University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
IHI Open School Chapter
Meredith Kimball and Lisa Fraser

Chapter Description

Background: The UNC chapter was formed in late 2009 by two students in the School of Public Health. Like many other chapters, it is still fairly nascent and we are continuing to build on last year’s activities with a goal of giving it a solid foundation before passing the torch to next year’s leaders.

Membership: Our chapter has 150 students and faculty who are formally subscribed to our listserv (our current measure of membership). However, the chapter’s active members come primarily from Health Policy and Management students within the School of Public Health. There has been interest voiced from nursing, medical, and pharmacy students, but we need to capitalize on their enthusiasm in order to engage their participation.

Current Activities: We’ve planned a number of general body meetings, Lunch ‘n Learns, social mixers, and fundraisers. In addition, we are in the midst of gaining IRB approval to set students up with a project at UNC Hospital, which will address patient readmissions. We’ve also been working closely with director of the Master’s program for Public Health to grant academic credit to students who earn the IHI certificate.

Looking Ahead: One of our focuses this year has been to give the chapter a solid foundation in order to make it sustainable. We’ve gained formal recognition from the school and have been actively seeking out funding sources. With our work with the School of Public Health to award credit for IHI certification, we expect teaching and learning about quality improvement and patient safety to change in the SPH, and hopefully in the schools of Nursing, Medicine, and Pharmacy as well. With increased awareness of UNC’s IHI Open School Chapter, we hope to increase the usage of IHI resources by faculty in their teaching.

Successes and Challenges

Successes:
- The establishment of a committed Officer’s Council has helped to increase enthusiasm for the chapter, encourage more ideas and collaboration, and also ensure continuity from year to year.
- Faculty have been supportive of incorporating IHI Open School materials into the academic curriculum.
- We’re lucky to have a number of local resources who are connected with IHI and its work. These individuals have been a great resource as we continue to develop the chapter.

Challenges:
- Meeting attendance has been difficult to increase given numerous competing priorities. However, the spring semester will be a test of whether academic credit can serve as a good incentive for participation.
- We need to think about ways to appeal to clinical students. It’s our hope that the academic credit we’re establishing within the SPH can serve as a model for the clinical schools.

Chapter Leadership

Co-Presidents
- Lisa Fraser
- Meredith Kimball

Treasurer
- Ana Alvarez

Project Managers
- Leslie Grommersch
- Robert Wallace

Education Chair
- Tyler Robertson

Marketing Chair
- Jessica Tribbett

Social Chair
- Meghan May

Faculty Advisor

Larry Mandelkehr, MBA, CPHQ has been the Director of Performance Improvement for the UNC Health Care System since May 2002, having served previously as Senior Quality Analyst and Programmer since March 1995. He currently teaches at UNC’s School of Public Health and the Kenan-Flagler Business School. He became a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality in 1997. In his current role, he directs UNC Health Care’s performance improvement activities including facilitation of clinical process improvement teams, supports the development of the enterprise data warehouse, and provides oversight of the Core Measures Program.

Fall 2010 Activities

- First set of chapter leaders selected.
- Kick-off membership meeting
- Lunch ‘n Learn speaker event
- IHI Open School Social Event
- UNC Hospital Quality Expo
- Presentation to nursing students
- Secured course credit for IHI online certification
- Established reducing readmissions improvement project within UNC hospital

Upcoming Activities

- Continue Lunch ‘n Learns and Speakers.
- Host case competition with Duke’s Open School chapter.
- Throw our first annual IHI Open School Fundraiser.
- Engage project team in readmission project at UNC Hospital.

Contact Us!

We would love your comments, suggestions, or ideas for collaboration. Please feel free to contact us at either meredith.kimball@gmail.com or lisa.fraser6@gmail.com. Keep this email contact on file for next year though: unc.ihiopenschool@gmail.com.