



CALL FOR PAPERS | PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS

Emerging Practices to Address Health Access and Promote Health Awareness

October 30-31, 2024

Sheraton Wall, Vancouver, British Columbia

Deadline to submit: July 31, 2024

Despite universal health care in Canada, there are important disparities in access to health care as well as in the quality of care extended to vulnerable groups. Multiple and varied social and demographic factors account for such disparities, and it is crucial to identify and document their underlying causes.

The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a decline in public trust in the health care system. The pandemic also gave rise to widespread concerns over the spread of misinformation and disinformation. Uneven degrees of health awareness and general health literacy are another significant cause of disparities in health outcomes. There is an urgent need to strengthen the population's capacity to secure, comprehend, and act upon sound health information.

The Metropolis Social Determinants of Health Conference aims to examine the demographic, social, economic, political and behavioral factors that impact access to quality health care and health literacy. Understanding the factors that influence health outcomes among immigrants in Canada is a key focus area.

Examining the impact of health crises on social determinants of health (SDH) and emerging best practices across Canada to enhance knowledge and awareness about health during such situations is an important theme. Strategies to combat misinformation and disinformation in health communication, which can significantly undermine public health efforts, will also be discussed.

Moreover, the conference will delve into navigating social, political and systemic inequities that create disparities in health care access and quality. Empowering and re-empowering newcomers and vulnerable communities in health care is crucial, as is examining the role of health care providers and efforts to address disparities.

Moving beyond individual-level health knowledge and awareness to address broader social determinants of health is another key area of focus. Approaches to build health awareness through structural and systemic changes will be explored, along with examining the long-term effects of COVID-19 on health awareness and access to care across diverse populations.

This multi-disciplinary conference will bring together experts across various disciplines to share expertise and insights. Contributions from health researchers, health care providers, settlement agencies, non-profit organizations, faith groups and other grassroots organizations are welcome.

Together, we endeavor to promote health equity, increase knowledge, and improve patient trust in public health by developing health awareness and limiting disinformation through effective and inclusive messaging.

Proposed Subjects

We're inviting workshop, roundtable and poster submissions within the framework of these following themes and topics:

- Health Equity
- Health Awareness and Knowledge
- Access to Health Care
- Immigrant Health
- Health Communication and Information
- Health Outcomes for Newcomers
- Social Determinants
- The Status of Vaccination
- Continued Impact of Covid 19
- Cultural Competence
- Mental Health and Trauma
- Health Care Governance
- Trust in Health Care Systems
- Health Inclusion
- Health Vulnerabilities

Please note selected presentations from the event will be published in *Canadian Diversity*.

WORKSHOP FORMATS

Workshops/panel presentation sessions (75 minutes)

Workshops will usually consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of five presentations of approximately 15 minutes each followed by at least 20 minutes of discussion. Workshop rooms will be equipped with a laptop, screen, and projector. Workshop organizers will preside over the session or designate another individual to do so.

Roundtables (75 minutes)

The roundtable format is suitable for more informal discussions of emerging issues or controversies. Roundtables are intended to facilitate discussion to a greater extent than time may permit in Workshop/panel presentation type sessions. It is a very effective format for the exchange of information and experiences among all participants attending the session.

Poster presentations

Poster sessions provide an alternative format through which conference participants can share research which has not been otherwise presented. Posters should provide some conclusive results, even if preliminary. Poster presenters must provide their own display materials of a maximum of 4' high and 3.5' wide posters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

In order to open as many opportunities as possible for the most participants, we ask that:

- Organizers promote the participation of as many different presenters as possible;
 - Participants may organize more than one workshop (**please limit to 3 proposals per organization**) but on different topics;
 - An organizer can choose to participate in additional workshops as a chair, participant or discussant;
 - If you are listed as a presenter in more than one workshop, we may ask you to choose the workshop that you would prefer to participate in;
 - Each person listed as an organizer, participant, chair or discussant in a workshop must register to the conference either as a day or full conference participant and pay the applicable registration fees. Please inform your presenters of this requirement when inviting them to participate in your workshop.
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- **If you are interested in presenting a paper, we strongly encourage you to solicit colleagues from your area of expertise and from different sectors to submit a workshop proposal.** If you do not have the ability to put together a workshop proposal with other colleagues but you are still interested in presenting a paper, a research project or another presentation, please consider selecting a "poster presentation option" format when prompted.
 - **If you submit an individual paper presentation your paper will be grouped in a session with two other paper presentations** on the same general theme and you will each have approx. 15-20 minutes to present in the session.
 - **An Adjudication Committee will meet to review the workshop proposals after the submission deadline.** The Adjudication Committee will consider proposals that include a clear title, abstract and summary as well as a list of at least three confirmed presenters.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

The Adjudication Committee will place priority on:

- Workshops that have confirmed and combined presenters from the three sectors: academic, non-governmental and government policy
- Workshops that involve graduate students.
- Workshops that bring perspectives of those with lived experience and that include diverse representation.
- Workshops that include participants across various regions of Canada or the world.

Please note that all presenters are required to register and pay the conference registration fee as posted on the conference website.

Session organizers will be required to provide the information listed below during the submission process via our website:

- Name and contact information
- Format of your session (workshop or roundtable)
- Theme (from the 5 above) in which the session falls under
- Title of your session
- Names of co-organizers (if applicable)
- Names of presenters including their affiliation, email address and titles of their presentation
- 50-word abstract which will be included in the program (please make sure it is descriptive but is also formulated to interest as many conference participants as possible)

Please note that the information you provide us will be included in the conference program. Please verify the spelling of your presenters' names and the titles of their presentations. If you are organizing a session with both English AND French presentations, we ask that you provide us with the translation of the title and 50-word abstract for the program.