

## CONFERENCE REPORT: ALPM 2019

by Dr. Stephen Singh

ALPM 2019 was held in Calgary from May 23 to 25, 2019. The theme of this year's conference was "Expanding Our Reach Together", a theme in line with the recent Framework for Palliative Care in Canada and representing our wish for all physicians to gain competencies in palliative care if we are to truly achieve universal access.

Dr. Pippa Hawley opened the conference speaking about stigmatization in palliative care: its origins, effects, and mitigation. We next delved into our special session. Dr. Leonie Herx moderated an interactive session where Drs. David Hui, Pippa Hawley, and Jeff Myers spoke about the 21st century model for palliative care, referral triggers for timely vs. early palliative care, and the public health approach to palliative care. After a break, Drs. Anne Boyle, David Henderson, and Leonie Herx presented the CSPCP staffing model and discussed standards for credentialing palliative care specialists. This was extremely important work given the new Royal College subspecialty programs.

Awards Presentations were given during the Welcome Reception this year. Winners of the Undergrad Narrative, Humanitarian, Eduardo Bruera, and Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented. Congratulations to all the honourees!

Day two began with three excellent resident presentations followed by a keynote address on immunotherapy from both an oncological and a palliative care perspective by Dr. Corey Metcalf. It was an interesting look at this treatment modality.

Morning and afternoon workshops were diverse and interesting. The usual session of top practice changing articles returned. Sessions included palliative care in advanced COPD, palliative care in neurologic illness, using technology to connect with patients requiring palliative care, and the Serious Illness Care Program were all well-attended and well-received. Late afternoon workshops included developing cultural competency, approaches to early identification, promoting safer opioid use, cardiac devices at the end-of-life, oncology survivorship, and moral distress and moral residue.

Our Annual General Meeting was held afterwards during which the Board presented its annual reports, and elections were held for the vacant Board positions. Congratulations to all who ran and all who were elected!

Our final day began with a new session showcasing the work of you, our CSPCP members! Presentations of top abstracts were given by Amane Abdul-Razzak, Michael Bonares, Skye Crawford, Christina Ma and Lauren Riehm. Summaries of CSPCP projects were given by Amanda Roze des Ordon, Carl Bromwich, Bruno Gagnon, Ebru Kaya, and Anne Boyle. We celebrated volunteers immediately afterward and noted that over 200 members have contributed to CSPCP activities this year!

Morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday included methadone for pain, palliative care in Canadian prisons, compassionate communities, kidney management, engaging your audience, and depression. Dr. Barbara Pesut closed our conference speaking on reimagining rural palliative care, focusing on long-term capacity building as we move towards universal access to palliative care in Canada.