

CINI 2018: Building Healthy Civil Society through Engagement, Technology & Innovation

Planning Continues

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South Asian Woman takes great pride in supporting and participating in CINI 2018 — a unique conference. This is the third conference, held every four years in Surrey, British Columbia. The conference is organized by the Canada India Network Society, and co-hosted by the Fraser Health Authority and Simon Fraser University. CINI 2018 is very special, as it is also a midyear conference for the Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin — GAPIO (www.gapio.in).

In keeping with the strongly-held value of connecting the dots and linking with organizations with a similar vision, this conference is also supported by the Canadian Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage (CAPIH) and Physicians with Interest in South Asia (PISA-BC).

CINI 2018 will be held at the Central City Campus of Simon Fraser University on June 8 to 10, 2018. The kickoff is on the evening of June 8 with the opening ceremonies to be held at the City of Surrey's Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre. The rest of the program will be held at the Surrey Campus of Simon Fraser University. Full details and registration are available on the website: www.thecins.org.

The theme of the conference is building healthy civil society through engagement, technology and innovation. The conference is unique in that the program is based on practical and outcome-focused topics. Each session focuses on specific projects either already in progress or planned. The conference provides an opportunity to make specific recommendations, and the CINS group follows the progress and facilitates successful outcomes.

For CINI 2018, four sessions are planned. The first session on Saturday morning is about engagement with the community and will cover lowering the burden of chronic diseases, especially diabetes. Already confirmed as co-chair is Honourable George Abbott, the former Minister of Health of The Government of British Columbia. The work of Sehat Program of Public and Population Health, Fraser Health led by Deljit Bains, and innovative work of Sean McKelvey on diet and diabetes will be featured. British Columbia has many active projects in the area of engaging the community directly; a long-standing project of the University of British Columbia on South Asian health, led by Dr. Gulzar Cheema, will be

featured as a part of this session. There is much interest in focusing on community engagement and maybe a “war” can be declared on lowering the burden of diabetes through behaviour modification.

A session on palliative care and end-of-life issues will be the focus of the second presentation for the morning session. The session will be co-chaired by the former President of the Cancer Agency of BC, Dr. Simon Sutcliff. The work of BC Centre for Palliative Care and the experience of the project in India of Two Worlds will be shared. The session will explore the learnings and experiences from British Columbia and India. The morning session will close with a session on mental health and addiction. Confirmed as co-chair is the Vice-President at Fraser Health and a member of the steering committee for the conference, Dr. Victoria Lee. The session will explore difficult issues of mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction in the South Asian community. Local experience will be shared of the current initiatives. Dr. Nitisha Puri, a passionate family physician with a practice in addiction medicine, will be a speaker. It is planned that these three sessions will provide a forum for building a healthy society

through an engagement of the providers, patients, and the community and policy makers.

The afternoon session will include many projects, currently underway, involving technology and its use in building a healthy society. The session will be co-chaired by the President of British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) — Kathy Kinloch. BCIT is a premier teaching and training institute in the province, which is actively engaged in projects in India. One of these projects is led jointly by the Director of MAKE+ and Product and Process Applied Research Team (PART) at BCIT — Nancy Paris; and Manav Chaudhary of India will be featured, too. In addition, the City of Surrey is a focal point for innovation and technology development through its project Innovation Boulevard. Dr. Samudra Dissanayake, of the project, is a member of the advisory committee and is a champion of the session. Also planned is a session on the use of eHealth, based on the work of Dr. Kendal Ho of the University of British Columbia. The works of Dr. Ash Parameswaran of Simon Fraser University and several others will be featured. We are very excited to put this session of technology, innovation and engagement together.

The evening of Saturday marks the signature banquet at the famous Royal Palace Banquet Hall, located in the Payal Business Centre in Surrey, BC. This is usually a sold-out event, and is attended by leaders in the academic, health, government and business industries. This year, we will have added features of members of GAPIO from around the globe joining us. The evening is a great opportunity to meet and network to build a healthy society, and also stronger friendships and links between Canada and India. The management and chefs of the hall take great pride in showcasing healthy and delicious Indian food for the evening.

Sunday will start with a morning session about integrative health, and exploring how knowledge of Indian and Chinese medicine can be incorporated and infused in current medical modalities to build even stronger health. This session will be co-chaired by the internationally renowned physician and Director of Integrative Health Institute at the University of Alberta, Dr. Sunita Vohra. Dr. Vohra has been actively pursuing such an integration in the Canadian medical curriculum. Presentations in this session will include Ayurvedic medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and experience of cancer patients with some of these modalities, with the role of marketing and availability of fast and healthy food completing the session. A post-conference round table is planned to pursue some of these areas for specific recommendations, including research areas and future training in Canadian academic institutes. We hope with the support of the community and academic institutes, specific projects will be initiated. Also planned is a wellness public show at the Central City to share information on these areas with the members of the community.

The last session of the conference is on overarching the areas of leadership, ethics, quality and human resources. Leading authorities, including the Deans of the Simon Fraser University from Canada and India, will share their experiences and possibilities of specific projects on building of quality, as well as the development of skills in leadership, ethics and professionalism. The conference will end with the closing session with recommendations and the next steps going forward. Registration is now open at our website www.thecins.org. More information can be obtained by emailing at arun@thecins.org.



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