



DOHaD Canada Inc.
Annual General Meeting 2023 (Virtual)
Minutes
July 20, 2023; 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (EST)

Number of attendees: 22 participants

1. Receipt of the agenda

The meeting agenda was received and acknowledged by all attendees.

2. Approval of Minutes of previous AGM (June 9, 2022)

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on June 9, 2022, were approved by the attendees.

3. President's Update (Stephen Matthews)

Stephen Matthews provided an update on the recent developments within DOHaD Canada. He highlighted the growth in membership and celebrated the success of the World Congress held in Vancouver. Matthews also discussed significant changes in the relationships between DOHaD Canada and the international society. These changes are expected to bring considerable benefits, including increased revenue, although they require a recalibration of DOHaD Canada's vision. He expressed his gratitude for having served as president and announced that Anita Kozyrskyj would take over as interim president until the elections in November 2023.

Anita Kozyrskyj addressed the meeting, expressing her pleasure in assisting with the leadership transition during this pivotal period. She brought attention to the first in-person DOHaD Canada meeting since the onset of COVID, which took place in Montebello, noting its significance in re-establishing direct engagements within the DOHaD community. Kozyrskyj also reflected on the Vancouver World Congress, specifically highlighting the satellite meetings that included a notable session on Epigenetics, led by Marc Andre Sirard and his team, and the first Indigenous DOHaD meeting organized by Alexandra King and Rhonda Bell. She commended the excellent presentation of Vancouver and the remarkable talents of both DOHaD researchers and Indigenous participants. Finally, Kozyrskyj underscored the benefits of integrating more closely with the international society of DOHaD, emphasizing the global connections and collaborative opportunities it offers.

4. Welcome new Council members (Anita K)

AK introduce new council members

- Dr. Elnaz Vaghef Mehrabani (Trainee Development Committee)
- Dr. Gillian England Mason (Trainee Development Committee)
- Dr. John E. Krzeczowski (at-large)
- Dr. Dr. Tina Montreuil (Québec)



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- Dr. Sophie Petropoulos (Québec)
- Dr. Maryam Kebbe (New Brunswick)

5. Secretary report (Maria Ospina)

Maria Ospina presented the secretary report, stating that DOHaD Canada currently has 448 members, including 212 trainees, 204 faculty members, and 32 others. Maria Ospina introduced the new membership model linking DOHaD Canada with the International Society of DOHaD as a Regional Chapter. Members of DOHaD Canada now need to join the International Society to maintain their regional membership. To facilitate this transition, DOHaD International is offering a complimentary Associate Membership to those who are not yet full international members.

Starting January 1, 2024, DOHaD Canada members must renew their International Society membership to continue their affiliation with the regional body. This change aims to strengthen global collaboration and enhance member benefits by aligning more closely with the international community. The leadership encouraged members to renew their international memberships promptly to stay connected and benefit from global resources and networking opportunities.

If not yet a member of DOHaD International, DOHaD Canada members will receive an email from DOHaD International about this transition with information about how to log in, description of the new benefits, and suggestions from where to get started.

6. Treasurer report (Tim Regnault)

Tim Regnault provided an update on the financial status of DOHaD Canada. The financial year report for 2022-2023 captures expenses related to the DOHaD 2022 Vancouver meeting.

7. Committee reports

a) Education Committee (Tim Regnault, Gerlinde Metz)

The Education Committee presented results from a recent survey conducted by the Education Committee, which pointed to a significant demand within the community for a DOHaD-based training program. In response, DOHaD Canada is planning to develop such a program to fulfill this need. The Education Committee provided an overview of DOHaD Canada's active involvement with the ENRICH (Empowering Next-generation Researchers In Perinatal and Child Health) platform. This engagement is aimed at supporting emerging researchers in the field and fostering a robust academic community. For the 2023-2024 period, the following activities are planned to enhance member engagement and outreach:

- **Mentorship Cafes Program:** This initiative will provide informal settings where experienced researchers can share insights and guidance with newer members of the community.
- **Video Series:** To supplement the ENRICH support materials, a new video series will be developed. These videos aim to provide additional resources and learning tools for perinatal and child health researchers.
- **One-page DOHaD Canada PDF Document:** A bilingual (French and English) document will be created to introduce what DOHaD is and who DOHaD Canada represents. This guide will be used



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for outreach purposes, facilitating public speaking opportunities and networking with stakeholders such as groups and schools.

b) Trainee Development Committee (Christian Bellissimo, Maryam Kebbe)

The Trainee Development Committee (TDC) played a significant role in organizing the 2022 DOHaD World Congress, facilitating sessions and contributing to the overall success of the event. The TDC focused on engaging more with EDII (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization) initiatives, fostering a more inclusive environment within the DOHaD community. The development of a dedicated Slack page for DOHaD Canada was initiated to improve communication and collaboration among members. The Committee initiated the TDC Seminar Series to provide training and development opportunities for trainee members of DOHaD Canada.

For the 2023-2024 period, the following activities are planned:

- **Launch of DOHaD Canada Slack Page and TDC Seminar Series:** These newly developed platforms will be officially launched to enhance the community's engagement and learning opportunities.
- **Social Media Management:** The committee will take on the management of DOHaD Canada's Twitter and Instagram accounts to boost online presence and member interaction.
- **Career Preparation Workshops:** A series of workshops is planned to cover critical career development topics such as networking, grantsmanship, CV review, and statistics courses. These workshops aim to equip members with essential skills for academic and professional growth.

c) Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee (Stephane Bourque)

The Engagement, Communications, and Outreach Committee provided an update on their recent efforts and future plans to enhance communication strategies for DOHaD Canada. The committee successfully managed a booth at the DOHaD 2022 World Congress, which served as a central point for engaging attendees, disseminating information, and promoting the organization's initiatives. The DOHaD Canada Newsletters have been prepared quarterly to connect the DOHaD Canada community.

For the 2023-2024 period, the following activities are planned:

- **Website Integration:** The committee plans to continue integrating the DOHaD Canada website as the central platform for communication. This strategy aims to streamline access to resources, news, and updates, making it easier for members and the public to obtain information and engage with DOHaD Canada.
- **Collaboration with the TDC:** The ECO Committee will collaborate with the Trainee and Development Committee (TDC) on the new TDC Seminar Series and the Slack page.

d) Scientific Program Committee (Gerald Giesbrecht)

The Scientific Program Committee provided an overview of their contributions to major events in 2023 and outlined their plans for the upcoming year. The committee played a crucial role in organizing and executing the 2022 DOHaD World Congress, contributing to its thematic development and logistical arrangements. The committee helped coordinating the DOHaD Canada Annual Scientific Meeting in Montebello, focusing on the latest research and developments within the DOHaD field.



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For the 2023-2024 period, the following activities are planned:

- **DOHaD Canada Annual Scientific Meeting in 2024 (Vancouver):** Plans are already underway for the next annual meeting, which will be held in Vancouver. The committee is focused on organizing a comprehensive program that will include sessions on cutting-edge research, keynote speeches from leading figures in the field, and opportunities for members to present their work.

8. Meeting adjourned at: 1 pm EST

9. Next meeting: The date and location of the next meeting will be announced at a later time.