

## Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

---

**Project Title:** Diversity in Medicine Conference

**Student Name(s):** Miller, Jessa

Matthew, Andrea

Silverberg, Jonathan

**Advisor Names(s):** Dr. Okanlami

**Branch:** Procedure Based Care

**Path of Excellence:** Innovation & Entrepreneurship

**Handover/Transition:**

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, you may contact them at the following email address/phone number (N/A if project cannot be handed over): **We have already talked to current M3s about organizing the conference for next year.**

---

**Summary:**

For my Capstone for Impact Project, I worked with two of my M4 colleagues to create and plan the inaugural “Diversity in Medicine Conference” that was held here at the University of Michigan in February 2019.

We began planning the conference in April 2018. We applied for grant funding, met with faculty advisors, mapped out the planning timeline. We received a total of \$11,085 in grant funding to organize the conference (\$4,085 from the DEI Innovation Grant, \$5,000 from the OHEI Mini-Grant, \$2,000 from the Innovative Education Student Fund In Fall 2018). We received an additional \$1,000 from the U of M Development Office to help with conference costs.

We sent out a Call for Abstracts to students and faculty at institutions across the country. We then read the 40+ abstracts that we received, and determined which abstracts were accepted for poster and podium presentations. Leading up to the conference, we reached out to keynote speakers, created sessions and workshops focused on understanding why having a diverse workforce is vitally important in medical fields, and organized logistics such as catering, housing options for attendees, and setting up for the conference itself.

The conference was a huge success, and we had ~100 individuals from all across North America attend. We sent a survey out to the attendees to understand their experience at the conference, and we are planning to submit a manuscript to Academic Medicine on this topic.

We are hoping that this conference will continue to happen annually, and we have already started talking to current M3s who are interested in taking the lead for planning of the conference in 2020.

**Methodology:**

We worked with several faculty mentors to help make the conference a success. Starting in the summer of 2019, we started meeting with Dr. Okanlami monthly to discuss conference planning strategies. We also met with Dr. Mangrulkar about the conference, and he was instrumental in helping us disseminate the Call for Abstracts to institutions across the country. Dr. Finks was also very supportive in helping us plan the conference.

**Results/Conclusion:**

The conference was a huge success, and we had ~100 individuals from all across North America attend. We sent a survey out to the attendees to understand their experience at the conference, and we are planning to submit a manuscript to Academic Medicine on this topic. We are hoping that this conference will continue to happen annually, and we have already started talking to current M3s who are interested in taking the lead for planning of the conference in 2020.

**Reflection/Lessons Learned:**

Planning a conference is a huge undertaking and it's very important to start working on this early. It was also very important that we had lots of faculty support in this undertaking. We sent out a survey to the conference attendees to get their feedback on various aspects of the conference. We will be using this feedback to make the conference even better for next year.