

Making Gains 2009

in Mental Health and Addictions:

November 2 - 4, 2009

Hyatt Regency Toronto, 370 King Street West, Toronto, ON (formerly the Holiday Inn On King)

Call for Presentations and Posters

The **Making Gains in Mental Health and Addictions Conference** is pleased to announce its 2009 Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency Toronto, Toronto, Ontario on November 2 - 4, 2009. An anticipated attendance of more than 300 delegates from across Ontario will provide an excellent networking and educational forum.

Share Your Expertise

We invite you to share your ideas, innovative programs and research findings by submitting proposals for presentations and posters, to be included in the 2009 Conference program.

This year's conference program streams are:

Workforce Development

The people who work in the mental health and addictions system of the future must be skilled and able to provide high quality, cost-effective services. Workforce development includes a range of activities, policies and programs that address core competencies, recruitment, retention, recognition, development, and care for both the paid and unpaid people who make the system work: staff, families, consumers and volunteers. This stream welcomes submissions that address workforce development policy, research and practice.

Integration

Integration is a priority in health system reform. The integration stream will address both vertical and horizontal integration. Vertical integration involves the alignment of Ministry, LHINs, organizational and program level policy and strategic directions. Horizontal integration involves partnerships within our sector and beyond, including the governance structures that are needed to sustain them. The integration stream will feature workshops on research, promising practices and examples of integration activities at the policy, systems, and program/service level, including accountability measures that can be used to track progress.

Public Policy

Public policy directions are being developed locally, provincially and nationally that will shape the mental health and addictions system of the future. Some examples are a national mental health strategy, the national treatment strategy, mental health promotion, a growing focus on the social determinants of health and the provincial mental health and addiction strategy. Input is needed from all levels. The public policy stream welcomes submissions that address influencing policy as well as policy implementation, evaluation and research.

Knowledge Exchange

The integration of new research findings into practice and policy is key to improving mental health and addictions programs and services, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for consumers and their families. This stream will focus on knowledge exchange needs and research, and innovative tools and practices for engaging in knowledge exchange. This stream will interest anyone looking to share their knowledge of the process, tools, research and outcomes of knowledge exchange activities.

Emerging Practices

Many factors, including demographics, the digital age, and the restructuring of our health care system are impacting the way services are conceived and delivered. Services for seniors and youth, community-based services and remote/virtual treatment are some of the areas that are being affected. The emerging practices stream will feature new and emerging practices – practices that have not yet become the norm or the gold standard.

Quality Improvement

Quality is integral to performance improvement and accountability at all levels. Increasing emphasis is being put on formal quality improvement tools by funders and our clients. The quality improvement stream will feature workshops highlighting practical research and experience in accreditation, scorecard development, performance indicators, standards, evaluation, risk management, and strategic planning including Board accountability and community engagement.

Call for Presentations and Posters

Who should attend?

- Board members
- Educators
- Clinicians
- Managers
- Community service providers
- Families & caregivers
- Researchers
- Government
- People with lived experience
- Public Health
- Primary health care providers
- Traditional healers
- Health promoters

Presentation Formats

Presentations

Presentations allow for the demonstration and application of techniques and skills. These are 60-minute sessions which allow for in-depth presentation, interaction and discussion. Presentation abstracts should include information on the content and format of the presentation.

Posters

Poster presentations are a visual display of a project. Material is mounted on a poster board. Posters will be exhibited throughout the conference and poster presenters will also have an opportunity to interact with colleagues during the conference. Poster abstracts may report on "work in progress" or on completed work, and should describe the major points/highlights of a program or a research project.

We regret that not all proposals will be accepted due to space limitations. Proposals will be selected to ensure a varied program across streams.

All proposals must be submitted online by May 22, 2009.

To submit an abstract, go to www.MakingGains.ca.

For more information contact:

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Instructions for Submitting Presentation and Poster Proposals:

All proposals must be submitted online by May 22, 2009.

1. Proposals consist of:
 - A 250-word abstract, which is the only information used to evaluate your proposal. Remember to state how the information will be useful to participants and what the expected learning outcomes will be. Please keep abstracts focused and succinct.
 - A 50-word description of your presentation or poster, which will be used in all conference advertising material. Be sure to use clear language to describe the presentation or poster.
2. Your proposal must include the title of the presentation or poster, presenter name(s) and organization(s), a 25-word biography for each presenter, presentation format, language of presentation, and audio-visual needs. Audio-visual equipment must be identified in advance.
3. Identify the stream.
4. Proposals must be submitted in the language of presentation (French or English). Simultaneous translation will NOT be provided.
5. All proposals will be acknowledged upon receipt.
6. All presenters are required to register for the conference for a minimum of one day.
7. If for any reason a presenter does not want his or her biography or presentation to appear on the conference website, he or she must indicate this when submitting the proposal.
8. Presenters must speak on the topic that was approved for presentation.

Please note: The person submitting the proposal is the contact person and he or she will be the only one contacted regarding the proposal. It is the contact person's responsibility to notify all others involved in the proposal.

Criteria:

The 250-word abstract will be the basis for judging the proposal's eligibility. All abstracts will be blinded (anonymous) and evaluated by a peer review panel. All evaluations will be based on the following criteria:

1. Fits within one of the identified streams.
2. Transferability of presentation information (how information will be useful to participants).
3. Assessment and discussion of positive research/practice outcomes.
4. Expected learning outcomes for participants.
5. Quality, clarity and organization of abstract.