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## INTRODUCTION

- The COVID-19 pandemic shifted the delivery of many continuing professional development (CPD) programs.
- The Council of Psychiatric Continuing Education (COPCE), consisting of CPD leads from Canada's 17 medical schools, meets twice a year to share learnings from and improve CPD programs.
- COPCE hopes to survey its members on the impact of the pandemic and resulting changes on CPD programs.

## OBJECTIVES

- To identify changes made to Canada's medical schools' psychiatric CPD programs as a result of the pandemic.
- To identify changes that may be beneficial to maintain in future CPD programs post-pandemic.

## METHODOLOGY

- An online survey was designed using Opinio, with questions developed iteratively by a COPCE member subgroup in consultation with other psychiatrists and academic staff.
- Questions aimed at understanding the organizational context, technology, and direct impact of the pandemic.
- The survey was disseminated to the 17 schools' CPD Directors or Psychiatry Department Heads in fall 2021.
- Survey reminders were sent via emails
- Preliminary survey results were discussed at the November 2021 meeting of COPCE.

## CONCLUSION

- The pandemic has impacts on CPD content, mode of delivery, program continuity, attendance, costs, etc.
- Some changes were positive and may prove beneficial to maintain even after the pandemic.
- Sharing information through a national network of academic CPD directors offers opportunities for continuous quality improvement in CPD program delivery.

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## RESULTS

### STATISTICS & DEMOGRAPHICS



**9 of 17** Canadian medical schools responded (relatively even distribution in east & west coasts)

- **7 of 9** had the academic role of Director of CPD (or similar name)
- **8 of 9** were psychiatrists
- **1 of 9** was PhD

### “How long have you been in your current CPD leadership position?”

- **2 of 9** said less than 2 years
- **4 of 9** said 2 - 5 years
- **2 of 9** said 5 - 10 years
- **1 of 9** said greater than 10 years

### “Describe responsibilities associated with your role”



## CHANGES TO CPD DELIVERY

		Pre-pandemic	Past 18 months
Grand Rounds	Face-to-face	44.44%	
	Online		100%
	On and offline	55.56%	
Conferences	Face-to-face	66.67%	
	Online		100%
	On and offline	33.33%	

- **6 of 9** experienced a pause/gap in CPD offerings in 2020, lasting 1-3 months
- **8 of 9** had no new or reallocated funding for COVID-related CPD
- **8 of 9** stated their cost of CPD delivery went down

### Did changes taking place in UGME and PGME as a result of COVID affect CPD programming in your department?

- **4 of 9** said no, **3 of 9** had Administrative / Technology changes, and **2 of 9** had content / programming changes
- **7 of 9** felt that audience participation/interactivity was maintained during COVID.
  - The other two felt it was difficult to engage learners, and a reduced richness in discussion compared to in-person delivery.
- **6 of 9** used grand rounds to present clinical information about COVID-service delivery (e.g. protocols, training for redeployment, use of PPE).
- **8 of 9** stated that their CPD offering attendance either went somewhat up (**2/9**) or significantly up (**6/9**); **1/9** stated their attendance went somewhat down.
- Most common type of attendee was physician faculty, reported by **8 of 9** respondents.

## LESSONS LEARNED from PLANNING and IMPLEMENTATION

- **Zoom** was the most-used platform for CPD delivery during COVID-19
- Respondents mainly addressed security concerns through actively monitoring the chat (**8/9**), keeping participants muted (**7/9**), and requiring registration/screening participants (**6/9**)
- Presenters of CPD offerings interacted with the virtual audience through reactions/emojis (**4/9**), online polls (**4/9**), and questions via the chat or asking the audience to unmute (**4/9**)
- **4 of 9** respondents never asked participants to keep cameras on; **4 of 9** asked only for some events, such as for smaller groups or asking questions after presentations
- **5 of 9** did not provide training in online technology for CPD presenters