

2010 Rural Emergency Continuum of Care Conference

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The annual Rural Emergency Continuum of Care Conference was hosted in the Delta Grand Okanagan Conference Centre in Kelowna, BC on June 18–20, 2010. The conference is a collaborative effort of the Rural Coordination Centre of BC, the Division of Continuing Professional Development of the UBC Faculty of Medicine, the BC Medical Association, the BC Ministry of Health Services, and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada. I was one of the 12 lucky UBC medical students to attend. The conference is an accredited professional and educational conference for physicians, medical students and residents, nurses, paramedics, and other health professionals and authorities. The goal was to address the unique needs of rural physicians and healthcare providers. There were ample opportunities to tour Kelowna, network with colleagues, and share ideas and field experiences.

The opening address was delivered by the BC Minister of Health Services, the Honourable Kevin Falcon. The conference program consisted of lectures, interactive sessions, and hands-on workshops followed by social events and mixers in the evenings. Interactive sessions and lectures were vibrant and involved sharing techniques and stories on varying topics, including sepsis, poison, and emergency obstetrics. Some examples of workshops with limited capacity included “The Joys & Challenges of Rural Practice Session,” led by Dr. David Goranson, Dr. Alec Ritchie and Mr. Chris Sims, and the “Shock Course” on emergency room tools and procedures, led by Dr. Tandi Wilkinson and Dr. Jeff Plant.

Each hands-on workshop had beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels, which allowed participants to fully tailor their experiences to their own level of expertise. I attended the ultrasound hands-on workshops, which featured exemplary teaching, several practical stations with volunteers of differing body types, and different ultrasound equipment best suited for each body habitus. Participants were welcome to practice the demonstrated techniques on volunteers under instructor supervision, which provided immediate feedback. What is wonderful about being in a conference with experienced physicians is the numerous opportunities to learn and gain feedback. The instructors, volunteers, and participants were all very kind, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and approachable.

The workshop on obstetrical emergencies was equally practical, hands-on, and stimulating. It began with a short lecture

which flowed naturally into an interactive session during which physician instructors and other experts shared their experiences and techniques. Demonstration with models was followed with hands-on practice at a variety of stations with varying fetal positions, some of which were in shoulder dystocia!

On the final night, the conference ended with a gala where approximately 300 participants enjoyed a lovely meal and dancing. This reminded me of the importance of balance that is often emphasized and encouraged in rural medicine. From a student perspective, the conference was particularly useful. I encourage medical students and healthcare professionals interested in rural medicine to attend the 2011 conference on June 1–18. For details, please visit www.rccbc.ca/education/2011_RECC_Conference.



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- The SGP advocates for improved funding through the GP Subsidiary Negotiations Committee.
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