Youth Dementia Awareness Knowledge Mobilization

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Thank you to our funders and partners
Purpose of the Symposium
“Dementia as a Cultural Phenomenon”

- More than 46 million people globally currently have dementia and this number is estimated to double by 2030 and triple to 131.5 million by 2050 (ADI, 2015)
- Cultivate a “dementia-friendly” society
- Connect and engage young people early in their educational careers
- Combat harmful stereotypes which can encourage more compassionate societies and ensure that the needs of elderly people are met
- Understand where young people are learning about dementia and how to confront cultural, medical, and societal (mis)understandings of dementia and aging
Overview of the Symposium

- **Two day international symposium** that bought together youth dementia leaders, individuals with dementia and/or their carers, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and NGO representatives from across the world to gain new information and insights on emerging dementia issues.

- Saturday, October 1, 2016 to Sunday, October 2, 2016

- Cara Commons, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University
Symposium Video:
https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/19/Watch/10746.aspx

Join the Conversation!

Twitter: @rye_dementia
#ryedementia #RemembeMe

Facebook: @ryedementiaawareness
Day 1
Keynote Speakers & Panel Discussions

- Panel 1: Youth Perceptions, Efforts and Engagement
  - Sharing knowledge about current grassroots efforts by youth

- Panel 2: Popular depictions and cultural understandings of dementia
  - Depictions of dementia in fiction, film, and other media (i.e., news) need to be carefully considered because these inform many youth about dementia

- Panel 3: Traditional academic knowledge mobilization and youth: How relevant is it to a youth audience?
  - Ways to increase the relevance and accessibility of dementia research
Day 2

Keynote Speaker & Workshops

- Using the Arts to Reflect on and Transform Images and Understandings of Dementia
  - ‘Disrupt’ how we think, talk about and relate with people with dementia using art forms
  - Critically reflect on personal images and understandings of dementia
  - Explore what people with dementia want the world to know about them through their art creations

- Exploring Caring Relationships through the Arts
  - Using the arts to explore relating to the humanity of people living with dementia and their ability to live life to the fullest
Participant Characteristics

- Total symposium participants: 60
- 24 attendees (18 females and 8 males)
  - 50% of attendees were 25 years old or under.
  - Age range: 17-52 years old
- 20 speakers and panelists
- 3 moderators, 3 workshop facilitators, 3 artists, 1 photographer and 5 volunteers
Video Clips

Youth Speakers

- **Annamaria Dobrin**
  - *President, York Mills CI Alzheimer's Club*
  - [https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/19/Watch/10746.aspx](https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/19/Watch/10746.aspx) [1:01:00]

- **Emily Fraschetti**
  - *Young Caregiver*
  - [https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/19/Watch/10746.aspx](https://ryecast.ryerson.ca/19/Watch/10746.aspx) [04:55:30]
Attendee Engagement

*How did we foster an engaging environment?*

- Each table had materials for art creation (big sheets of paper, markers, pens, pencil crayons, etc)
- Tables in the back with large sheets of paper for attendees to express their experiences through art creation
- Allowed attendees to engage via social media → #ryedementia, Twitter, Facebook
Evaluations from Attendees

Survey Results

- Total number of evaluations completed: 16
- Heard about the symposium via internet platforms and word of mouth
- Majority indicated:
  - The symposium increased their overall knowledge: “extremely” (10) and “very” (4)
  - The topics presented to be informative: “extremely” (9) and ”very” (6)
  - The presentations were engaging: “extremely” (8) and “very”(4)
  - The questions and discussion were handled to my satisfaction: ““extremely” (6) and ”very” (7)
  - The symposium met my expectations: ““extremely” (9) and ”very” (5)
  - I would attend the symposium in the future: ““extremely” (9) and ”very” (5)
Evaluations from Attendees

What did you like the most?

“Very informative, welcoming, accepting & intimate. One of the best conferences I have ever attended. Amazing organization & effectiveness of meeting audience needs & objectives.”

“Being able to express ourselves through art.”

“Connection between dementia and arts.”

“Engagement between youth caregivers, academics, allowing different perspectives.”

“The arts! The personal stories.”

“The diversity of speakers – amazing group of people. Great learning about dementia & wide variety of programs & initiatives underway to support youth awareness.”
Evaluations from Attendees

Areas of Improvement

“Have people share more personal stories.”
“Promote (youth) younger participation.”
“Include more persons with dementia with their family members for part of both days.”
“More online promotion (advertisement)”
Outcomes

- Exchanged and generated knowledge related to youth, popular, and cultural representations of dementia, and academic knowledge mobilization
- Identified gaps in existing knowledge and reach a consensus about actions moving forward
- Established collaborative cross-sectorial and intergenerational networks and partnerships to put knowledge into action
- Formed a working group to continue collaboration on the next steps post-symposium
Outcomes

- Disseminated key messages to increase youth awareness of dementia
- Made art materials accessible to share ideas and discuss strategies to reach a wide audience
- Pushed the traditional/academic knowledge mobilization boundaries of creating awareness and disseminating findings using the arts to create and share new knowledge with varied audiences
- Utilized social media platforms to raise awareness of emerging dementia issues
- Made contents of the symposium accessible to everyone via live stream
Continuing Knowledge Mobilization momentum

– Developed Spare a Thought for Dementia campaign

Our goal is to develop partnerships with communities, schools, and other stakeholders to discuss needs, engagement opportunities, and ways to disseminate knowledge.
Spare a Thought for Dementia raises youth awareness of dementia and how it impacts communities. Founded by Dr. Kristine Newman at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing at Ryerson University, Spare a Thought for Dementia aims to inspire youth to become more involved in their communities and become advocates for persons living with dementia. The project consists of an online campaign that shares stories of lived experiences of youth who are care partners for persons with dementia, and an interactive in-school awareness program that educates, challenges, and inspires youths in Grades 9 through 12 to become more involved in the community.
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