

Altius, Fortius, Salubrius G-I-N i.e. Higher, Stronger, Healthier G-I-N (with apologies to the Olympics)

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I'm very pleased to have been able to participate in G-I-N 2018, especially as I was unable to be part of both the 2016 and 2017 Conferences. It's been a delightful experience overall and the opportunity to meet old friends as well as make new ones, is a particular highlight of the G-I-N Annual Conferences. I strongly believe that any scientific/professional society is as exciting (or otherwise!) as its membership. And I think the collegiality within G-I-N has strengthened my belief year after year.

This year, I was struck by the extensive range of topics and deliberations at the Annual Conference, and how these stretched through the day. Twelve hours of discussion, deliberation and networking from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM with brief refueling breaks, appeared to be the norm. Despite this, there was no sense of fatigue or boredom. This is strong testimony to the growth in G-I-N, in terms of scientific vigor as well as activities of the Working Groups and Regional Communities. I feel that this growth is a healthy sign.

The Plenary sessions were excellent with high quality presentations ably led by renowned Chairpersons. Lofty ideas as well as thought-provoking issues were nicely balanced throughout these sessions. I was thus impressed by the length and breadth and height and depth of the scientific programme- literally and figuratively.

I am also very glad to note the extension of networking to other societies and organisations involved with evidence-informed decision-making in health-care. The focus of G-I-N on building evidence-based decision-making ecosystems, flowed nicely into networking with other components of the decision-making process, especially Health Technology Assessment (HTA). I think this is also a very good sign because the more we step beyond our silos, the better health-care will be deliverable.

Manchester was a good choice for the Annual Conference. It is relatively easy to get to, and easy to navigate within the city walking as well as by public transport. The Conference venue itself was steeped in history and I gathered some nice anecdotes. The Gala dinner and Opening Reception showcased two diverse aspects of the host city and country.

I'm sure that the great experience I had during the Annual Conference was the fruit of months of hard work by a large number of dedicated people. Hats off to each of them. And of course, the fantastic ladies who make it all possible- Elaine Harrow, Anne Docherty, Allison Smith and Jenna Docherty.