology Assessment for Decision Makers

July 14-16, 2014

THETA, together with the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit will host the 2014 Health Technology Assessment Institute for Decision Makers.

LOCATION: Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

For more events and details, visit IHPME's External Events website

<http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/exevents.htm>