2020 DOHaD Canada Scientific Meeting Conference Report
February 11-12, 2020 Banff AB

Prepared by: Jennifer Thompson and Meghan Riddell 2020 Meeting Co-Chairs
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Introduction:

The 4th annual DOHaD Canada annual scientific meeting was held in Banff, AB at the Banff Centre on February 11-12, 2020. The 2020 conference brought together a group of 102 multidisciplinary scientists spanning the fields of biomedical research, epidemiology, clinician scientists, policy makers, and community members. Participants were in attendance from across Canada as well as from several other countries.

The theme of this year’s meeting was “Environmental influences on Health- A DOHaD Perspective” and showcased the work of investigators from across Canada as well as three international invited speakers on topics including environmental influences on cardiovascular biology, the microbiome, neurobiology, and social environments. Attendees enjoyed two keynote addresses, from Drs. Jacob Freidman and Lucilla Poston, as well as six talks from established researchers. In addition to classical trainee oral presentations, we introduced trainee flash talks to the program this year. This allowed for presentations from 19 trainees.

We would like to thank everyone who helped to ensure the success of this year’s annual meeting. The organizations who provided sponsorship, all attendees and presenters, and the people who helped behind the scenes. Each of these groups were instrumental to our success. The DOHaD community in Canada is thriving and we look forward to seeing all of you at DOHaD Canada 2022!

Co-Chairs Organizing Committee

Dr. Jennifer Thompson
Dr. Meghan Riddell
Sponsorship:

We are grateful for the generosity of the following organizations for their sponsorship of the 2020 meeting:

- Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health; Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta
- Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute
- Women and Children’s Health Research Institute
- Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry; University of Alberta
- Cummings School of Medicine; University of Calgary
- Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; University of Alberta
- Department of Physiology and Pharmacology; University of Calgary
- DOHaD International Society
- Alliance for Human Development
## DOHaD Canada Annual Scientific Meeting

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

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<th>Time</th>
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<td><strong>REGISTRATION</strong></td>
<td>Max Bell Central Foyer</td>
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| 4:45-5:45 pm  | **DOHaD Canada Council Meeting**<br>
                *Council Members only*                 | Max Bell Building, room 156                   |
| 6:00-7:00 pm  | **Dinner**                                  | Sally Borden Building, Vistas Dining Room     |
| 7:00-7:20 pm  | **WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS**               | Max Bell Auditorium                           |
|               | Meghan Riddell, Jennifer Thompson, Co-Chairs<br>
                Stephen Matthews, President, DOHaD Canada |
| 7:20-8:20 pm  | **KEYNOTE LECTURE** - Introduction by John Challis<br>
                **JACOB E. (JED) FRIEDMAN, PhD**<br>
                University of Oklahoma, USA<br>
                *Microbes, macrophages and mitochondria: how early exposure to poor maternal diet programs adult metabolic disease*<br>
                Trainee Moderator: Daniela Urrego |
| 8:20-8:40 pm  | **Trainee Flash Talks** (3 min each)**<br>
                Britanny Gruber, University of Manitoba<br>
                *Dysregulated glucose and fatty acid metabolism in pregnant adiponectin deficient mice contributes to the development of gestational diabetes mellitus*<br>
                Audrey St-Laurent, Laval University<br>
                *Factors influencing physical activity levels in toddlers: results of the 3D FIT study*<br>
                Elizabeth Myles, Dalhousie University<br>
                *Effects of Early Life Probiotic on Adult Anxiety, Weight, and Systemic Inflammation After Exposure to Western Diet*<br>
                Ousseynou Sarr, Western University<br>
                *Western diet feeding during early life alters hepatic transcriptome and promotes lean Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in young guinea pigs*<br>
                Nicole Brunton, University of Manitoba<br>
                *Data driven approaches to examine casual effects of maternal weight on offspring blood pressure at 18 years of age*<br>
                Sandra Lafortune, Université de Montréal<br>
                *Stress During Pregnancy: Information Needs Assessment to Increase Awareness Among Pregnant Women* |
| 8:40-10:00 pm | **NETWORKING EVENT**                        | Kinnear Centre, room 105                      |
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

7:00 - 8:15 am  REGISTRATION for Late Arrivals  Max Bell Central Foyer

7:00 - 8:15 am  Breakfast  Sally Borden Building, Vistas Dining Room

8:15 - 8:20 am  OPENING REMARKS  Meghan Riddell, Jennifer Thompson, Co-Chairs  Max Bell Auditorium

8:20 - 9:20 am  KEYNOTE LECTURE - Introduction by Kent Thornburg  LUCILLA POSTON, PhD  King’s College London, UK  DOHaD, maternal obesity and diabetes

SESSION 1  ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON THE MICROBIOME  Max Bell Auditorium
Moderator: Deb Sloboda - Trainee Moderator: Danilo Fernandes da Silva

9:20 - 9:50 am  Invited Speaker  Anita Kozyrskyj, PhD, University of Alberta  Re-wilding the infant gut microbiome

9:50 - 10:05 am  Trainee Talk  Charles Dupras, McGill University  Human rights in the postgenomic era: Challenges and opportunities arising with epigenetics

10:05 - 10:25 am  Coffee Break  Max Bell Central Foyer

SESSION 2  ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES ON NEUROBIOLOGY  Max Bell Auditorium
Moderator: Gerlinde Metz - Trainee Moderator: Delhaes Flavien

10:25 - 10:55 am  Invited Speaker  Deborah Kurrasch, PhD, University of Calgary  Sensitivity of the rodent developing hypothalamus to maternal stressors

10:55 - 11:05 am  Trainee Talk  Preeti Kar, University of Calgary  Associations between breastfeeding during infancy and white matter microstructure in young children

11:05 - 11:35 am  Invited Speaker  Ryan Van Lieshout, MD, PhD, McMaster University  If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands: Emotion regulatory changes in the infants of women treated for postpartum depression

11:35 - 11:50 am  Trainee Talk  Bahar Amani, McMaster University  Postpartum depression and neurobiological outcomes in infants: A systematic review
Trainee Flash Talks (3 mins each)

- Stephanie King, University of Lethbridge
  Transgenerational and Multigenerational Prenatal Stress Induces Altered Epigenetic Marks and Gene Expression in the Placenta and Fetal Cortex
- Camille Bastien Tardif, Université de Montréal
  The effect of an exercise intervention program on cardiorespiratory and skeletal muscle function in young adults born preterm – The HAPI Fit project

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch
Sally Borden Building, Vistas Dining Room

1:15 – 1:30 2021 World Congress on DOHaD
Janice Bailey and John Challis
Max Bell Auditorium

SESSION 3 ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES ON THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM
Max Bell Auditorium

Moderator: Sandra Davidge - Trainee Moderator: Tamara Gutierrez

1:30-1:35 Housekeeping
Meghan Riddell, Jennifer Thompson, Co-Chairs

1:35-2:05 Invited Speaker
Stephane Bourque, University of Alberta
Iron deficiency in pregnancy: a deceptively complex health issue in Canada and abroad

2:05-2:20 Trainee Talk
Gregory Robinson, Western University
The effects of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol on fetal heart development in mice

2:20-2:35 Trainee Talk
Ronan Noble, University of Alberta
Maternal iron restriction in pregnancy causes cardiac dysfunction and morphological changes in neonates

2:35-3:05 Invited Speaker
Phoebe Stapleton, Rutgers University, USA
Cardiovascular susceptibility in offspring after maternal engineered nanomaterial exposure

3:05-3:15 Trainee Flash Talks (3 mins each)
- Efrah Yousuf, McMaster University
  Persistence of bacteria in the preterm infant gut weeks after probiotic supplementation in the NICU
- Jia Hang Li, University of Alberta
  Effect of Perinatal Iron Deficiency on Markers of Neonatal Cardiac Mitochondrial Biogenesis and Maturation
Joshua Heynen, University of Lethbridge
*Cumulative Ancestral and Lifetime Adversities Alter Stress Vulnerability in Metabolic Pathways in a Two-Hit Stress Model*

3:15-3:35 pm  Coffee Break
Max Bell Central Foyer

SESSION 4  SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND DOHaD
Moderator: Gerry Giesbrecht - Trainee Moderator: Roberta Bgeginski

3:35-4:05  Invited Speaker
Maria Ospina, University of Alberta
*Social determinants of health in DOHaD research*
Max Bell Auditorium

3:45-4:20  Trainee talk
Camilla A Michalski, University of Toronto
*Maternal cannabis use and adverse birth outcomes*
Max Bell Auditorium

4:20-4:30  Trainee Flash Talks (3 mins each)
- Yulia Fahkr, University of Alberta
  *Tumour necrosis factor-A (TNF-A) and sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) independently impact syncytialization without synergistic effects*
- Carmen Tessier, University of Alberta
  *The Impact of Maternal Prenatal Depression on Infant Gut Colonization of C. Difficile and Microbiota Composition at 3-4 Months of Age*
Max Bell Auditorium

4:30-5:30  DOHaD Canada AGM Business Meeting
Max Bell Auditorium

5:30-5:45  Closing remarks and awards
Meghan Riddell, Jennifer Thompson
Conference Summary:

4th Annual meeting of the Canadian DOHaD Society

- 1.5 day format
- 102 attendees (97 from Canada; 3 USA, 2 international)
- 1st day Keynote speaker Jacob Friedman and 6 trainee flash talks; networking event
- 2nd day- Keynote speaker Lucilla Poston, 6 invited speakers (Anita Kozryskyj, Deborah Kurrasch, Ryan Van Leishout, Stephane Bourque, Phoebe Stapleton, Maria Ospina), 6 trainee talks (Preeti Kar, Bahar Amani, Gregory Robinson, Ronan Noble, Camilla Michalski), and 7 trainee flash talks
- Trainee speakers were selected from abstracts submitted to the organizing committee
- Trainee flash talks were selected from attendees with confirmed poster presentations during the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting (to be presented the evening of February 12)
- Balanced budget with net profit of $5065 (Income $29,845; Sponsorship $21,700 Registration $ 8145)
Trainee Awards:

Trainee Oral Presentations:

1st Place: Camilla Michalski
2nd Place: Gregory Robinson

Trainee Flash Talk Presentations Awards:
1st Place: Camille Bastien Tardiff
2nd Place: Efrah Yousuf

Thank you to all of the judges for their participation and all the trainees for their exceptional presentations.
Participant Evaluation:

Following the conference an evaluation was emailed to the participants so that they could evaluate the meeting. There were 42 respondents (~40% of attendees).

1) The 2020 DOHAD Canada annual meeting website (DOHaD UToronto Meeting 2020) was easy to navigate and find information such as registration, booking accommodations, and meeting programme?  

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</table>

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (3, 7.1%), Fair (6, 14.3%), Good (25, 59.5%), Excellent (8, 19.0%)

2) Online registration steps were clear and it was easy to pay?

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (4, 9.5%), Fair (6, 14.3%), Good (19, 45.2%), Excellent (13, 31.0%)
3) How would you rate communications leading up to the conference? (showed)

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (1, 2.4%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (8, 19.0%), Good (15, 35.7%), Excellent (18, 42.9%)

4) Did you like the flash talk format of presentations? (showed)

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (1, 2.4%), Fair (3, 7.1%), Good (9, 21.4%), Excellent (29, 69.0%)
5) Was the relationship between the flash talks and CNPRM poster presentations valuable?

Counts/frequency: Not valuable - too complicated (2, 4.8%), Somewhat valuable (3, 7.1%), Valuable (18, 42.9%), Very valuable (19, 45.2%)

6) Would you like to see Flash talks included in future DOHaD Canada meetings?

Counts/frequency: Yes (39, 92.9%), No (3, 7.1%)
What format would you like to see (choose one) (dohad69y)  

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<td>3 (7.1%)</td>
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Counts/frequency: Flash talk advertising poster session presentations (26, 66.7%), Flash talks without poster session presentations (13, 33.3%).

7) Should a DOHaD Canada specific poster session be returned to for future DOHaD Canada meetings? (dohad77)  

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Counts/frequency: Yes (26, 61.9%), No (16, 38.1%)
10) How would you rate the themes chosen for the meeting (Meeting theme: New Challenges in Today’s Environment; Specific themes: Environmental impacts on the Microbiome; Environmental Influences on Neurobiology; Environmental Influences on the Cardiovascular System; Social Environment and DOHaD) (dohad10) 

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (3, 7.1%), Good (13, 31.0%), Excellent (26, 61.9%)

11) What themes and specific topic areas would you like to see at future DOHaD Canada Annual Meetings? (dohad11)

- Assisted reproductive technologies
- Lung development
- Animal models, non-clinical DOHaD applications
- Reproductive immunology
- Impacts on germ cells
- Father’s role
- Legal and ethical aspects of DOHaD
- Deleterious conditions associated with preterm birth
- More diverse exposures (i.e. physical activity)
- Different Organ Systems, organ development, cardiovascular/cardiac, translational research in DOHaD, Nutrition, the Placenta, Mechanisms of nutrient transport across the placenta
- DOHaD and mitochondrial dysfunction, DOHaD methodology
- Continue with DOHaD research on the gut microbiome and neurobiology
- Continue including research across the four pillars of research
- Metabolomics theme, stress, trans-generational stress
- Impact of physical exercise on DOHaD.
- DoHaD in cohort studies and RCTs, interventions
- Inter- and transgenerational programming, adverse experiences
12) Were you satisfied with the speakers chosen to present? (Dataset12)

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Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some what satisfied (0, 0.0%), Satisfied (13, 31.0%), Very satisfied (29, 69.0%)

13a) How would you rate the quality of the Principle Investigator speakers? (Dataset13a)

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (0, 0.0%), Good (11, 26.2%), Excellent (31, 73.8%)
13b) How would you rate the overall quality of the Trainee Oral presentations?

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (3, 7.1%), Good (17, 40.5%), Excellent (22, 52.4%)

13c) How would you rate the overall quality of the Trainee Flash Talk presentations

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (2, 4.8%), Good (20, 47.6%), Excellent (20, 47.6%)
14) Were you satisfied with the number of Keynote speakers? (dohod14)

Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some - what satisfied (2, 4.8%), Satisfied (13, 31.0%), Very satisfied (27, 64.3%)

15a) How would you rate Dr. Jed Friedman's Keynote lecture? (dohod15)

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (2, 4.8%), Fair (3, 7.1%), Good (17, 40.5%), Excellent (20, 47.6%)
15b) How would you rate Dr. Lucilia Poston's Keynote lecture?

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0%), Poor (1, 2.4%), Fair (2, 4.8%), Good (7, 16.7%), Excellent (32, 76.2%)

16) How would you rate the networking event?

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0%), Poor (1, 2.4%), Fair (2, 4.8%), Good (18, 42.9%), Excellent (12, 28.6%), Didn't attend (9, 21.4%)
16b) How would you rate the DOHaD Canada Annual General Meeting

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (0, 0.0%), Fair (1, 2.4%), Good (17, 40.5%), Excellent (16, 38.1%), Didn't attend (8, 19.0%)

17a) How would you rate your satisfaction with the meeting overall

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Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some - what satisfied (0, 0.0%), Satisfied (16, 38.1%), Very satisfied (26, 61.9%)
17b) Were you satisfied with the 1.5 day format of the meeting?

Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some - what satisfied (2, 4.8%), Satisfied (16, 38.1%), Very satisfied (24, 57.1%)

17c) Were you satisfied with the length of the sessions?

Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some - what satisfied (1, 2.4%), Satisfied (17, 40.5%), Very satisfied (24, 57.1%)
17d) Did the conference meet your expectations? (dohad17d)

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Counts/frequency: Not satisfied (0, 0.0%), Some - what satisfied (0, 0.0%), Satisfied (15, 35.7%), Very satisfied (27, 64.3%)

18) How likely are you to attend a DOHaD Canada Annual meeting in the future? (dohad18)

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Counts/frequency: Not likely to attend (0, 0.0%), May attend (3, 15.0%), Will attend (34, 81.0%).

22
19) What factor is important for you to decide to attend DOHaD Canada:
(1 lowest - 4 highest)

### Programme / speakers (dohad19a) [Refresh Plot] [View as Chart]

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Counts/frequency: 1 (15, 35.7%), 2 (7, 16.7%), 3 (10, 23.8%), 4 (10, 23.8%)

### Location (dohad19b) [Refresh Plot] [View as Chart]

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Counts/frequency: 1 (8, 19.0%), 2 (10, 23.8%), 3 (12, 28.6%), 4 (12, 28.6%)
**Networking opportunities** (dohad19c)  

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Counts/frequency: 1 (11, 26.2%), 2 (10, 23.8%), 3 (15, 35.7%), 4 (6, 14.3%)

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**Cost** (dohad19d)  

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Counts/frequency: 1 (8, 19.0%), 2 (15, 35.7%), 3 (5, 11.9%), 4 (14, 33.3%)
20) Did you leave DOHaD Canada 2020 having:
Learned something new about DOHaD:
Yes- 98%; No- 2%

Made a new connection:
Yes- 91%; No- 9%

Interacted with our keynote speakers (Dr. Jed Friedman and/or Dr. Lucilla Poston?)
Yes- 48%; No- 52%

Developed a new idea?
Yes- 79%; No- 21%

Practiced your “elevator pitch”:
Yes- 57%; No- 43%

Received useful feedback on your research:
Yes- 52%; No- 48%

Given useful feedback on someone else’s research:
Yes- 69%; No- 31%

21a) How would you rate the conference venue?

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Counts/frequency: Very poor (6, 0.0%), Poor (3, 7.1%), Fair (5, 11.9%), Good (13, 31.0%), Excellent (21, 50.0%)
21b) How would you rate the accommodations? (doahad21b)

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (2, 4.8%), Fair (10, 23.8%), Good (17, 40.5%), Excellent (13, 31.0%)

21c) How would you rate the meals? (doahad21c)

Counts/frequency: Very poor (0, 0.0%), Poor (1, 2.4%), Fair (3, 7.1%), Good (17, 40.5%), Excellent (21, 50.0%)
Demographics:
Training stage:
Trainee- 60%; Faculty- 40%
Are you a DOHaD Canada Member?
Yes- 80%; No- 10%; I don’t know- 10%
Are you a member of the International DOHaD Society?
Yes- 64%; No- 29%; I don’t know- 7%

Additional Comments:
- 2-day meeting at some other time of the year- maybe move it around geographically and hosted by a university? So that everyone in Canada gets to host - we are 300 strong we can do it!
- Please ask the keynote speakers to simplify their presentation a little, so that we all follow. The abusive use of acronyms makes it hard for people who are not experts in the specific field to understand everything.
- Extended coffee breaks instead of networking event
- The invited speakers this year were excellent! I think it would be nice to consider doing something more organized in terms of the networking event to promote interactions.
- Venue that is completely inside (getting from accommodation to conference venue that does not require going outside).
- I liked very much the opportunity they gave to early career investigators to be speakers for the meeting.
- Excellent meeting, thank you to the organizers
## Financial Statements:

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<td><strong>Income- Sponsorship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta Children's Health Research Institute (ACHRI)</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<td>Healthy Outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women and Children's Research Institute (WCHRI)</td>
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<td>Libin Institute- University of Calgary</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOHaD International Society</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIHR IHDCYH</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; University of Alberta</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td>$21,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income- Registration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainee DOHaD Canada Member- Early Bird (39 @ $50)</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
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<td>Trainee Non-DOHaD Canada Member- Early Bird (3 @ $65)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trainee- Late Registration (10 @ $100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty- Early Bird (30 @ $100)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty- Late Registration (10 @ $200)</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and beverage services</td>
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<td>Room rental and AV charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker registrations</td>
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<td>Speaker travel costs</td>
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<td>Victoria DeLuca travel costs</td>
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<td>Trainee presentation awards</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$24,780</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Profit</strong></td>
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