



# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community and Patient Fair for Health Professional Education Allies in Health 2014

29 October 10:30am-3:00pm  
West Atrium, Life Sciences Centre  
Part of Celebrate Learning Week

## Participating Organizations:

Alzheimer's Society of BC  
Arthritis Society of Canada – BC and Yukon Divisions  
Ataxia Canada  
BC Bereavement Helpline  
BC Cancer Agency Prevention Program  
BC Epilepsy Society  
Canadian Diabetes Association  
Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation (Can Lyme)  
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – Vancouver/Burnaby Branch  
Canadian MPS Society  
Canucks Autism Network  
Collège Éducentre  
Community Engagement Advisory Network, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of British Columbia (Cosco BC)  
Developmental Disabilities Association  
Disability Alliance of BC  
G.V. Counselling & Education Society for Families  
Healthy Living Program, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon  
Huntington Society of Canada—BC Chapter  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada  
MOSAIC BC  
MS Society of Canada, Lower Mainland Chapter  
Muscular Dystrophy Canada  
Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Fibromyalgia Society of BC  
Neil Squire Society  
Options for Sexual Health  
Ovarian Cancer Canada  
Parkinson's Society of BC  
PeerNetBC  
Positive Living Society of BC  
Power For All Adventure Therapy Society  
Qmunity  
Rare Disease Foundation  
Recovery Narrative Project  
RésoSanté Colombie-Britannique  
Richmond Mental Health Consumer and Friends Society (RCFC)  
Scleroderma Association of BC  
Sjögren's Society of Canada  
YouthCO

40 Community exhibitors and 8 patient panel workshops visited by over 350



Allies in Health is an open-house Fair, held during UBC's Celebrate Learning Week, that connects community organizations, patient support groups, and people involved in these agencies with UBC students and faculty.

The Fair is an opportunity for students and faculty to learn about:

- the experiences of living with illness or disability from patients/clients/ community members, and their interactions with health professionals and the health care system
- resources and information available in the community for health professionals and their patients/clients
- patient and community organizations and what they do

The Fair brings patient and community voices to health professional education. It fosters familiarity, dialogue, and partnerships between the academy and the community.

This year the Allies in Health Fair and UBC Community Partnership Unit hosted “Conversation Corner” to explore perspectives and values on community-university engagement and what could strengthen how UBC engages with communities.

For reports of previous Fairs and other work by the Division that involves patients and the community in the education of health professionals go to:

[meetingofexperts.org](http://meetingofexperts.org)

Organized by the Division of Health Care Communication, College of Health Disciplines. Additional UBC funding by:

- The Office of the Vice Provost & Associate Vice President Academic
- College of Health Disciplines

Thanks to all of our student volunteers, especially the Occupational Therapy students, and to the many community and university volunteers on the planning committee, chaired by Brianne Nettelfield



**Division of Health Care Communication**  
*informed and shared decision making*



## Visitors and Exhibitors

Over 350 people attended the Fair. Students from **genetic counseling, medicine, and occupational therapy and the English Language Institute** attended as part of their programs. Everyone was invited to 'register' with their email address, to permit a follow-up about their experience and a chance on a draw for prizes given by our supporting donors, 188 registered. They came from over 12 different departments and programs.

In follow-up surveys, students said:

- “[ I liked the] exhibit about modifying outdoor recreation activities for people with disabilities (eg. wheelchair standup paddleboarding!). I thought this was a really awesome concept and I liked that they had devices and videos to demonstrate what they do.” - Genetic Counseling Student
- “I liked speaking with the Qmunity table because I feel like as med students we don't get trained in queer competency and feel it's important for us to do.” - Medical Student

The 40 community exhibitors who attended the Fair told students about their peer and outreach services. 35 were returning exhibitors and 5 were new to the Fair.

Each exhibitor had tracking sheets to record the number of visitors:  
There was an average of 45 visitors per booth  
The BC Epilepsy Society recorded 95 visitors, the highest number!

Exhibitors were surveyed for their experience compared to other Fairs; on a scale from worst(1) to best(5) the overall rating was **4.2**. Their highlights were:

- “[The] level of motivation and interest from students wanting to learn more about our organization was much higher than at previous fairs we've attended at post-secondary institutions.”
- “The students' openness and engaging conversations to learn about the services offered by our organization. The great networking opportunities with other organizations in the community.”
- “The Fair brings...community voices to health professional education. It fosters familiarity, dialogue, and partnerships between the academy and the community.”



## Patient Panels

Eight 1-hour patient panel workshops were featured, each with 3-5 panelists, and a moderator. Panel experts included those who have lived long-term with chronic illness and advocates. They told their stories, discussed their experiences, and participated in a Question & Answer period with the attendees.

Panel themes were:

- Barriers to Health Care Communication**
- Experiences of the Health Care System**
- Experiences of Chronic Health Concerns**
- Health & Money**
- Illness and Spirituality**
- Living and Communicating with Aphasia**
- Living a Life of Recovery with Mental Illness**
- Queer Competency in Health Care Settings \*NEW\***

184 students attended panels. 68 responded to the follow-up survey. They commented especially on:

- value & impact of hearing first hand patient stories and experiences
- diverse array of perspectives from presenters

On a scale from worst(1) to best(5) educational experience overall they rated this experience **4**.



“It was a very unique experience to see things from the patients' point of view and how some of the hardships could have been avoided with a better quality of care.”  
- Medical Student

“First hand stories are amazing tools for us as young professionals. I liked hearing what these individuals experienced in their struggles with health care. It is so informative for my future practice with other health care professionals. I thank them for being so honest with us.” - Dietetics Student

“The patient speaker's words and perspectives were humbling. It motivates me to become a more sensitive physician in the future. They expressed that a patient's personal experience with health care will affect how they perceive physicians and how other physicians would perceive the patient.”  
-Medical Student

### \$10-\$99

Ataxia Canada  
BC Bereavement Helpline  
BC Epilepsy Society  
Boulevard Coffee Roasting Co  
CanLyme  
Canucks Autism Network  
Council of Senior Citizen Organizations of BC  
Disability Alliance of BC  
Heart & Stroke Foundation  
Huntington Society of Canada  
Mahony & Sons  
ME/FM Society of BC  
MPS Society

### A special thank you to all of our contributors who make the Fair possible:

MS Society  
Neil Squire Society  
Options for Sexual Health  
Parkinson Society  
Power for All Adventure Therapy Society  
Recovery Narrative Project  
Sjogren's Society of Canada  
Qmunity  
Vancouver Coastal Health, Healthy Living Program

### \$100-\$499

BC Cancer Agency  
Collège Éducentre  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada  
PeerNet  
Sandman Hotels, Davie St & Sutton Place

### \$500+

Developmental Disabilities Association  
Ethical Bean Coffee  
Scleroderma Association of BC

**2014 marks an important step towards sustainability with community organizations matching university contributions to ensure the Fair continues!**