Student Highlight

Jillian Roberge, Undergraduate MD, Class of 2016

Jillian Roberge is a student in her third and final year of medical school at McMaster. Jillian is a Métis woman originally from Winnipeg Manitoba where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Manitoba. Prior to medical school, Jillian worked as a sexual/reproductive health educator at a community health agency in Winnipeg.

Throughout medical school, Jillian has been active in the ASHS mentorship program providing information and support to Indigenous students pursuing careers in medicine. Jillian has also lent her time to support the annual Medical School Entrance Interview (MSEI) workshop. The MSEI prepares Indigenous students interviewing for medical school to give their best performance in the interview process. This year, Jillian took over from Dr. Melinda Fowler as the facilitator of the MSEI.

During medical school, Jillian has also pursued a research project aimed at investigating Indigenous Peoples’ experiences in emergency departments. Upon completing her undergraduate medical education in May 2016, Jillian is looking forward to continuing to incorporate an emphasis on Indigenous health in both her residency training and her career going forward. Jillian will be completing for residency with McMaster’s Emergency Medicine Program.

Medicinal School Entrance Interview Workshop 2016

The MSEI workshop focuses on developing tools to increase a positive performance during the actual medical school interview, specifically the multi-mini interview (MMI).

The workshop is based on the MSEI workshop developed and piloted by the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada; ASHS has hosted 4 prior events and looks forward to encouraging success with the next crop of medical school candidates. ASHS mentor and 3rd year MD program student Jill Roberge is the lead facilitator for this years event and she involves Aboriginal medical students currently studying at McMaster as co-facilitators.

The 2016 MSEI workshop took place on February 20 & 21, 2016. Big thank you to Jill and all the volunteers, as well as, De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre for hosting the event.

This workshop in by invitation only, Aboriginal students who have been offered an interview to the Michael DeGroot School of Medicine are invited to participate in this event.
The McMaster Indigenous Health Conference was held for the first time this year on January 16th, 2016, and was met with great success and positive feedback from both students and community members alike! The event was held at McMaster Innovation Park and brought together over 130 students, faculty, community members, and even students attending other institutions. Of particular note was the variety of backgrounds from which audience members came; while many were students from health sciences-related fields (medicine, nursing, midwifery occupational and physical therapy), attendees from social work, anthropology, psychology, and gerontology were also present. The diversity of attendees facilitated multi-dimensional discussions on health and its determinants, one of the original conference objectives.

Portraying the interdisciplinary nature of health was also accomplished through a diverse selection of speakers and presentations. Dr. Lisa Monkman and Dr. Billie Allan gave compelling keynote presentations. While breakout sessions explored the historical and distal determinants of health as well as the proximal determinants and contemporary approaches to health. A lunchtime community fair invited various community organizations to share their work with the audience. The conference also featured a ‘community impact panel’ at which Johanne McCarthy, Nince Hill, Mary-Ellen Simon, and Lana Hill were able to share their personal experiences as patients or as family of patients in the mainstream health care system. These stories gave conference participant’s first-hand accounts of the devastating impacts on culturally unsafe care and highlighted the importance of understanding and discussing these issues.

We are hoping that the McMaster Indigenous Health Conference will be held once again next year and we are thankful for all your support and interest. A very special, heartfelt thank you to the Aboriginal Students’ Health Sciences Office and the Indigenous Studies Program at McMaster is also in order - we couldn't have done it without you.

**Upcoming Events**

**Indigenous Graduation Ceremony - Thursday, June 9, 2016**
- Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Celebration Hall, B116
- RSVP by June 1st, 2016 to tbomber@mcmaster.ca or 905-525-9140 ext. 27460

**Faculty of Health Sciences (Excluding Nursing) Covocation - May 27, 2016**
- Time: 2:30 pm
- Location: Hamilton Place

**School of Nursing, Medical Radiation Sciences Program Convocation - June 14, 2016**
- Time: 9:30 pm
- Location: Hamilton Place

**Upcoming Conferences**

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference 2016**
- Dates: May 18 - 21, 2016
- Location: Honolulu, Hawaii

**Indigenous Health Conference - Towards Health and Reconciliation, University of Toronto**
- Dates: May 26 - 27, 2016
- Location: Hilton Mississauga Meadowvale Hotel, Toronto, Ontario
- Website: [http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/indigenoushealth/](http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/indigenoushealth/)