



INFORMATION WITHOUT BORDERS

IWB 2016 Conference Report

The Information Without Borders Conference 2016 was a spectacular success with the highest attendance in the conference's ten-year history. We had 206 registrants (122 students and 84 professionals/ community members, with a final attendance of 198) and we were delighted that the registrants were not deterred by the snowstorm the previous day. IWB 2016 was held on February 10, 2016, in the McInnes Room in the Dalhousie Student Union Building and part of the success from this year's conference likely stemmed from this year's topic, Managing Health Information: Technologies and Strategies for the 21st Century.



IWB 2016 at the Dalhousie Student Union Building

"I liked the topic this year. It was a topic I could better relate to and understand"

~IWB 2016 Attendee

We also had a great lineup of speakers for IWB 2016 starting with our opening keynote, Gail Crook, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar for the Canadian Health Information Management Association, and ending with our closing keynote, Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's Chief Public Health Officer. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Carolyn Watters, Dalhousie Provost, and between our two keynote speakers, we had three breakout sessions and one panel with a total of eleven speakers:

Breakout Session #1: Information managers and evidence-based health decisions

- ❖ Dr. Annette Elliott Rose
- ❖ Dr. Leslie Anne Campbell

Breakout Session #2: Health informatics and emerging information technologies

- ❖ Dr. Tara Sampalli
- ❖ Dr. Samina Abidi

Panel: Reliable and accessible health information

- ❖ Lara Killian (Moderator)
- ❖ Andrea Reynolds
- ❖ Dave MacNeil
- ❖ Dr. Andrea Murphy



Reliable and accessible health information panel

"The presentations by the professionals were very informative. I also really enjoyed the panel discussion. It was a nice change from the typical presentation." ~IWB 2016 Attendee

Breakout Session #3: Evolving health care data and records

- ❖ Dr. Debbie Martin
- ❖ Andrea Kampen and Michelle Tougas

To highlight the excellent student research surrounding health information management, we featured three student speakers, Nora McGruer, Leah Boulos, and Scarlett Kelly, who were the winners of this year's student paper competition. Student research was also highlighted in our student poster competition and the award for best poster this year was given to Zoe Dickinson for her poster "Libraries, Search Engines, and the Deep Web: Barriers to Visibility."



Poster presenter, Zoe Dickinson, with keynote speaker and poster judge, Gail Crook

We received strong positive feedback during the conference, which included a very active online presence via Twitter. Our post-conference survey, answered by 62 attendees (~30% response rate), also provided similar positive results: 97% said the conference was extremely or very well organized. The majority of respondents said that speakers were engaging and the content was useful, 69% and 66% respectively. Based on our survey results, 89% of respondents indicated that they would be inclined to promote the conference, which bodes well for IWB 2017. Overall, 87% of respondents stated IWB 2016 was an excellent or very good event.

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