Rehabilitation Sciences Student Executive Committee Minutes

Date: December 1, 2020

Time: 4:00, Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Kim, Joanne, Koehle, Bill, Cristina, Jasmin, Gordon, Thalia, Smruthi, Myrah

Regrets: Christy

Minute Taker: Thalia

Agenda:

1. **Approval of Past Minutes**

* Kim, Kohle

1. **Approval of Agenda**

* Kim, Kohle

1. **RHSC Program Chair Update (Bill)**

* Bill is continuing to review the RHSC program and look for ways to improve it.
  + Will see how other programs award their GSI at the Faculty of Medicine GPEC committee meeting next week. A new adjudication procedure might be implemented in the new year.
  + Currently collecting data on post-doc productivity – will reach out to Jasmin regarding performance indicators
  + Reviewing other Rehab Sciences programs (e.g., McMaster) to see what our program can adopt. There is a specific interest in finding ways to keep alumni engaged.
  + Looking to increase minimum PhD guaranteed funding from 18.2k to 22k, and potentially introduce minimum funding for master’s students.
* Working with Christy on RHSC website improvements. Secured resources from PT department to revamp website that will hopefully go live in February.
  + Will have bi-monthly features on trainees

1. **Post-doc Update (Jasmin)**

* Nothing major to report, group looking forward to gingerbread house building

1. **Student Engagement/Buy-in Strategies (Jasmin)**

* Jasmin presented on COM-B model to help the group brainstorm strategies to increase student engagement in RSEC events. Some suggestions:
  + Going through the trainee list and identifying key points of contact (“micro influencers”) from each lab for sharing events (or other opportunities for one-to-one contact e.g., peer mentor, check-ins).
  + Get feedback from students to find RSEC's "Big White" event (i.e., something a good bunch of people can get pumped about and helps to build real relationships)
  + Including a calendar invite in event emails to reduce the steps necessary for attendance
  + Encourage partners/families to attend events
  + Offer food (and drinks)
* Remaining challenges:
  + How to we reach those who don’t know anyone in the program or only have one other person in their lab?
  + How to we develop relationships between individuals online?
* Discussion to have a program-wide communication platform (e.g., Slack/Teams)
  + Some hesitation that it might fizzle out

1. **Professional Development (Cristina)**
   1. How to be an RHSC academic blog

* Update: will run a pilot blog (aiming to have it up and running by next week) that covers the following topics
  + managing work-life balance
  + additional courses to take in the program
  + securing funding during your degree
  + mental health resources
* Feedback regarding this pilot blog will help build a more extensive one that covers more material

1. **Social (Myrah)**
   1. Gingerbread event

* Email has gone out to participants regarding pick-up/delivery of gingerbread houses
* Some spots available if RSEC members want to join!
* Currently 19 people signed up

1. **Next Meeting**
   1. January 5th 4:00pm