**CONVERGE 2024 Rural Health Symposium**

**Call for Abstracts**

**(Please find call for abstract form on page 3 of this document)**

**Catalyst talks: *Sparking Conversations and Igniting Collaborations***

cat·a·lyst /ˈkad(ə)ləst/ *noun* a person or thing that precipitates an event.

**What is a catalyst talk?** It is a brief 7-minute presentation that focuses on an experience or innovation that has successfully addressed a remote and rural health workforce education and training challenge or barrier. Our international symposium will use these talks to spark conversations and ignite future collaborations between colleagues and programs in Scotland and Georgia.

Rural health is a big topic- one too big to address in two ½ day sessions. ***Recognizing this, we are asking speakers to present their work from the perspective of how the education systems and programs can recruit, train, and retain rural health providers in our respective country/state.*** Our 12 invited speakers will set the tone and ignite the conversations for our shared time together. To facilitate this, we have developed questions that need to be addressed in your talk. You are invited for a single panel presentation, but you are expected to be present for the whole of the symposium. We are sharing all of the panel questions with you so that you can fully understand the day’s focus.

**FORMAT:** There will be three panels, each with four invited Catalyst Speakers. Each speaker will have 7 minutes and 7 slides to present their program. **Time and slide limitations will be strictly imposed!** There will be three panels:

1. **Access to Care**
2. **Experiential Learning**
3. **Emerging Topics**

Following each panel presentation, there will be breakout groups for the participants to discuss and reflect on the talks just given. The breakout groups will then reconvene and report the highlights of what they heard and what interests were sparked. We will then segue to the next panel and repeat the presentation-breakout-reflection process for the following 2 panels.

**Access to Care- Questions for Catalyst Speakers**

***Invited panelist are asked to address one or more of the following questions:***

1. What educational solutions have you implemented to address a primary care access concern/issue impacting remote and rural areas?
2. How do you prepare/equip/enable our health professionals to provide timely, person-centered, and high-quality services in remote & rural areas?
3. How do we identify and train providers to practice in remote and rural areas?
4. How can the integration of social care influence access to care?

**Experiential Learning- Questions for Catalyst Speakers**

***Invited panelist are asked to address one or more of the following questions:***

1. What interprofessional education (IPE) opportunities have been implemented in your area and what benefits have occurred because of them?
2. What is the value of IPE opportunities in your region, institution, or country?
3. What are the current barriers to community-based learning opportunities in remote and rural areas and how can we successfully address them, or have we successfully addressed them?
4. What are the challenges to recruitment and retention of community placements in remote and rural areas and what approaches have been taken to address these challenges?

**Emerging Topics\*: Questions for Catalyst Speakers**

***Invited panelist are asked to address one or more of the following questions:***

1. What are some initiatives that have been implemented in your institution to attract rural and underserved students into health professional programs?
2. How does identity formation influence program selection and practice location?
3. What are the current barriers to community-based learning opportunities in remote and rural areas and how can we successfully address them, or have we successfully addressed them?
4. How do mental health and resiliency programs impact healthcare professionals and students?

**\*** Emerging topics such as Culture and the Healthcare Workforce, Compassion Fatigue, use of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

**Here are some helpful tips for making your catalyst talks successful:**

* **Have a strong hook.** You don’t have a moment to lose! You need to grab the audience’s attention from the moment you take the stage. Make your point and make it early.
* **Don’t sweat the small stuff.** Avoid getting bogged down in the details. You only have time to present the big picture, the core of the idea. Provide references to a repository with further information and encourage people to contact you if they want to know more.
* **Focus.** Don’t spend too much time on extraneous details.
* **Be sparing with text.** Don’t burden yourself (or the audience) with slides full of text.
* **Focus on a single idea** (or at most 2 or 3).
* **Less is more.** One slide = one thought.
* **Know your target audience.** Invitees for this symposium are seasoned health professionals including clinicians, researchers, educators, policy makers, and administrators. They have all been provided pre-readings to help clarify the similarities and differences between Scotland and Georgia. It is reasonable to assume a high level of knowledge around the issues of remote and rural education and healthcare training challenges.
* **Don’t talk too quickly.**
* **Use visualizations.** Design them carefully so that their interpretation is self-evident, and you won’t need to spend time explaining them.
* **Use images, animations and funny GIFs.** You are there to inform *and* entertain! And if you are not funny, just make sure YOU are having fun during your presentation. Your audience will pick up on it.
* **Think of your slides as resources.** Provide links which people can follow to find out more.
* **Clear contact details.** Make sure that your contact details are conspicuously evident on your first and last slides. Make it easy for people will want to contact you.
* **Practice! Practice! Practice!** A brief script is a good idea. Practice reading your script before your session. It’s okay if you go under 7 minutes, but not longer.

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| **Ready to join the 2024 CONVERGE Rural Health Symposium and to share a Catalyst Talk with the assembled participants? Here is what we need:** | |
| Submit the following to: [converge2024@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:converge2024@abdn.ac.uk) **by midnight August 15th, 2024, local time** | |
|  | |
| Title: | (no more than 150 words)Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Abstract: | PRESENTATION - A brief summary of the presentation. This will be used in the symposium program. Click or tap here to enter text.  ABSTRACT -A brief summary of the Catalyst Talk. This will be used in the symposium program for the day. Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Presenter: | Name and Role: Click or tap here to enter text.  Institution and Department: Click or tap here to enter text.  Main Contact Name: Click or tap here to enter text.  Email: Click or tap here to enter text.  Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Theme: | Access to Care  Experiential Practice  Emerging Topics |
| Description: | Describe your work in more detail from the questions below:  Why are you excited about the topic? Click or tap here to enter text.  Why will others be interested? Click or tap here to enter text.  What do you understand the impact of this work to be? Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Platform: | You will be asked to join a Microsoft Team or Zoom meeting with the other panelists to become familiar with your presenting colleagues and to encourage comfort with the format. Technical questions will also be addressed during this time to assure your technology is compatible with the symposium products. |
| Slides: | We must receive a short bio (no more than one page) and profile photograph by **3rd October 2024**.  Your slide deck must be received by 10th October 2024 to be loaded on the master server. |
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| ***Thank you for your work and your willingness to share. We are excited to hear and see what you will contribute and to benefit from the catalyst you will provide.*** | |