

Student Experience Enhancement Fund: Summary of Activities

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From the \$2000 provided by McGill SEEF, 13 undergraduate nutrition or dietetic students were able to attend the 2017 Canadian Nutrition Society Annual Meeting and we were able to put on a pre-conference symposium to prepare them for the conference.

Pre-conference symposium:

The objectives of this symposium for the undergraduate students were:

1. Understand the breadth of nutrition research on campus and different career paths that graduate school and nutrition research can take you too
2. How to get the most out of the conference experience, including what presentations and workshops to attend as well as strategies for network

For the first objective, we brought 3 nutrition graduate students to the symposium with diverse backgrounds and research interests. Graduate students gave presentations about how they got interested in research, what research they do, why it is important and what careers they are hoping to have after their degrees. This was followed by an engaging discussion and question/answer period with undergraduate students, where all students asked questions of the speakers. After a short snack and refreshment break, to address the second objective, as the Canadian Nutrition Society representative for McGill, I gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation about how to prepare for the conference and the schedule of the conference. There was a discussion period following this, going over how to choose concurrent sessions or workshops to attend. After, we did an activity on networking that included analyzing scientific posters, how to ask questions about posters and finally, how to talk to other conference attendees at breaks/networking sessions.

Canadian Nutrition Society Annual Meeting, May 25-27, 2017

This was a 3 day conference bringing together 450 of the top nutrition researchers from across the country (<https://cns-scn.ca/2017-annual-conference/overview>). The intensive schedule showcased excellent and ground breaking research across the spectrum of basic, clinical, epidemiological and community nutrition. Importantly, students also attended sessions on how to translate research into health policy. Throughout the conference, there were many opportunities to network with other students as well as professors at all the poster sessions, workshops, breaks and meals. Students also could interact with representatives from Health Canada and from companies in the food industry to get an understanding of the diverse career opportunities within the field of nutrition research.

