

Inaugural Department Poster Summit is a success

The Inaugural Education, Research, and Community Engagement Poster Summit was held on Apr. 15 at the University of Utah Cleone P. Eccles Alumni House. Students, post-docs, and Health Studies Fund awardees from all divisions in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine contributed research posters to showcase how their creative and scholarly research plays a pivotal role in the department's vision of expanding the possibilities of health.

"We are very excited about the overall student enthusiasm and interest in participating in this inaugural departmental event," said Dr. Rod Handy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine Education Mission Committee. "As a committee, we were originally anticipating around 40 abstract submissions, instead we received almost 60."

Students, post-docs, and faculty from the Divisions of Family Medicine, Physician Assistant Studies, Public Health, and Occupational and Environmental Health presented their findings and research to all of the department, university, and community members who came to the open house. This not only served as a great event for the department, but an opportunity for students to practice presenting.

"I was also selected to present this same research at the American Occupational Health Conference which is [happened in] Disneyland later in April," said Devin Owens, DO, MOH, a medicine resident in the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health. "Preparing the poster and presenting at this Poster Summit [helped me feel] prepared for my presentation at the national conference, while also allowing me to share my results first within my own department at the University of Utah."

Research presented ranged from topics on diabetes to cervical cancer and air pollution to work safety. Beyond students presenting their research, attendees had the opportunity to vote for several awards including the Clinician Choice Award, Faculty Choice Award, and more. Six students were chosen for these awards for their outstanding research and as a great representation of the department. Those awards and students chosen are as follows:

Clinician Choice Award:

Shahpar Najmabadi, PhD Public Health, Postdoctoral Fellow

"The Impact of Intercourse on Menstrual Cycle Parameters in Women Without Known Subfertility: A Pooled Analysis of 3 Cohorts"

Faculty Approver: Joseph Stanford

Faculty Choice Award:

Raymond Soto, MSPH Candidate, Public Health

"Evaluating Environmental Chemical Exposure in Families in Salt Lake City, UT Using Silicone Wristbands

Faculty Approver: Christina Porucznik

Researcher Choice Award:

Brenna Blackburn, PhD Public Health, Postdoctoral Fellow

"Risk Prediction Model for Cardiovascular Disease Among Endometrial Cancer Survivors"

Faculty Approver: Mia Hashibe

Student Choice Award (tie):

Seungmin Kim, MSPH Candidate, Public Health

“Long-term Diabetes Risk among Endometrial Cancer Survivors in a Population-Based Cohort Study”

Faculty Approver: Mia Hashibe

Lauren Haggerty, MS Candidate, Occupational and Environmental Health

“How Ventilation Influences Indoor Air Pollution in Developing Countries Where Traditional Cooking Practices are Used”

Faculty Approver: Rod Handy

Audience Choice Award:

Raymond Soto, MSPH Candidate, Public Health

“Evaluating Environmental Chemical Exposure in Families in Salt Lake City, UT Using Silicone Wristbands”

Faculty Approver: Christina Porucznik

This inaugural session served as an opportunity to bring divisions together and celebrate research and success as a whole. Now that the inaugural session is complete, the department is looking forward to what future sessions will bring.

“This activity [helped] bring together our four divisions in a worthwhile collaborative effort,” Dr. Handy said. “[It] provide all of our students the opportunity to meet students, staff, and faculty from the other departmental divisions.”