



MEDICAL STUDENTS AGAINST INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

1st Annual Meeting

Nov 15 | 1:30PM | G801E
Health Sciences Centre, Calgary



Schedule of Events

- 1:30pm - Intro to Medical Students Against Interpersonal Violence
by Crystal Liu, Kedra Peterson, Murphy Watson, Hannah Byles
- 1:45pm - Panel Presentation
- 2:15pm - Student Presentations
- 2:45pm - Coffee Break
- 3:00pm - Working Group, Wrap Up

Panel: Lessons Learned Creating Change

Dr. Cynthia Baxter: Forensic psychiatrist who specializes in assessing and treating people who commit violent offences and sex offences

Carla Bertsch: Gender-based violence response and prevention education specialist

Hilary Jahelka: Sexual Violence Educator providing sexual violence education/training services, and works on Calgary Sexual Assault Response Team (Sheldon Chumir)

Kiara Mikita, PhD: Sexual Violence Educator and Researcher

Rod Mitchell, MC, CCC: Men's Therapist at the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter who provides therapy to perpetrators of family violence and abuse



Student Presentations

Trauma Informed Care: Advocacy and Interdisciplinary Education

by Breanna Kehler, Kari McFee, Lauren Campbell, Tamara Yee, Claire Lothian

Trauma informed care has recently gained greater attention amongst multiple disciplines. But what does this term mean and how can we, as students, implement trauma informed care into our own practice? This is a question a group of interdisciplinary students has sought to answer over the last year and a half.

Trauma informed care involves the recognition of the relationship between trauma and health and applying strategies to improve healthcare encounters and access. This is done through actions such as encouraging greater autonomy and creating a safe environment. Beginning with a question formed during a population health class, over time, a group of students has come together to assess students' understanding of trauma informed care and to assess student comfort and willingness to implement trauma informed care skills. We first began to form our understanding of the current basis of trauma informed care in healthcare curricula by performing a literature review. We found that there is very little analysis of the role of trauma informed care and implementation strategies for healthcare learners in the literature. Following this, we held an interdisciplinary presentation on trauma informed care by a psychologist who has done extensive work on the subject. Both medical and social work students provided the feedback that although they considered trauma informed care to be an important skill, they often felt as though they were not equipped with the skills they needed to implement it. To address this, we organized a symposium, to take place October 5th, in which students from multiple years of medicine, social work, and nursing will come together to learn from experts from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives. From this, we hope to examine how students value these skills and to advocate for further development of trauma informed care training amongst multidisciplinary undergraduate programs.

An Intimate Partner Violence Workshop by Mirna Matta

This December the Federation of Medical Women of Canada in collaboration with the medical school's Women's Health Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest group will be hosting an Intimate Partner Violence Workshop. This workshop will be held on December 12th with Dr. Prism Schneider, a trauma orthopedic surgeon with a special interest in intimate partner violence, as our keynote speaker. She will come and give a lecture portion educating students about the prevalence and implications of intimate partner violence in the healthcare system. As well, she will follow this presentation with a workshop like aspect in which she will demonstrate training videos of how health care professionals should screen and deal with situations in which patients are in danger of being or becoming victims of domestic violence. As well, I have recently met with Dr. Harriet MacMillan, from McMaster University, who is the project lead for the VEGA family violence project. She has also agreed to provide us with the VEGA online practice handbook for this workshop, which is a handbook designed to make physicians competent with dealing with intimate partner violence in their practice.

In my presentation I will be exploring the need for this workshop as opposed to didactic lectures in medical school education. Additionally, with the help of a master's student the workshop will involve a quality improvement component. Through pre- and post-workshop surveys, we hope to gauge if medical students are more comfortable taking a good thorough social history, know which words and settings to use when screening for domestic violence and know of the resources they can refer their patients to. This evaluation of the workshop will aid in proposing a workshop/practice approach to the topic of intimate partner violence in undergraduate medical education as opposed to solely through didactic lectures. We believe this workshop is capable of making medical students comfortable and more willing to screen and ask about intimate partner violence.

Interpersonal Violence: A Journey Through Books by Joan Tu

From raising awareness about child sexual abuse, to examining domestic violence, and then working on the roadmap to change for people who use violence, books have given me a window into the lives and stories of others. All these stories, with their differences and nuances, matter and help people to understand interpersonal violence, not as that one type of violation, but as many inter-connected pieces of the same puzzle.

In this presentation, I walk through a journey of books about violence, trauma, and healing, highlighting the most important connections and lessons I gained from each of those books. I eventually find people addressing similar challenges, and the lessons learned along the way become the basis for Medical Students Against Interpersonal Violence, a new student group to promote and examine the role of medical students in addressing interpersonal violence as a medical and health issue through advocacy, education, and research.