

The Calgary Health Interprofessional Students' (CHIPS) club is proud to represent the Calgary chapter of the National Health Sciences Students' Association (NaHSSA). Our group currently consists of members from the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. In addition, we are currently working with the Undergraduate Medical Education Faculty and staff to further our initiatives.

This academic year, we have hosted several very successful and interactive events and have exciting plans for the coming year.

In September, CHIPS started off the year taking advantage of the weather by holding an Outdoors Sport Day and BBQ for the medical and nursing students at St. Andrew Heights Park. The students worked in teams to create parachutes and other protective devices for eggs as they were catapulted into the air. Water balloon target practice and ultimate Frisbee challenged the teams to work together towards a united goal. We ended our evening with a relaxing BBQ and casual discussion about the wet and wild day.

November boasts many first time events, including a volleyball tournament organized by the Undergraduate Nursing Association that welcomed the remaining faculties to join in. CHIPS organized an interactive and informational lunchtime session "Meet a Professional: Midwife" and introduced a different perspective of healthcare. Finally, the month ends with a bang as the Faculties of Nursing and Engineering extend their invitation for Volunteer Appreciation to the Faculty of Medicine for a night on the club scene in Calgary.

In the early weeks of December, CHIPS hopes to unite the different health sciences faculties by raising money for the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family initiative by selling gourmet candygrams. We will be taking orders during the first week of December and delivering them at the end of the week of the month.

2010 holds more excitement as CHIPS plans to continue with the "Meet a Professional" panel discussions at lunchtime in January to help expose healthcare students to professionals currently working in different fields. We hope to expand our panels to include different types of professionals from a single unit so that they can discuss how they can effectively and efficiently communicate to better provide care for patients in healthcare. In February, we hope to make use of the brand new human simulator machines name Cal and Gary to challenge healthcare students to collaborate and work as a team in a pre-written scenario.

CHIPS hopes to hear about other collaborative efforts across the country during the March NaHSSA conference for more incredible ideas and opportunities to build strong and effective healthcare teams.