2023 Lean Healthcare Academic Conference Recap

By Elizabeth Joyce Freeman, Senior Advisor, Stanford Medicine Center for Improvement

On October 4-5, 2023, approximately 235 attendees, from 31 institutions and 3 countries participated in this year's conference at the Francis C. Arrillaga Alumni Center. The theme was *Better Health for All Through Improvement.* There were 27 presentations and 48 posters from conference participants. The organizing committee received almost 100 abstracts from which these presentations were chosen.

Following welcoming comments from Dean Minor, Dr. Chris Longhurst, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Digital Officer from UCSD, gave the plenary address. This was followed by a panel discussion on applying a health equity lens in improvement with the sharing of several great case studies. After a number of breakout sessions, Denise Bennet, Lean Coach for Stanford Medicine Children's Health, shared her reflections on 20 Years of Improving Together. Day One closed with a moving session honoring Edgar Schein, by his son Peter Schein, Dr. Dan Murphy, and John Shook.

The weather was warm, but the setting was shaded for the evening reception with music provided by Stuart Rosenberg and Friends.

Day Two opened with a welcome from Stanford Medicine Children's Health CEO, Paul King. Dr. Lane Donnelly, Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics at the UNC School of Medicine, gave a terrific presentation on Improving Quality and Reducing Costs in Value-Based Contracts. This was followed by a very engaging presentation on the VHA High Reliability Journey from Walt Dannenberg, Director and CEO of the VA Long Beach Health Care System.

After several breakout sessions in the morning, Alpa Vyas led an interactive session on Elevating the Patient Experience. Terry Platchek held a fireside chat with Bob Rebitzer on Bob's book, *Why Not Better and Cheaper*, on advances in transforming waste in healthcare. Liz Wiseman, author of *Multipliers*, gave a tremendous closing talk on the power of multipliers and the effect of accidental diminishers.

Dr. Lauren Destino and Colin James, of Stanford Medicine Children's Health, announced the winners of the abstract poster competitions.

Sean Paul Teeling, University College, Dublin, received the best abstract award, Using Patient Led Data Collection, *Analysis and Solution Co-design in Improvement Interventions, to Elevate the Patient and Family Experience*.

The People's Choice Poster Award went to Sara Bunke, George Aulson, Christopher Ojerio, Adan Sandoval, Mason Ybarra, and Miranda Schmidt, from Stanford Medicine Children's Health, for their poster, *Improving Patient Flow on PCU 380*.

The Judge's Choice Poster Award went to Evelyn Ly Anzelde and Paris Warren, from Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center, *A Multidisciplinary Approach to Reducing Cardiovascular Surgical Site Infections.*

Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you to all the conference participants. See you next year!