



SHARING the Vision Conference Summary

On Friday, March 27, 2009, over 190 individuals from 36 health professional schools across the United States, as well the University of Saskatchewan (Canada) and the University of Melbourne (Australia) gathered at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Michael F. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education to embark on a weekend of dynamic discussion and interprofessional education focusing on the meaning and management of student-run clinics.

Friday evening's events included an introduction and welcome to Nebraska by Dr. Gerald Moore followed by dinner in the Truhlsen Campus Events Center. Conference attendees then moved to the Mary Ann "Maisie" Paustian Amphitheatre for an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Richard P. Usatine of the University of Texas San Antonio and a presentation on the UNMC SHARING clinic model followed by many insightful questions from a variety students, faculty, and staff in attendance. The night concluded with an intriguing panel discussion, which featured the opinions of a pharmacist, a physician, a nurse practitioner, and a medical student who volunteer at the SHARING clinics, as well as the unique perspective of a Liberty Elementary School teacher on the special health needs of uninsured children and the heartfelt testimonial of an appreciative patient of the SHARING clinic.

On Saturday, conference participants, including over 150 students, 40 faculty and 9 staff members from 22 states, the District of Columbia, Australia, and Canada, returned to the Sorrell Center to participate in one 90 minute and three 60 minute small group discussion sessions. Interprofessional students, faculty and staff from 16 different health professional schools lead sessions focusing on a wide variety of topics, including Continuity of Care, Establishing and Maintaining a Cost Effective Pharmacy, Incorporating Physical Therapy into Student-Run Clinics, Starting a Clinic and Clinic Sustainability. Representatives from 11 different disciplines, including medicine (102), pharmacy (26), physical therapy (24), physician assistant (14), nursing (9), public health (7), clinical laboratory science (5), occupational therapy (3), medical nutrition (2) and social work (2), attended these presentations and also participated in open discussions on how to improve interprofessional practice at student-run clinics and the benefits and challenges of acute and chronic care models for student-run clinics. During lunch, conference attendees networked, viewed posters celebrating student-run clinics across the US and Canada, and toured UNMC's Clinical Skills Lab.

On Saturday evening, 240 conference attendees, honored guests, and SHARING clinic donors and volunteers gathered in the Truhlsen Campus Events Center for a celebration of those who care for the underserved. Bob Bartee welcomed diners with a speech reflecting on the meaning

of service in medicine and the opportunity for both education and personal growth that student-run clinics provide to future health professionals. Following dinner, Dr Joan Y. Reede, the Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership at Harvard Medical School, spoke movingly on how we can become compassionate professionals through cultivating an inclusive and reflective spirit into both our personal and professional lives. After Dr. Reede's keynote speech, Deepa Rani Nandiwada, a third year medical student from George Washington University, launched the Society of Student Run Free Clinics, whose website will be hosted by UNMC and will provide a place for ongoing interprofessional discussion on student-run clinics. Finally, Mark Stavas closed the evening by unveiling a new foundation created by UNMC students through the Omaha Community Foundation. The foundation, entitled Renewing the Oath, will provide grants to health professional students who are interested in novel methods of service.

The goal of SHARING the Vision was to give students, faculty and staff the knowledge and resources to improve their clinics or to start new clinics, as well as to inspire participants to spread the word about the impact that student-run clinics can have on communities. Through the quality of presentation, discussion and networking that occurred at the conference, it appears that we achieved this goal with overwhelming success. In a brief reflection of the conference, Dr. Steve Trumble from the University of Melbourne wrote:

“To tell the truth I was initially a little skeptical about the whole concept of student-run clinics, which are largely unknown in my country. I feared they would be places where students got to practise their unformed skills on people who had no choice. I've come away with a completely different understanding. Clearly, student-run clinics are places that people choose to attend to get the very best of care. And the students who lead them do so because they care about others' needs as much as - or probably more than - they do about their own. I'm very excited about going back to Australia and introducing the concept.”