



National Health Sciences Students' Association

L'Association des Étudiants des Sciences de la Santé du Canada

ISSUE

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Welcome Back NaHSSA Lovers!

This year I am especially delighted to be working with you all as President of NaHSSA. I am even more excited to be working alongside such an energized group of students from across Canada who have already started working hard to make this year a success. Over the summer months the NaHSSA executives have demonstrated such enthusiasm and collaboration working towards interprofessional education. As a result new and interesting student led initiatives are in progress for the 2009-2010 year.

Last year students from across Canada gathered at NaHSSA's AGM and based on feedback from current students and recommendations from NaHSSA Alumni members, changes were made to the structure of the National Health Science Student's Association. The former BOD - Board of Directors was converted to Executives and the Advisory Council was more appropriately named the Board of Directors, as it was this group of individuals who were advocating for the needs of the larger body of students that they represented, and thus determining the overall direction of NaHSSA.

Another change in NaHSSA's structure was the development of Task Forces. NaHSSA now has three task forces dedicated to focus of specific areas that are key to the success of the organization. LIST

NaHSSA's website was also revealed with a fresh new look and great new features. The entire executive team would like to take this opportunity to thank the former BOD and Monkeytree Creative for all of their tireless efforts and sleepless nights dedicated to this great new website. To see it for yourself please visit www.nahssa.ca

Now to highlight some of the initiatives and exciting projects you can expect to see surfacing over the next few months. NaHSSA will be working hard to assist in putting together and approving a package for students to run their own interprofessional event. This document will be an "all-questions-answered guide" to running your very own Health Care Team Challenge. This year will also bring NaHSSA many more opportunities to engage with individuals, student chapters, faculty, researchers, practitioners, and partners. We hope to increase the presence of the student voice by taking NaHSSA to relevant conferences and events that focus on improving interprofessional education for collaborative patient centered practice. As always NaHSSA will be offering an annual conference including the annual general meeting. Please keep looking for more information and start seeking opportunities to attend. Lastly the website! We love it!, You love it!, Now let's get USING it! This year NaHSSA will be giving you even *more reason* to visit our website. Stay tuned for more exciting details.....

There are lots of ways for students to get involved in these NaHSSA initiatives and other learning opportunities so I challenge you to get involved. Please keep checking the website for posted opportunities and do not hesitate to send an email to the executives expressing your interest in NaHSSA, we will gladly find ways to get you involved!

Finally, I'd like to welcome you once again to this new exciting year. It is with great pleasure that I serve as President of NaHSSA and I look forward to hearing from you!

Lindsay Burke
President of the National Health Science Student's Association

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National Health Sciences Students' Association

College of Health Disciplines
400 - 2194
Health Sciences Mall,
Woodward Instructional
Resources Centre
Vancouver, BC,
Canada V6T 1Z3

Tel: 604-822-5571
Fax: 604-822-2495

mail@nahssa.ca
www.nahssa.ca

NaHSSA's Board of Directors

Lindsay Burke
president@nahssa.ca

Tyler Law
vpstudentaffairs@nahssa.ca

Lisa Fu
vpacademic@nahssa.ca

Linda Vi
vplegalfinance@nahssa.ca

Lindsay Hubenig
vpinternal@nahssa.ca

Ana Krause
vpcommunications@nahssa.ca

Luciano Di Loreto
vpchapterdevelopment@nahssa.ca

Melissa Langlois
vpbilingualism@nahssa.ca

Jason Nickerson
pastpresident@nahssa.ca

Dr. John Gilbert
facultyadvisor@nahssa.ca

Dr. Louise Nasmith
facultymentor@nahssa.ca

What's up NaHSSA? Our Board of Directors checks in...

Tyler Law, VP Student Affairs

I am focusing on reconvening the Board of Directors for the 2009-2010 year. The BOD is the oversight body that gives the NaHSSA Executive Committee its direction, and is composed of representatives from Chapters across Canada. The BOD is an important feedback mechanism to ensure NaHSSA is functioning in accordance to its Chapters' wishes. I am also working on creating policies to govern NaHSSA's internal operation, as well as interfacing with CIHC, particularly with regard to the development of a partnership strategy.

Ana Krause, VP Communications

I've been working on updating the NaHSSA website with upcoming chapter events, conference news, the glossary, etc. with help from Tyler and Monkeytree Creative. Monthly e-news bulletins continue to be sent out to keep chapters & individuals in the loop of ongoing NaHSSA projects/news. I'm also working on developing more promotional materials for NaHSSA with help from Andrea at CIHC. I hope to have these materials available to our chapters on the website in the new year.

Linda Vi, VP Finance

Since the start of my term as VP legal and finance, I have been working on organizing NaHSSA's financial situation. In consultation with the executive team, I developed a budget that would allow us to work on our various projects and events for this fiscal year. In the months ahead, I plan to devise a financial plan to increase the sustainability of the association, which will include identifying and approaching potential funding agencies.

Upcoming NaHSSA Contests & Conferences!

3rd Annual National Essay Competition:

Submissions due January 15th 2010

First Prize: **\$500 & Publication in the Journal of Interprofessional Care.**

6th Annual National Conference:

McMaster University, Hamilton : March 12-14th 2010

Registration Information will be available soon!

4rd Annual IPE Mentorship Award:

Nominations due January 10th 2010

See www.nahssa.ca for complete details.

Chapter Highlight Series:

The Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College Interprofessional Education Council

The Interprofessional Education Council (IPE Council), a student run club at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC), focuses on advancing collaboration between chiropractic and other health-care professions. The Interprofessional Education council was formed in 2008 by the amalgamation of two student groups, Building Bridges and The Student Canadian Chiropractic Associations' Interprofessional Committee. The council is directly associated to the University of Toronto Interprofessional Health Sciences Students' Association (IPHSA), which is a chapter of NaHSSA.

Throughout the year, the council organizes and participates in a number of student-led interprofessional initiatives. These include both social and academic events designed for auditory, visual and kinesthetic learners through facets such as lectures, presentations, and student exchanges.

One of the largest social events run by the IPE Council is an interprofessional volleyball tournament. Teams from various health professional schools in Toronto participate in friendly competition and raise funds for the Arthritis Society. A group of student interns, residents, and clinicians provide complimentary chiropractic treatment for participants and are available to answer questions about chiropractic care. Other social events include pub nights and an interprofessional pool mixer. These social outings provide the opportunity for students to connect outside of the academic setting and get to know their peers.

Some of the academic events organized by the IPE Council, along with students from University of Toronto, include an Introductory Chiropractic Lecture for U of T Medical students and a student exchange. The lecture is designed to provide information on the role of chiropractic in health care. The exchange allows students to learn from and with each other about each other's profession by attending lectures, labs and small

group learning sessions. Students visiting CMCC are also given a tour of the on-campus teaching clinic.

The IPE council is very excited to be hosting the 3rd annual DC-MD-ND conference at CMCC this spring. This weekend event focuses on interprofessional collaboration. Students from University of Ottawa Medicine and the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, along with students from CMCC, attend guest lectures, participate in breakout groups and work together on case studies. This event was held last year in Ottawa and around 25 students from CMCC participated.

In addition to the various academic and social events, the IPE council works with CMCC's Professional Courtesy Program. This program is designed for students from other health professions to receive complimentary treatment at any of the school run teaching clinics. There are several clinics located in Toronto where 4th year students treat patients under the supervision of practicing clinicians. This program has allowed many students to experience a chiropractic treatment first hand, while building a more positive and personal rapport between students of various disciplines.

The IPE Council is continually growing and becoming a larger presence in student life at CMCC. The guidance and support of faculty advisors Dr. Deborah Kopansky-Giles and Lenore Edmunds has helped the IPE council to work towards the goal of interprofessional collaboration through student led initiatives. We look forward to another great year!

If you have any question, please feel free to email us at ipecouncil@cmcc.ca.

Written By:

Andrea Guidolin
Class of 2011
VP, CMCC IPE Council

*Can't Find Your Chapter? Missing Information?
Send an email to vpchapterdevelopment@nahssa.ca*

NaHSSA Active Chapters

University of Alberta
nbishop@ualberta.ca

University of British Columbia
swimrac@hotmail.com

**Calgary Health
Interprofessional Students
(CHIPS)**
hssa@ualberta.ca

Dalhousie University
krisbradley@dal.ca

Université Laval
raessul@gmail.com

**London Interprofessional
Healthcare Students'
Association**
nburke2@uwo.ca

McMaster University
ANITA.RAMAKRISHNA@learnlink.mcmaster.ca

University of Manitoba
kerrieabel@hotmail.com

Newfoundland and Labrador
lauradelahunty@gmail.com

University of Ottawa
ayu010@uottawa.ca

Queen's University
sshum@qmed.ca

University of Saskatchewan
ams848@mail.usask.ca

University of Toronto
uoftiphsa@gmail.com

University of Victoria
jtaitt@uvic.ca

University of Waterloo
ajjeffer@uwaterloo.ca

EYE ON IT

Ontario Interprofessional Health Collaborative

January 17-19, 2010

Toronto, Ontario

The Canadian Society for Life Science Research 4rd Annual Conference

November 13-14, 2009

Ottawa, Ontario

All Together Better Health 5

April 6-9, 2010

Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific,
Australia

NaHSSA'S Sponsors, Partners, and Affiliates

Associated Medical Services (AMS)

College of Health Disciplines

Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC)

Canadian Society for Life Science Research (CSLR)

Emerging Health Leaders (EHL)

Health Canada

World Health Organization on Interprofessional Education

Canadian Interprofessional Student Network (CISN)

Health Council of Canada

Health Innovation Award

The Council's Vision

An informed and healthy Canadian public, confident in the effectiveness, sustainability and capacity of the Canadian health care system to promote their health and meet their health care needs.

They are asking Canadian teachers, instructors and professors to bring the discussion of the renewal and sustainability of the Canadian health care system into their classrooms and challenge their students to answer the question:

“What do you propose to help renew and sustain Canadian health care, and why?”

The Health Council of Canada Health Innovation Award will be given to the student – or group of students – with the best, and most creative, answer.

Winners will have their submissions featured on the CanadaValuesHealth.ca website, on our corporate site, and in a nationally-distributed e-newsletter. They will also receive a certificate from the Health Council of Canada – along with the school and program they are part of.

Please visit www.healthcouncilcanada.ca for more details.



Discussing the Profession: Child Life Specialist

What does the job description of a child life specialist entail?

Child Life Specialists assess the developmental level and the psychosocial and emotional responses of the child to illness and the treatment process. They develop and implement a plan of care to promote optimum development and maintain normal living patterns and experiences and are familiar with how to discuss sensitive and medical issues with children of various ages and developmental capacities. In addition, they prepare children for medical procedures and provide interventions during procedures. They provide a variety of goal directed play programs and opportunities for gaining a sense of mastery, self-expression, learning, and peer interaction. They work to support the family centered care model by working collaboratively with families as a member of the health care team. Child Life Specialists show a strong commitment to integrating research into practice and will create, utilize and/or disseminate new knowledge.

What education do you need to become a child life specialist?

The requirements upon Child Life Specialists vary at different hospitals. At Sick Kids, Child Life Specialist must possess a minimum of a university degree in a child related field and are eligible for certification with the Child Life Council. They must also have previous job-related experience with children/families with medical or special needs. Specific courses and experience in child life is considered an asset. Skills/aptitudes include a belief in life-long learning and an ability to cite evidence-based practice. They have strong problem-solving, communication and organization skills, and work well as a team player.

How often do you collaborate with other health professionals?

Collaboration with other health professionals can vary from unit to unit, depending on the needs of the patients, however most often there is a significant collaboration between professionals. On the burns and plastics unit at Sick Kids, the multidisciplinary team meets regularly both formally and informally to discuss patient cases and collaborate to develop the most comprehensive plan of care. Each team member is able to offer their unique expertise and perspective on the case and therefore, with effective collaboration, a broader spectrum of services is able to be effective for patients. Oftentimes, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Dieticians or Nurses will request Child Life support to assist patients in coping and complying with treatments or daily acts of living. Child Life also collaborates closely with Social Work, using the Family Centered Care model and addressing both patient and family needs and concerns.

How has your experience working/studying as a child life specialist been rewarding?

Working as a Child Life Specialist is deeply challenging and equally rewarding. I am grateful to have the opportunity to assist children and their families cope through stressful experiences in the hospital. Participating in the psychological healing of children is greatly satisfying work and, I believe, necessary work to undertake. I feel most rewarded when I observe patients make gains, whether it is in their healing, physical ability, or emotional wellbeing. Having the ability to provide children with choice, control, and a voice is more than rewarding, it is an honour and a privilege.



Katie Siney

Katie is a Certified Child Life Specialist and am currently working in the burns and plastics program at Sick Kids. She has a BFA from the University of Victoria (2003) and a graduate diploma through the Child Life Studies Programme at McMaster University (2007). She has experience working as a Child Life Specialist at Sick Kids in the urology, general surgery, and burns and plastics programs; at McMaster Children's Hospital in the general pediatrics and general surgery programs; and Humber River Regional Hospital in the pre-op program. Last fall, she worked as a tutor at the McMaster University Child Life Studies Programme, facilitating Group Studies to Child Life students. She also has experience conducting interviews for research studies at Sick Kids. She has volunteer experience at Gilda's club, facilitating therapeutic programming for families who are touched by cancer, and at pediatric wards in Ghana, West Africa.

Making Interprofessional Work

Know who is on your team and what skills and knowledge they bring with them.

Detailed description of various health and human service professions check out the Full Booklet of Professions created by CISN in 2009 on the NaHSSA Website.
<http://www.nahssa.ca/cisn/professions>

Avoid misinterpretation, by communicating with the same terminology and language.

Create a shared pool of knowledge so team members can rely on each other's skills and experiences.

Make decisions as a Team, and have a plan to discuss issues, disagreements, or differences of opinion.

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Submit material to next newsletter:
vpacademic@nahssa.ca

Hello NaHSSA Chapters!

This is the first official 2009-2010 Chapter Development news release!

First and foremost, thank you very much for submitting your chapter contact information. We are very proud to know that our chapters are running strong and are excited about the 2009-2010 year.

Over the last 4 months, the NaHSSA executive has been busy working away on many exciting 'chapter development' projects! The following paragraphs will provide your chapter with information on these initiatives. Please feel free to email us for more information on any of these initiatives. We are always open to questions, comments and/or concerns.

NaHSSA's Social Networking Tool

As you are aware, *communication* is crucial for a national organization. With student turn-over, maintaining an up-to-date contact list of all the chapters and committee contacts has and will continue to be a yearly challenge for NaHSSA. Going forward, NaHSSA would like to make this process much more easy and efficient by promoting its very own "Social Networking Tool". Not only will the NaHSSA "Social Networking Tool" allow chapters to enter their own contact information, it will also allow for students, faculty, and other committees to post, share and edit events that they will be organizing throughout the year. The tool will serve two purposes – yearly collection of vital statistics as well as showcasing chapter initiatives for all to see! The networking tool, which we expect will be ready by December 2009, will be accessible from the NaHSSA website (www.nahssa.ca). Please stay tuned for the official launch date.

NaHSSA Chapter Fees

In order for NaHSSA to continue to organize great interprofessional initiatives/opportunities for students across Canada, NaHSSA requires your support! The good news is - chapter fees have not increased. If you have not done so, we ask that your chapter sends NaHSSA their chapter fee cheque of \$100 dollars. This will allow your chapter to maintain chapter status as well as a space on the website. Please make your cheques out to: National Health Sciences Students' Association. Please send them to the following address. Thank you!

National Health Sciences Students' Association
College of Health Disciplines
400 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall Woodward
Instructional Resources Centre
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z3

This year promises to be a fantastic year! We look forward to working with all the chapters. If you have any questions, chapter event highlights and/or updates, please feel free to let us know. We really want to hear from you! Email - vpchapterdevelopment@nahssa.ca

Warm Regards,
Luciano Di Loreto
VP Chapter Development

Check Out The Website for More Information On:

- Resources for chapters and Students!
- Contests!
- Ways to get involved!
 - We are looking for people to become part of our Board of Directors
 - Task Forces
- Conferences and events!

www.nahssa.ca