

HealtheX

The inaugural exposition celebrating student research



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Divya is studying medicine in Auckland was the chair of HealtheX 2007. She was also the driving force in organising this unique student research forum.

Event Synopsis

On Saturday 8th September 2007, over 90 students from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland got the chance to present their research in either oral or poster format to supervisors, family, friends and a panel of judges.

Vision

The vision for this conference went far beyond celebrating student research. It served to excite and inspire students in paving a pathway to revolutionise health care both in New Zealand and around the globe.

This event sought to pull together the multitude of threads involved in developing a truly world class health system, from developing the spatial configuration of a radical new drug, to formulating bold health policies that will shift the paradigm to give young scientific minds the possibility to explore new passions and horizons.

HealtheX showcased discoveries, creations and innovations made by students from a diverse array of disciplines be it medical, pharmacy, nursing, biomedical sciences or population health. It presented a platform where both undergraduate and postgraduate students could gather under the same slogan of young budding researchers, providing opportunities for not only mentoring but, more importantly, camaraderie.

HealtheX is a celebration of the future face of health care and delivery.

In the next two to three years HealtheX hopes to expand by inviting student presenters from all around New Zealand.

Proceedings of the day

HealtheX was officially opened by the Dean of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Iain Martin.

He was followed by the key note speaker Professor Robert Beaglehole who recently retired in his role as Director of Non-communicable Diseases and Health Promotion in the World Health Organization 2004-2007. Since his return to New Zealand he has been assisting the Parliamentary Select Committee on Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes acting as an international public health consultant. He is passionate about public health and especially the prevention of chronic diseases. Professor Beaglehole gave an inspiring



address, encouraging students to examine the application and dissemination of research as a crucial, if not the most important part of research.

Over 50 students had qualified in the initial judging round to present their research in the oral format. These students then split into three morning and afternoon sessions run concurrently in the categories of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical, Population Health and Education, and Clinical research. At least two judges, both of whom were experts in that category of research were also present in the room. A moderator judge was asked to judge a couple of presentations in each session for scaling purposes.

Poster presentations were judged during the lunch hour where presenters were asked to stand by their posters in case judges had any questions.

The Roche Prizegiving ceremony was hosted by the Mayor of Auckland City, Dick Hubbard, who began working out of a small Onehunga factory with just two staff but is now the third biggest cereal company in New Zealand with a turnover of around \$38 million per annum. Mayor Dick Hubbard gave an address on the 'Role of young



Key note speaker, Professor Robert Beaglehole.

Format	Place	Prize	Category and Winners		
Oral	1st	\$750	<i>Biomedical and Pharmaceutical</i> Ursula Byrne	<i>Population Health and Education</i> Jennifer Utter	<i>Clinical</i> Amy Chan
	2nd	\$250	<i>Biomedical and Pharmaceutical</i> Carthur Wan	<i>Population Health and Education</i> Serena Park	<i>Clinical</i> Catherine Bacon
Poster	1st	\$750	<i>From all:</i> Group project: Megan Murphy, Hsin Yao Chang, Jae Young Han and Abir Ibrahim		
	2nd	\$250	<i>From all:</i> Stefan Oehlers		
Grand Prize	Overall HealthX Winner	\$1000 additional	<i>From 1st prize winners in either Oral or Poster presentations</i> Amy Chan		

researchers in tomorrow's health' and presented HealthX prizes including the Overall Grand Prize Trophy to Amy Chan.

Categories and Prize Winners

Presentations could be given in poster format, A0 size, or oral format, 10 minute Powerpoint with 5 minutes for questions. There were three categories for oral presentations: Biomedical and Pharmaceutical, Population Health and Education, and Clinical. Prizes were distributed accordingly.

Another 20 poster and 10 oral postgraduate presentations were selected to represent the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the university-wide postgraduate research competition, EXPOSURE.

Entertainment

All refreshments throughout the day were complimentary for presenters. Entertainment was provided by the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Strings music group which consists of staff and students from the FMHS 'self-contained' orchestra who played while the judges deliberated and the audience enjoyed a glass of wine and nibbles.

HealthX Committee

The HealthX committee convened a year ago consisting initially of a group of friends with a shared vision of hosting a prestigious conference which would enable undergraduate students from all areas of health in Australasia to gather together. Early in the year of 2007 we went about seeking support for our proposal from the five Heads of Schools including Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Biomedical Sciences and Population Health, as well as the Associate Dean of Research and Dean of Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

The vision for the conference evolved over this period to involve both undergraduate and postgraduate students in order to encourage mentorship, and to start small in the inaugural year by only involving University of Auckland students.

The committee consisted of both undergraduate and postgraduate students from all five schools and we were fortunate to also have the support of very passionate staff members of the FMHS - and a huge thank-you to the Committee!

Sponsors

HealthX would not exist without the support of our sponsors. We would like to thank our Gold sponsors Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Abacus ALS. Our silver sponsors Auckland Medical Research foundation and bio strategy. Our supporting sponsors Global Science online and Soar printing.

Conclusion

It is our hope that all medical students will have an interest in either conducting or being informed about research. It is undoubtedly an exciting pathway and as future leaders in health in our communities, we should constantly be seeking new hopes for our patients through research.

We received outstanding feedback and would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a spectacular success.

For further information or feedback please check out www.health.auckland.ac.nz/healthex or contact us at healthex-info@auckland.ac.nz

It has been encouraging to see the success of an idea that sprung from a conversation I had



Mayor Dick Hubbard with Amy Chan, winner of the Grand Prize

with a friend at the Australian Medical Students' Association's (AMSA) Leadership Development Seminar. Our shared passion led to the development of a research conference at our respective universities, University of Western Australia and University of Auckland and to witness its fruition was extremely rewarding. We would like to challenge you to follow your passions, wherever they may take you!



The HealthX committee