

2019-2020 SRG-EC Final Report

Based on the 2018-2019 executive team's foundation, our main goals for this year was to improve visibility of the SRG at the local, national and international level, facilitate DDS/DH research, career development planning, and future planning. We continue to store documents related to our constitution, meeting agendas and minutes, event details and finances in a shared google drive that will be shared with the incoming team during transition. Some of the new tasks we have taken this year include creating a bank account, establishing effective financial practices in order to be fiscally responsible.

1. Improve visibility:

To improve visibility of the SRG, we continue to use the official UAlberta email and public Facebook page to communicate to students about upcoming events. Additionally, new this year, we have worked with Jessalyn King to set up an official SRG webpage on the School of Dentistry website which is accessible to the public. This [website](#) provides the public information about the SRG mandate, biographies of the executive roster, photos from past events, newsletters, list of upcoming events and links to active research opportunities. This website has been kept up to date throughout the year. A bi-annual Student Research Group newsletter was shared to continue communication with the students to summarize SRG's efforts each semester. All the present and past newsletters have been archived on the SRG website. Finally, for the first time this year, we hosted an SRG Kickoff event in October to introduce all students to the newly elected SRG representatives along with the events that we have planned for the upcoming year. To increase SRG visibility, we have ordered lanyards with SRG logo and website details such that people are more aware of who we are and what we do.

At the national level, we have worked with Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR) in setting up a webpage for [UAlberta SRG](#) on the NCOHR website to increase our outreach. We have also hosted NCOHR director, Dr. Alain Moreau, at our University this year. Dr. Moreau shared upcoming funding opportunities that NCOHR has to offer and in the meanwhile, graduate and undergraduate students were given an opportunity to present an elevator pitch about their research and receive feedback from him.

2. Facilitate DDS/DH student research:

To facilitate undergraduate student participation in research, we hosted Fall and Winter Faculty Research Mixers which provided students with an opportunity to interact/collaborate with faculty conducting research at our school. We also hosted a 4-session series on how to synthesize a poster for all the undergraduate and graduate students participating in research this summer. To foster research collaboration and professional development for graduate students, we organized and hosted for the first time, the annual graduate student research day. SRG provided monetary awards for the top presentations at the research day. We also provided two monetary awards to a presenter and attendee of the StuDENT seminar series which is an initiative where students conducting research in the department present their projects to their fellow colleagues and receive feedback.

3. Career development activities:

To provide career development opportunities, we started for the first time, a Career/Mentoring Series where established researchers in academia, clinical and industry setting were invited to a Q/A style session where they shared their motivations for their chosen career and suggestions for scientists in training interested in pursuing a career in their respective fields. The series concluded with a session where experts on health and wellness management provided insights into how to practice mindfulness and resources available to maintain proper mental health.

4. Future planning:

Similar to the previous team, we initiated the call for nominations for next year's SRGEC so that the 2020-2021 committee can be formed and begin meeting in October. We have been officially recognized as a student group where students could find out about the group and contact us through BearsDen. We have received feedback from the attendees on all our events and this has been culminated into a excel sheet labelled *Feedback 2019-2020* in our shared google drive. This will be accessible for the next committee to better guide events that were successful and those that needed some improvements.

Due to COVID-19, we had to convert most of our originally planned activities to online events including the Graduate Student Research Day and Town hall. In our virtual town hall meeting, we collected feedback on the events we organized so far and what the students wanted to see organized virtually. Some of the events that the students wanted virtually were the career/mental health sessions; presentation skills sessions, etc. For the first time this year, all the team members took responsibilities and completed the role for the position they held in the SRG for 2019-2020 such that we can share this document with students interested in serving on the committee next year. The completed roles and responsibilities document is up on our website.

A summary of our 2019-2020 budget and the list of events throughout the year follows.

| Event | Description | Department | SRG |
|--|---|------------------|----------|
| SRG Kickoff | Samosas and Chai | | \$64.67 |
| Fall Mixer | Sandwiches, Juice Boxes | \$351.97 | |
| Spring Mixer | Pizza | \$160.36 | |
| Graduate Student Research Day | Top Presentation Awards (6 awards) | | \$350.00 |
| StuDENT Seminar Series Awards | 1 presentation award + 1 attendee award | | \$20.00 |
| NCOHR Director Dr. Alain Moreau Lunch presentation | Pizza | \$170.44 | |
| SRG Lanyards | 50 Lanyards | | \$284.03 |
| | Total | \$682.77 | \$718.70 |
| | Combined Total | \$1401.47 | |

| Month | Event |
|-----------|---|
| September | SRG Elections |
| October | SRG Kickoff Event SRG Fall Newsletter |
| November | Fall Faculty Research Mixer |
| December | Selection and Invitation of Sperber Lecture Speaker |
| January | CDSC Conference NSRG Webinar |
| February | Spring Research Mixer NCOHR Town Hall How to make an elevator pitch presentation? |

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| March | IADR Conference – cancelled due to COVID Day of Dentistry – cancelled due to COVID SRG Town Hall Survey |
| April | SRG Winter Newsletter |
| May | Effective Presentation Skills Workshop by Dr. Liran Levin Sperber Lecture – cancelled due to COVID |
| June | Graduate Student Research Day |
| July | Virtual Summer Student Welcome Career panel + Networking Series – Academic Panel Career panel + Networking Series – Clinical Panel Career panel + Networking Series – Industry Panel |
| August | Career panel + Networking Series – Mental Health Panel How to make a research poster (Part I – III) – Introduction, Methods, Results How to make a research poster (Part IV) – Research Synthesis |
| September | Roles and Responsibilities Document filled by Executive Call of Nominations for 2020-2021 Executives SRG Elections |

Sincerely,
2019-2020 SRGEC

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| Pranidhi Baddam | President, Research Graduate Student Representative |
| Daniela Roth | Vice President, FOMD Council Student Representative |
| Linnet Immaraj | Secretary, PDF Representative |
| Umar Rekhi | Treasurer, Member-at-Large |
| Julia Piche | GSA Councillor |
| Karen Ho | Graduate Studies Committee Representative |
| Simran Sarao | DDS Representative |
| Dominic Votta | DH Representative |
| Maryam Elyasi | Clinical Graduate Student Representative |
| Heather Good | SRG Coordinator |
| Dr. Patrick Flood | Associate Chair Research |
| Dr. Maryam Amin | Faculty Representative |