

The 7th International Conference on

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research, Results and Relevance

*Integrating Research,
Policy and Promising
Practice Around the World*



Post Conference Report

MARCH 1–4, 2017

The Westin Bayshore

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

 **@IPCE_UBC**
#FASD2017

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Presented by



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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General Information

The 7th International Conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Research, Results and Relevance 2017: Integrating Research, Policy, and Promising Practice Around the World was held from March 1 - 4, 2017 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. This conference continues to bring together experts from multiple disciplines to share international research. From pure science, to prevention, diagnosis and intervention across the life span, the conference addressed the implications of this research and promoted scientific/community collaboration. It provided an opportunity to enhance understanding of the relationships between knowledge and research and critical actions related to FASD. The conference brought together people passionate about this work in a stimulating environment where they could learn and forge new partnerships.

The goal of the conference was to highlight international research and promising practice, and to enhance scientific collaborations around the world. The objectives of the conference were to:

- » Recognize and discuss the implication and potential application of emerging evidence-based, and cutting edge research
- » Expand and challenge their knowledge of basic and clinical science research
- » Explore different models of advanced practice from and across disciplines
- » Engage in knowledge exchange and focused dialogue through formal sessions, networking and on site meetings
- » Develop connections and partnerships among researchers, networks, governments, communities, service providers and families

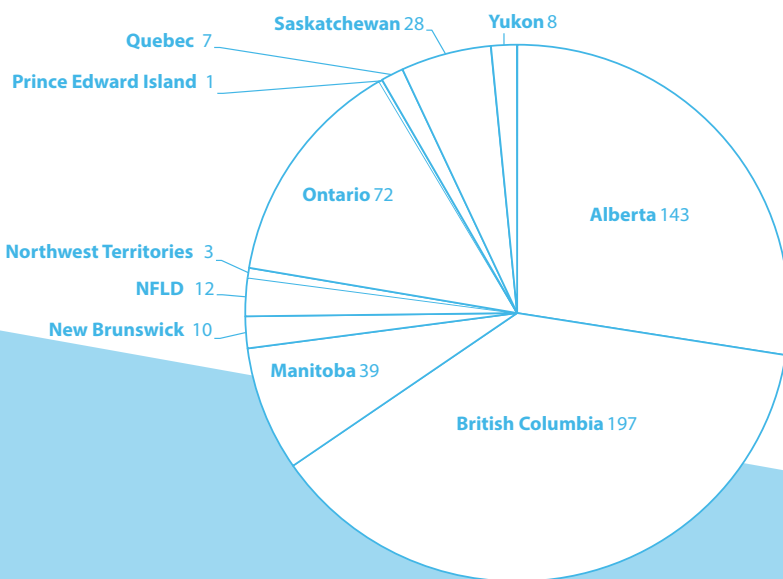
“ I Loved hearing first hand from individuals with FASD or their parents, mothers, grand-mothers who were living with the real challenges of FASD. The closing plenary with Myles, CJ and Emily was wonderful. ”
-- Policy Maker

According to conference delegates, the conference succeeded in meeting these objectives, and received a 4.31 out of 5 for this category in the evaluation.

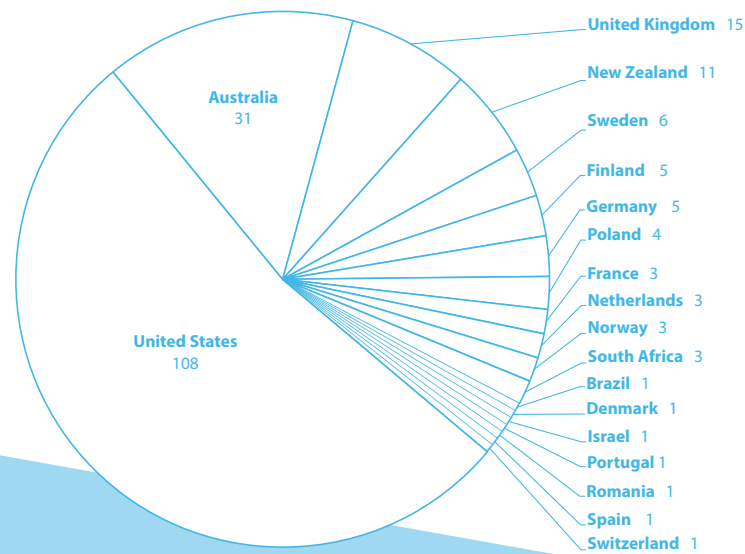
Attendee Statistics

The main conference welcomed over 175 speakers who shared their knowledge with over 700 delegates with varying professional backgrounds that travelled from 30 different states in the United States, and 19 different countries. The majority of the delegates were from Canada (71.8%), with the other participants travelling from all over the world to attend . Please refer to the below diagrams to view a detailed breakdown of the geographical locations of the participants, both internationally and nationally.

Main Conference Participants by Geographical Location (National)



Main Conference Participants by Geographical Location (International)

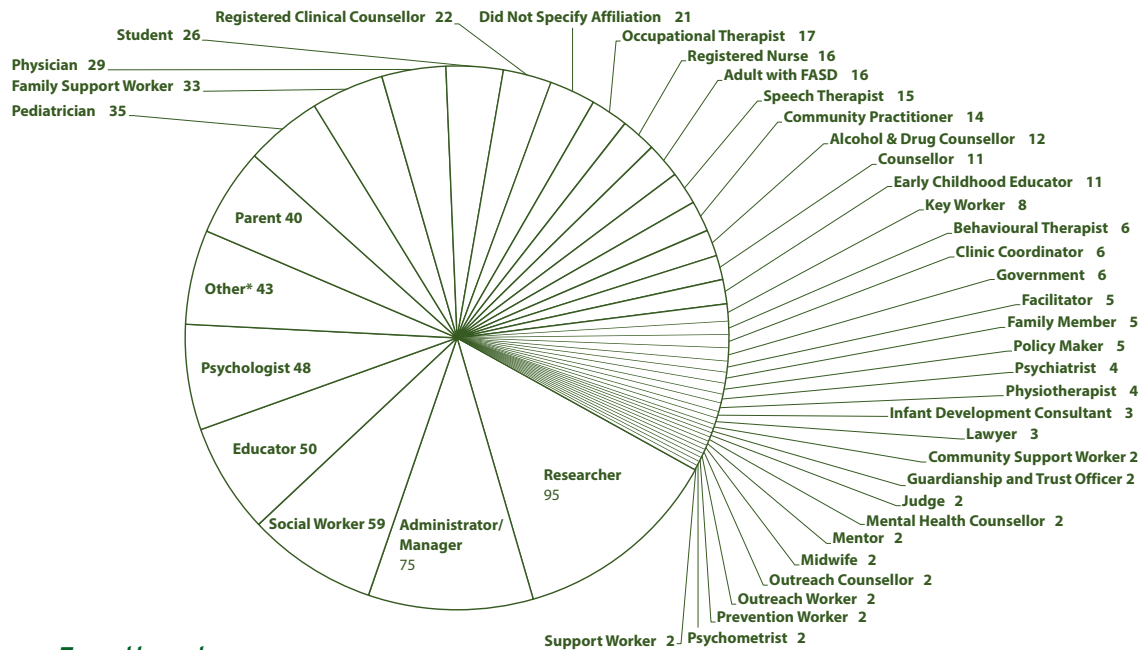


“ It was interesting to hear what was going on in other parts of world in regards to stigma and how they were addressing it. It was also nice to hear from other professionals what they were doing to make a difference in their communities. ”
-- Family Preservation Worker

Attendee Statistics ctd.

Over 40 different professions were represented at the conference. Some of the major professional groups were: Researchers, Administrators/Managers, Social Workers, Psychologists, Physicians, and Educators.

Main Conference Participants by Geographical Location (International)



Participant Feedback

We are very proud to report that the overall rating of the program was high, based on the responses provided by our participants on the evaluation questionnaires. The conference received 4.33 out of 5 in its overall rating. This year's agenda offered a wide variety of topics, delivered in a well balanced mix of plenary presentations and concurrent workshops. It was clear from participants' feedback that the sessions they attended were greatly appreciated. This was not only due to the quality of the input from speakers but also to the richness and pertinence of the discussions.

Other aspects of the conference that were widely appreciated were the networking opportunities, where participants could learn from what other organizations and professionals are doing to work in this area, and the pre-conference session: **Let's Talk: Stigma and Stereotypes - Where do we Begin?** This session began a much needed dialogue among about the emerging issues surrounding stigma and FASD. The day was highly interactive, integrating table discussions with presentations by experts in the field.

For participants, the opportunity to learn new ideas in emerging research inspired them to continue to improve their work. Many noted that they gained new perspectives and will bring new approaches back with them to their current practice. Others suggested that they will move forward asking different questions, and have been inspired towards new research projects and collaboration with the connections that they made within the community.

The most worthwhile aspects of the conference (from the evaluation questionnaires)

- » Pre-conference on Stigma
- » Networking Opportunities
- » Plenary Sessions
- » The Adult Plenary (Health Survey)
- » First hand stories of lived experience
- » Oral Research Papers



I really loved the format of the pre-conference workshop again this year. I enjoyed the balance of engaging presentations and small group discussions that challenged my assumptions and beliefs. The workshop was extremely well run and managed. Having a designated table facilitator was also helpful. I find it most helpful when tables have a diversity of participants (vs. people from same organization sitting together)

-- Researcher



Session Feedback

The plenary panel session **The Lay of the Land: Final Results of a health Survey of 500+ Adults with Diagnosed FASD** presented by CJ, Myles and Emily (Adults with FASD) was one of the highest rated sessions , with 4.76 out of 5.00.

Some of the highest rated sessions during the conference include (but are not limited to):

B3b: Stamp out Stigma: How Shame and Blame Hinder FASD Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

Presenter: Kathleen T. Mitchell

Rating: 4.64 out of 5.00

"Thank you for a great presentation. Had us laughing and crying with you! It was spoken from the heart, to the heart; from your heart to ours. Thank you!" (Regional Coordinator)

C1a: Choline as a Neurodevelopmental Intervention in Young Children with FASD

Presenter: Jeffrey Wozniak

Rating: 5.00 out of 5.00

"Clear, concise. Interesting presentation. Gives hope for the future."

D7: Developing Collaboration Between Clinical and Indigenous Frameworks in FASD Practice to Address Current Inequities in Service Provision

Presenters: Andi Crawford, Laurie Te Nahu, Kate Robertshaw

Rating: 4.91 out of 5.00

"Important, culturally appropriate, hopeful and the true dialogue for First Nation Communities. This is the way to start the journey." (First Nation Social Worker)



The most worthwhile was the intellectual stimulation. With new knowledge on epigenetics I think that I will be more convincing in the education of health professionals.

--Physician



Acknowledgements

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