

Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

Project Title: Diversity in Medicine Conference

Student Name(s): Matthew, Andrea

Advisor Names(s): Advisor: Dr Naughton, Mentor: Dr Finks

Branch: Patients & Populations

Path of Excellence: Global Health Disparities

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): **n/a**

Summary:

My impact project was developing, planning, and executing the inaugural Diversity in Medicine Conference. About a year ago, two other M4 students and I wanted some way to spread the work Doctors of Tomorrow at UMMS achieves, so we decided to host a conference of our own. The inaugural Diversity in Medicine Conference at the University of Michigan aimed to unite health professions students and faculty from across the country to share the work they are doing to increase diversity in medicine. Our vision was to generate conversations within the medical community surrounding not only the problems associated with institutions lacking a diverse system of healthcare providers, but also the innovative solutions that many institutions are actively implementing. While many medical pipeline programs across the country have found success within their local communities, our ultimate goal was to create a coordinated effort to address the lack of diversity in medicine at a national level. We strongly believe that the most effective way to do so is to create a space for students and faculty to come together to present their work, exchange ideas, discover opportunities for collaboration, and reinforce why the work we are doing is so important. The Diversity in Medicine Conference 2019 created this space, and we hope it will continue to do so for many years to come. To achieve this we first chose a date, reserved the BSRB, and created a call for abstracts. We set up several meetings with key faculty who could help us to plan and disseminate this call and we were soon well on our way. Myself and the two other students set up an email account, created a schedule, recruited speakers and panelists, developed workshops, reviewed and accepted poster and oral presentations, planned catering/events materials, organized registration, planned a social fundraising bar night, and after months of work we successfully held the conference on February 8-10, 2019.

Methodology:

The methodology is extensive for this (I wrote an 8-page manual for students to continue the conference in the future and that referred to several other documents), but essentially we did everything ourselves and referred constantly to Dr. O, Dean Mangrulkar, and Dr Finks for support. The three of us did all reservations, organization, planning, etc.

Results/Conclusion:

Our conference was very well-received. We sent a Qualtrics survey and while we have not yet reviewed the data, at first glance everyone enjoyed the conference and only had a few suggestions for next year including a shorter day on Saturday and more workshops.

Reflection/Lessons Learned:

I learned so much about what putting on a conference entails, how to work effectively together (the three of us communicated constantly and had to make many big decisions together). I learned how to be flexible during a three-day event when troubleshooting was necessary, things ran late, etc. I also learned about the nuances of creating a space for open dialogue about a topic that people are very passionate about, but also might have differing opinions on.