

Symposium at 2017 C2UExpo in Vancouver, BC. May 1-5, 2017

C2UExpo is a Canadian-led international conference designed to showcase the best practices in community-campus partnerships worldwide. Angela Towle, Carolyn Canfield, Shelley Hourston, and Darren Lauscher presented the stages of PIE's journey through sharing stories of our experiences and lessons learned. Topics included: focus on student learning as a way of bringing diverse stakeholders together; role of cultural brokers between university and community; impacts on the community, students and university; and benefits to community of influencing the next generation of professionals.

C2U Expo Proposal

Title: Patients in Education: creation of a community group to engage with the university

Presenters:

Angela Towle angela.towle@ubc.ca

Angela Towle is the co-director of Patient & Community Partnership for Education in the Office of UBC Health at the University of British Columbia. Since 2004 the unit has developed, implemented and evaluated several innovative educational programs that involve patients and community members as educators for health professional students.

Carolyn Canfield carolyncanfield@mac.com

Carolyn Canfield volunteers full-time as a citizen-patient in health professional training, patient-oriented research, care delivery improvement, governance and oversight, and patient leadership and capacity development. Her passion arises from sudden widowhood in 2008 following preventable harm. She is also an Honorary Lecturer in the UBC Department of Family Practice. Community member

Shelley Hourston shelley.hourston@gmail.com

Shelley Hourston has a master's degree in library science from UBC and worked for 18 years as a program director at Disability Alliance BC, a provincial, cross-disability organization. Her work involved health information advocacy, anti-stigma education and strategies and support for communicating with health care professionals.

Non-profit professional

Darren Lauscher lauscher@telus.net

Darren Lauscher comes from the HIV Community. Recognizing the future to better patient outcomes within the health care system starts in the health care education process, embedding the patient voice into all aspects of curricula will help to drive this change forward.

Community member

Conference theme: The engagement process: powerful questions, powerful questioning

Format: Team enquiry / symposium presentation

Abstract:

We describe the development of an independent organization, Patients as Educators, that engages with the university to enrich the education of health professional students through inclusion of the patient's voice. Our symposium will include perspectives of students, patients /community members and faculty and facilitate an interactive discussion of challenges.

Proposal:

What?

We describe the development of an organization, Patients as Educators (PIE) that engages with the university to enrich the education of students in the health professions through inclusion of the patient's voice. We aim to move beyond individual patients invited into the classroom to tell their story, to an independent organization in the community that can partner with the university. PIE has as its vision: 'Health professional education that fully integrates patient and community expertise and lived experience to maximize health and social outcomes'.

Why?

The lived experience and expertise of people living with health conditions, their caregivers and people in the community affected by the social determinants of health and the health care system, helps students to integrate their knowledge, makes it practical, and fosters commitment to better health care. Patient engagement with students provides an ever present reminder that the point of their education is patient well-being. Creating an infrastructure to support and sustain patient involvement as active collaborators (teachers, assessors, curriculum developers and educational decision-makers) is necessary to ensure a true partnership between university and community, moving beyond involvement at the level of individual patients and instructors.

How?

Patient and Community Partnership for Education (PCPE) at the University of British Columbia has brought the voices of patients and community members into the education of health professional students since 2004. Starting in 2011, an interprofessional Health Mentors program has offered students from nine different health disciplines an opportunity to learn from and with a health mentor who is a person living with a chronic condition or a caregiver over a period of

16 months. In 2015 PCPE organized an international conference, 'Where's the Patient's Voice in Health Professional education?' in Vancouver, attended by over 250 people from 16 different countries. A local group of about 50 patients and community members attended the conference, presented their experiences in the health mentors program and participated in creation of the conference statement (the 'Vancouver Statement'). The conference inspired a core group of about 20 community members to meet as 'The Vancouver' group, to advocate for more patient involvement in education at UBC. Through monthly meetings since January 2016, the group has: developed a vision and mission statement, guiding principles and identity for PIE; instituted a process for meeting requests from UBC for patient involvement in teaching, curriculum development and a patient / community advisory committee; surveyed over 80 community organizations for interest in joining PIE, and is planning a community engagement forum in the spring.

Lessons learned:

In this symposium, students, patient educators and faculty will present the stages of our journey through telling stories of our experiences and lessons learned. We will engage the audience in a facilitated discussion based on themes that emerge from the stories. Topics include: focus on student learning as a way of bringing diverse stakeholders together; role of cultural brokers between university and community; impacts on the community, students and university; benefits to community of influencing the next generation of professionals.

This collaboration represents an innovative approach to a partnership between the university and a newly developing independent community-based organization based on a mutual desire to better prepare the next generation of health professionals for the benefit of patients.