An Event to Promote Connection and Inclusivity through Storytelling

Scott Lamm
HER Conference 2020 Milwaukee, WI
“We are all storytellers. We all live in a network of stories. There isn’t a stronger connection between people than storytelling.”

- Jimmy Neil Smith, Director of the International Storytelling Center
Storytelling is a way to foster inclusion, community building and acquisition of understanding across cultures and engagement.
Our Inspiration

The Moth
True Stories Told Live

ExFabula Milwaukee
Connecting Milwaukee Through Real Stories

Other Medical Schools
What is the MCW MEDMOTH?

3 Workshops led by Dr. Bruce Campbell
- Workshop 1: Intro to Storytelling
- Workshop 2: Editing Workshop
- Workshop 3: Performance Workshop

MedMoth Event
- 45 minute Networking
- 10-12 5-minute stories from Students, Faculty, Residents, Fellows, Staff
“I think it was the 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade when I first felt a certain pressure to perform well…”

“My sister’s body flung through the air by a silver ford explorer…”

“People staying sick is how doctors have jobs…”

“…not letting the ever looming summit taunt me…”

“…his head was way too big and he had this mop of black hair with specks of grey in it…”
Impact of MEDMOTH

Fall – October 10th, 2019
MedMoth Fall – October 10th, 2019
• 75 Total in Attendance
• 12 Participated in Workshops
• 12 Storytellers

Spring – February 27th, 2020
MedMoth Spring – February 27th, 2020
• 66 Total in Attendance
• 10 Participated in Workshops
• 9 Storytellers
Data Collected at MEDMOTH Feb. 2020

Attendance

- Medical Student: 80%
- Faculty: 13%
- Other: 7%
MEDMOTH...

- Was beneficial to my someone close to me:
  - Strongly agree: 47%
  - Agree: 22%
  - Disagree: 13%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

- Was beneficial to my personal well-being:
  - Strongly agree: 56%
  - Agree: 27%
  - Disagree: 7%
  - Strongly disagree: 2%

- I will use the strategies/principles learned from this session to care for patients in my practice:
  - Strongly agree: 42%
  - Agree: 31%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Strongly disagree: 2%

- Helped me understand how to be effective at fostering equity within MCW and the greater community:
  - Strongly agree: 40%
  - Agree: 33%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Strongly disagree: 0%

Legend:
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- N/A or no opinion
Social Capital

“the links, shared values and understandings in society that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and so work together.”

“networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups“
How often do you socialize with people who are:
Speaking generally, are the people you interact with currently “similar to you” or “different from you” regarding...?
Speaking generally, how much would you say that you can trust…
Participating in MEDMOTH has given me…
“Connecting and hearing stories at a unique event, stories that wouldn’t have otherwise been shared elsewhere”

“I always have to be reminded that students have fresh eyes and are having many many new, emotionally challenging experiences. Also, I am delighted to see how much talent and spirit is present among the speakers”

“Some of the stories gave me new perspective to appreciate”

“I appreciate hearing others’ experiences and perspectives on these. While experiences may be similar, they may impact each of us differently. It is also helpful to hear experiences of others that we have never had. Both situations help us relate to others and develop empathy”

“I just loved how open and accepting everyone was. Such a great event and makes you realize everyone has similar struggles and may have more going on than what meets the eye”
“I think it really helps to hear others who may have had similar thoughts and experiences as me (days where you feel like you’re not on the right path) or completely different experiences than me”

“I think listening to others have shown me that it is okay to be an imperfect human being who still struggles every day yet wakes up the next day to discover their path”

“It is very interesting to hear the struggles of other people in my community. Though unique, they are not too different from my own”

“More of this might help us develop more meaningful collaborative relationships at work”

“People in medicine are human and that needs to be recognized more frequently”

“Events like tonight make differences seem small and shared experiences of human interactions, and feelings bring people together”
MEDMOTH harnessed the power of storytelling to break down hierarchies, create a safe space, build character, encourage compassion, and nurture inclusivity.
Future Directions

Continue to host in-person and virtual MEDMOTHs

Exploration of MEDMOTH Podcast
Thank you...

Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education
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Dr. Cassie Ferguson
Cassidy Berns
Dr. Tavinder K. Ark
Jess Sachs, Zoe Retzlaff, Lauren Curwick, Donglin Zhang, Megan Quamme, Chase LaRue, & Natalie Honan
All our Storytellers and Audience Members