SHE Masterclass 2018 Review

Bringing Sustainable Healthcare into the Undergraduate Curriculum

The 2018 Sustainable Healthcare Education masterclass took place in Islington on 11th September 2018, organised by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH). Over 20 educators and students gathered to discuss strategies and actions for integrating planetary health and sustainable healthcare into the undergraduate medical curriculum.

A team of expert speakers in the field of sustainable healthcare led a full programme of interactive sessions. Dr Sarah Walpole Honorary Lecturer, Hull York Medical School, started the day with a thought-provoking session on the broad and interdisciplinary concept of 'planetary health', sparking fruitful debate on the benefits of this term, discussion on what methods could be used to make public health more relevant to undergraduates and methods of teaching a subject that cross-cuts traditional subject boundaries. Anaesthetist, Dr Cliff Shelton, followed on by giving an inspiring insight into how he engages Keele University medical students with sustainable healthcare using clinical examples and personal stories. Click on the link to browse resources that Cliff has developed.

Pictured, Dr Sarah Walpole delivering teaching on the concept of 'planetary health'.

The health of humanity depends on the health of our planet. Our future depends on strengthening both - The Rockefeller Foundation

Dr Kathleen Leedham-Green, Medical Education Fellow, Imperial College London & Dr Frances Mortimer, Medical Director, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare explained why "sustainability is the core of healthcare quality". They introduced a number of implementation toolkits, such as SusQI[1], and gave examples illustrating how sustainable healthcare concepts can be integrated into quality improvement teaching.

"Really useful day. Provided lots of food for thought, and gave me ideas for next steps."

Throughout the day there were opportunities to network and form a 'community of practice'. Kim Croasdale from the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) commended the SDU's regional ambassador network as an additional structure that could support the SHE community.

Buzzing, productive conversations…ideas bubbling at the Sustainable Heathcare Education Network Masterclass on the way to forming strategies for integration into the undergraduate curricula in a meaningful, effective way.

A community of practice is a group of people who share a passion and learn how to do something better as they interact regularly – Wendger

The conference was rounded up by getting groups of educators to consider what practical steps they would take on returning to their institutions to grow the sustainability agenda. This provided a good focus and application of the day's learning.

"The SHE Masterclass 2018 gave delegates a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge on the latest topics in sustainable healthcare, an emerging area of key importance, and to continue forming a 'community of practice'. We're looking forward to further SHE events already!"

Following the masterclass, the first meeting of the SHE Steering Committee met, which was formed to advise, support and promote the SHE network. The group will meet quarterly. Exciting news broke at the meeting of a donation of £40,000 dedicated to the work of SHE. This is both a great endorsement of the work of SHE and has increased the capability of the network.

To join the SHE network and to hear about further events follow this link!

Dr. Olivia Bush,
Clinical Programme Lead, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
20th September 2018

Next event:

Question writing workshop on 12th December 2018. Regional hubs established at Imperial, York, Dundee, connected via video link. If you would like to attend, or propose your medical school as a regional hub, please contact our intern Joey at: johanna.brooke@sustainablehealthcare.org.uk

---

Reference:
1. Mortimer F, Isherwood J, Wilkinson A,Vaux E. Sustainability in quality improvement: redefining value. *Future Healthcare Journal*. 2018;5(2): 88-93. Available from doi: 10.7861/futurehosp.5-2-88