



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

POST-CONFERENCE REPORT

8th International Research Conference
on **Adolescents and Adults with FASD**

Review, Respond and Relate
*Integrating Research, Policy and Practice
Around the World*

April 18-21, 2018
The Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Presented by



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Interprofessional
Continuing
Education





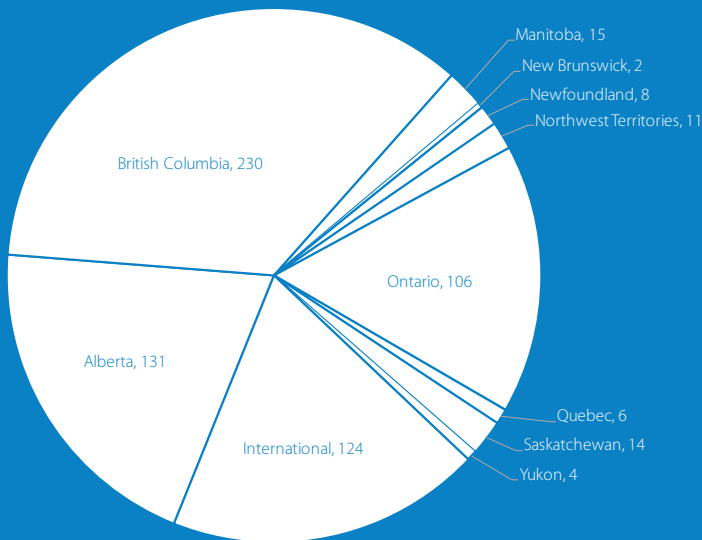
[I loved] connecting with other people that have FASD, and learning that, **"we are NOT alone"**

“

—Individual with FASD

ATTENDEE STATISTICS

Main Conference Participants | Geographical Location



There were 651 people welcomed to the main conference. The chart above displays the breakdown of participants by geographical location.

As shown, the majority of participants (80%) came from Canada.

80%
Canada

We were also pleased to welcome international delegates, the majority of whom travelling from the United States. Other countries such as the New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia, and South Africa were also represented at the main conference.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 8th International Research Conference on Adolescents and Adults with FASD: Review, Respond and Relate: *Integrating Research, Policy and Practice Around the World*, was held from April 18- 21, 2018 at The Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The conference brought together participants from a wide range of disciplines, including key workers, social workers, individuals with FASD, researchers, physicians, psychologists, as well as family members to share stories, network with like-minded individuals, and discuss emerging research in service of providing better support for individuals with FASD.

A total of 121 presenters and 7 poster presenters shared their knowledge on topics including the criminal justice system, developmental origins of health and disease, physical and mental health, and community interventions.

By attending this conference, participants were able to:

- Identify, explore and examine existing, new and emerging research and the implications for those with FASD, families and caregivers, systems and services
- Connect the identified needs of community workers, healthcare providers, and families with the research community
- Recognize emerging research findings and how they might better assist ethical policy and decision making and the development of integrated and collaborative approaches across systems
- Examine practice-based evidence, projects and programs to understand the potential connections to research and potential longitudinal studies
- Engage in knowledge exchange and dialogue through sessions, networking and the direct experience of those with FASD

CHANGE MAKERS

This year's pre-conference (April 18), *Let's Talk: Evidence, Experience and the Wisdom in the Room*, explored the collaborative capabilities of clinical science when paired with lived experience. Throughout the conference, voices of individuals with FASD were featured prominently in a series of mini-keynotes titled "Nothing About Us Without Us". For many delegates, the opportunity to learn from the powerful voices of those with lived experience proved to be invaluable in the development of a client-centred practice.

“

It is eye opening to hear from [individuals with FASD] directly speaking about how FASD alters their lives, as well as to hear from their caregivers, social workers, clinicians, and other people that work on the "front lines". I learned a lot and gained new perspectives.

—Researcher

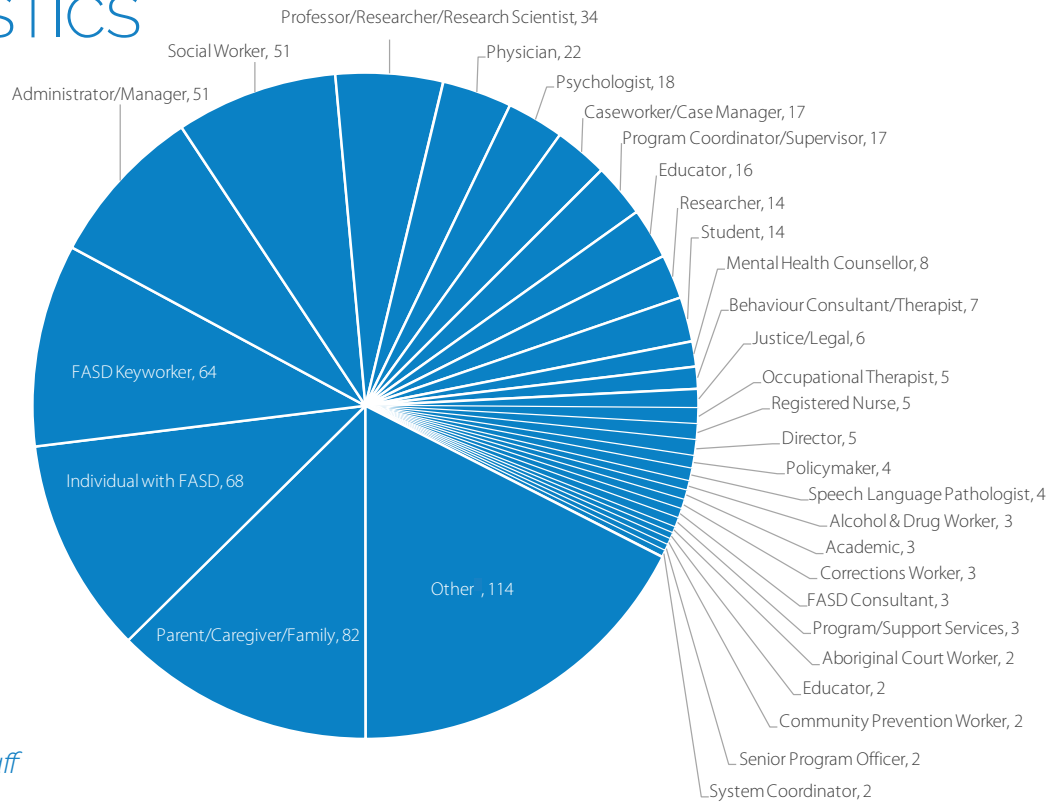
ATTENDEE STATISTICS

Main Conference Participants | Professions

The conference was truly multidisciplinary, with over 40 professions represented. Major professional groups included FASD Key Workers, Social Workers, Administrators/Managers, Psychologists, Physicians, Researchers, and Caregivers.

“ With all of us together, we can effect change: FASD Individuals, researchers, policy developers, stakeholders, FASD key agencies, parents and caregivers.

—Family Resource Program Staff



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 conference received overwhelmingly positive reviews, with an overall rating of 4.34 out of 5 on evaluation questionnaires.

The variety of keynote, plenary, concurrent and poster presentations offered different occasions for participants to gain knowledge on both the broad issues concerning individuals with FASD, as well as specific developments in the field. In addition to the main conference program, an extensive Adults Program provided the opportunity for over 65 individuals with FASD to attend sessions that brought focus to their experiences. It was clear from the conference participants' feedback that the sessions they attended inspired new ideas, provided updates on emerging research, and motivated professionals to advocate for interventions affecting policy and governmental change.

Most rewarding for delegates was the ability to learn from and network with individuals across multiple disciplines. For professionals, the conference created space for continued interprofessional development. For individuals with FASD, the conference provided a platform for their voices to be heard and their experiences valued. Delegates expressed that being able to connect with individuals across intersecting professional and lived experiences fostered a community that emphasized collaborative learning.

Many delegates enjoyed the wealth of ideas and resources they could bring back to their communities and practices, and hope that future conferences will continue to attend to the ways in which research developments can be applied to practical strategies. Delegates expressed a long-term investment in the progression of future conference programs—on what explorations in genetics reveal about different substance usages, on the importance of a full-body diagnosis, on policy changes in the judicial system, and on mental health implications when considering cross-cultural sensitivities.

FEEDBACK FROM PRESENTATIONS

[FASD and the Criminal Justice System: Making the Case for Research to Build Evidence-Based Policy Responses](#) | *Kaitlyn McLachlan, Joanna Wells, Mansfield Mela, Corey La Berge*

I am very glad this was included as a plenary. It has huge significance for people in the FASD community. It will definitely impact my practice.

[Parents with FASD: Challenging the Stereotypes](#) | *Peter W. Choate*

The expertise of Dr. Choate shone through in this session. He delivers his knowledge and experience in the field in a way that makes sense in real life. Peter Choate is a wealth of knowledge. His contributions to society and to the professional community are invaluable.

[We Are Parents: What It Looks Like](#) | *RJ Formanek, Myles Himmelreich, Angie Lutke, Sebrina Mikkul, Justin Mitchell, Erin Reimer-Mayzies*

Absolutely incredible way to end the conference. This session will stay in my mind for years and years.

FEEDBACK FROM PRESENTATIONS

Creating and Maintaining a Positive Focused System of Care | *Dan Dubovsky*

Amazing—worth the trip and time all on his own. Didn't want the session to end. Could have an entire conference with him.

FASD is a Whole Body Diagnosis, Part 1: Bowel and Allergy Problems | *Rod Densmore*

Fascinating stuff. I want more info on medical/physical health conditions at every conference in the future...When there is a physical health correlation to any behavioural or emotional health issue, this is when I...can better advocate for my patients.

Diagnosis: Why It's Never Too Late! | *Glenda Jansen, Paul Thompson*

The world needs many more people like Glenda and her family. What an incredible journey Paul has travelled. Such a priceless story!

An immersive experience in comfortable surroundings, with some opportunities to network, and an abundance of, might I say, "positivity", to motivate at the event and beyond.

—*Social Worker*

[This conference] has given me the passion and drive to keep on reaching for the stars despite the many hurdles we face in our journey.

—*Family Resource Program Staff*

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GENERAL FEEDBACK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the leadership committee, planning committee, expert planning committee and advisory committee who worked closely on this conference for the past year and a half:

Expert Planning Committee

Jan Lutke (Chair)	Kristina Hiemstra
Michael Charness	Brenda Knight
Peter W. Choate	Christine Looch
Dan Dubovsky	Edward Riley
Bill Dunty	Joanne Weinberg

Expert Advisory Committee

Sally M. Anderson	Emily Fitzpatrick	Philip A. May
Ilona Autti-Rämö	James P. Fitzpatrick	Valerie McGinn
Dorothy Badry	Erikson F. Furtado	Mansfield Mela
Tatiana Balachova	Parker J. Holman	Raja A.S. Mukherjee
Diane Black	Sarah Inkelis	Moira Plant
Paul D. Connor	Denis Lamblin	Lina Schwerg
Lori Vitale Cox	Hae Kook Lee	Paula Stanghetta
Elizabeth Elliott	Rebecca Martell	Kenneth R Warren

Local Planning Committee

Anne Fuller
Cheryl McIntee
Michelle Sherbuck
Marsha Wilson
Kee Warner

Leadership Committee

Katrina Griffin
Myles Himmelreich
CJ Lutke
Justin Mitchell

We would also like to acknowledge with great appreciation the financial contributions in the form of unrestricted educational grants from the following organizations:

Gold Sponsors



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