



RYAN SHIPPELT

INS AND OUTS OF INSULIN Nutrition students organize a symposium that highlights recent advancements in diabetes.

Student-run symposium tackles diabetes

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

Over 2 million Canadians are afflicted with diabetes, a statistic that's expected to reach 3 million by the end of the decade, according to the Canadian Diabetes Association. However, the goal of reducing that number is the focus of an upcoming symposium put on by U of A nutrition students on Thursday.

Dr Linda McCargar's Nutrition 440 class split into various committees to prepare Thursday's two-part event, entitled The Century to Change Diabetes, which begins with a poster presentation at the Dinwoodie Lounge, followed by the symposium, which will feature talks by three lecturers at the Myer Horowitz.

According to Carissa Brown, a fourth-year student in the class, "The reason we chose the diabetes topic [...] was the recent opening of the Alberta Diabetes Institute. [Our professor] thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight the accomplishments in diabetes over the last century."

Brown, along with Kim Chapman and Deanne Harefah, is part of the class's public relations committee for the project. She noted that part of what makes this symposium distinct is that

nutrition students are fully responsible for its undertaking.

"Whereas other events on campus are planned by the faculty, it is entirely student-run," Brown said. "It's going to be completely planned and implemented by [undergraduate] students, and that's what we think makes it unique."

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CARISSA BROWN
FOURTH-YEAR NUTRITION STUDENT

The class booked speakers who are experts in the diabetes field and also recruited sponsors to fundraise the necessary capital. As Chapman explained, "Professors, people within the industry, and other organizations have been really supportive."

The poster presentation covers the wide variety of topics that the students have been working on throughout the

year, although many deviate from diabetes, the topic of the symposium.

"The [research projects] vary from food products to community nutrition," Harefah said.

"It's a good opportunity to showcase our own research, even though it's not directly related to diabetes," Chapman added.

Drawing on the expertise of the symposium's speakers, the event will delve into current knowledge surrounding all types of the disease, but will also look to the future to explore possible areas of innovation.

"The interaction I have had so far indicates [the symposium] to be very well organized, with two other very highly thought-of speakers," noted Dr Edmond Ryan, who will lecture about gestational diabetes.

Dr Tom Wolever from the University of Toronto will also give a presentation about his research of the glycemic index and its effect on diabetes prevention and treatment. As well, Dr Carla Taylor from the University of Manitoba will talk about her studies on dietary modulation of insulin resistance.

"Diabetes is common, and it is serious for [any] person with it," Ryan explained. "The U of A is a centre of excellence for diabetes research which will only continue to flourish."

only all around them, but that it could be an enjoyable pursuit.

Speakers such as Dr Margaret-Ann Armour, the associate dean of Science, engaged the children with lectures illustrating the everyday importance of science.

Science FUNday isn't only about the Science FUNdamentals program, but various on campus programs and associations getting out and showcasing their own contributions to the world of science.

The Alberta Student Pharmacy Association (ASPA) was there making calamine lotion with the kids, while Discover E, a student group supported by the Faculty of Engineering, was on hand to give a demonstration on "Science Around the House." ARVP displayed two "ground vehicles" that could detect objects in front of them in order to manoeuvre around them.

"The basic idea behind it is that there are so many programs out

there designed to get young women interested in science, it kind of leaves the young men [out]," Tori Richards, President of Science Fundamentals explained. "SF is not gender-biased; it tries to get all elementary students [...] interested in science."

Science FUNdamentals works to achieve this by going into classrooms all over the city and giving hands-on demonstrations to the students. In the future, the group hopes to expand their program to include junior high, and have also been invited to do some demonstrations at the YMCA.

Richards explained that events such as FUNday are designed to "show [children] that science [...] is all around them; it is part of their everyday life even if they don't realize it."

"It makes science something that's more than just some obscure man in lab in a white coat. It shows science can be fun."

—Megan Kingdon, News Writer

NEWS BRIEF

SCIENCE KIDS HAVE ALL THE FUN

Science isn't always the first thing that comes to mind when looking to entertain children, but for those children who gathered on campus Sunday, science was fun.

The children were attending Science FUNday, an event, put on by Science FUNdamentals, a student group aimed at building children's interest in science.

There was a lot to capture the attention and imaginations of the children and parents attending: film canister rockets, a mini crime scene, a walk-through solar system, and even a self-guiding remote-control bear, courtesy of the Autonomous Robotic Vehicle Project (ARVP), to name but a few. All around the room things glowed, moved, and changed colour, showing the participants that science wasn't

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