



Patient & Community Voices Workshops 2013-2014 Series



6 community-led, interprofessional workshops:

Positive Reflections and Voices Unheard: Learning from Persons Living with HIV
(November 20th 2013 & April 3rd 2014)

Talk is Cheap – Living and Communicating with Aphasia
(January 30th 2014)

How to Support People with Epilepsy
(February 5th 2014)

Stereotypes, Truth & Moving towards Reconciliation: What health professional students need to know about First Nations history
(March 20th 2014)

Living a Life of Recovery with Mental Illness
(June 5th 2014)

meetingofexperts.org

Since 2008 we've held **31 workshops** with **562** students and about **125** community educators

Patient & Community Voices Workshops are designed by community members with input from faculty and students. They typically last 2 to 3 hours and are held in a community setting outside usual class time. They are instructed by community educators, who are patients/clients and caregivers who share with students their unique experiences and expertise. The workshops are interactive and include small group discussions by 3 or 4 community educators with 10 to 25 students from multiple UBC health and human service programs.

Background Since 2008, the Division of Health Care Communication, College of Health Disciplines, UBC has coordinated Patient & Community Voices Workshops in collaboration with our community partners. People with chronic health concerns and other "expert patients" have important life experiences and expertise that can and should enrich present University training. We believe that active patient participation is an essential component of training future health and human service professionals for patient-centred, interprofessional practice.

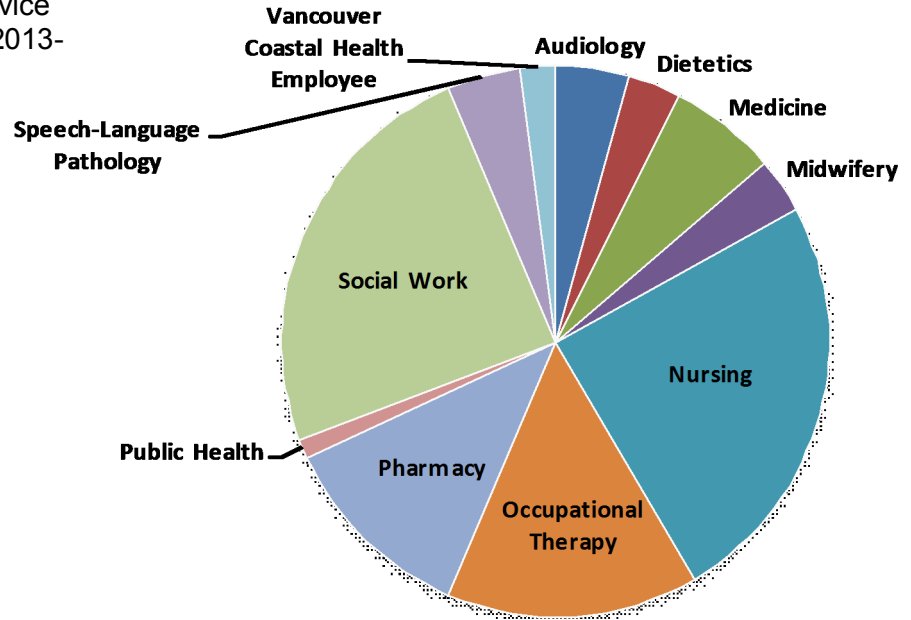
2014 Partners & Collaborators:

- * BC Epilepsy Society
- * Indian Residential School Survivors Society
- * Positive Living Society of BC
- * Recovery Narrative Project
- * UBC School of Audiology & Speech Sciences (SASS) Aphasia Mentoring Program

Student Programs

94 students from **12 UBC health and human service programs** participated in the workshop series in 2013-2014:

- * Audiology (4)
- * Dietetics (3)
- * Medicine (6)
- * Midwifery (3)
- * Nursing (23)
- * Occupational Therapy (14)
- * Pharmacy (11)
- * Public Health (1)
- * Social Work (23)
- * Speech-Language Pathology (4)
- * Vancouver Coastal Health Employee (2)



Learning Outcomes

At Patient & Community Voices workshops, students learn:

- The varied and personal experiences of patients/clients living with a chronic condition or disability
- The interactions that patients/clients have had with health professionals, and approaches to create positive relationships
- The social impacts of living with a chronic condition or disability, such as stigma
- Community resources and information available for health professionals and their patients/clients
- The range of perspectives and scopes of practice of other health professions
- Contributes 40 “exposure level” points to the student Interprofessional Education Passport

“I always feel honored being able to hear personal stories about residential school experiences. I think that there is always a lesson to take from it as a non-Aboriginal person myself. I learnt that it is OK to open up conversations around mistrust with Aboriginal clients, acknowledging that the mistrust is valid and I am there as a social worker to learn and support as best I can.” – Social Work Student

“The workshop provided insight into an illness that is very highly stigmatized and I appreciate the speakers’ honesty and openness about their illness. Their individual stories and experiences were very powerful and presented a different perspective.” – Medical Student

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the community educators for volunteering their time and sharing their stories with UBC students and to **Calhoun’s Catering** for their generous donations of snacks for our workshops.



Thank you to program staff in departments and faculties for circulating our workshop invitations to their students!

Future We aim to continue to develop and present interprofessional workshops that enrich student learning, and to integrate the workshops into curriculum. The challenge is to acquire ongoing financial support for coordination and communication. The promise is enriched education for our students and social accountability by our academy.

Further Reading:

[Patients as educators: Interprofessional learning for patient-centred care](#) by Angela Towle & William Godolphin *Medical Teacher* 2013; 35: 219–225