Greetings from the 2017 Conference Committee! We are anxiously counting the days until we meet again in Montreal, Quebec, on October 25-29, 2017. We expect another great year of attendance. Registration for the conference is presently over 400. That’s impressive!

The block of rooms at the conference hotel, Le Centre Sheraton Montreal, is now full. Please stay tuned for more information about overflow hotel options. We will post that information on the POD Network website soon.

Dr. Randy Bass will join us as keynote speaker this year. He will engage us in the exploration of this year’s theme, “Defining What Matters: Understanding and Enhancing the Impact of Educational Development.” In addition, the CRLT Players will provide an outstanding performance that is sure to spark dialogue amongst all in attendance. Now, add to that a phenomenal program packed with excellent research, plenty of academic dialogue and engagement opportunities, a chance to renew old friendships and create new ones, all set in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the north, and we’re sure to leave refreshed and inspired to continue the great work that we do.

We are truly appreciative of the many POD Network members who volunteer their time to help make every POD Conference successful. Many of those volunteers are sending notifications and requests for service(s) to you, our dedicated members. Please help, if you can. It truly takes a village to implement a national/international conference successfully. We need and appreciate you.

Remember, the conference Early Bird registration closes on October 6, 2017. Don’t delay your registration (for a savings of $60).

Finally, the conference team thought we’d end this update with a few things for you to consider before the 2017 POD Network Conference:

**TOP 10 Things to Remember Before Your Trip to Montreal**

1. Passports are required if traveling from the U.S. Make sure it’s current for the ENTIRE trip.
2. Be sure to arrange an international calling plan with your cell phone provider.
3. When traveling from the Montreal airport, be sure to tell your transportation provider exactly where to take you. The public transportation (buses) won’t go all the way to the hotel. Most will only take you within a block or two of the conference hotel.
4. Pack lightly, with reference to #3—in case you have to carry your bag(s).
5. Most of the dollar amounts advertised will refer to Canadian Dollars. If using a credit card, your bank will automatically provide the U.S. exchange rate (along with a small fee for making the exchange).

6. There will be no paper copies of the program available this year. The program will be available in the Guidebook app. Please download the app before your trip to Montreal. However, if you prefer a paper copy, a pdf of the program will soon be available on the POD Network website.

7. Bring your appetite and an open mind for trying new things. Montreal is a “Foodie’s" paradise and has the highest number of restaurants per capita in Canada.

8. Brush up on your French. Montreal is the second largest French-speaking city in the world.

9. Dress for temperatures around a high of 52°F and a low of 39°F.

10. If you’re a cyclist, or you’d like a “different" way to explore the city, the Bixi bike share system is in full effect in Montreal. All it takes is the swipe of a credit card to borrow one of the more than 5,000 bikes at 400 self-serve stations around the city center. Don’t forget your helmet!

We'll see you in Montreal!

The 2017 POD Network Conference Team
Greg Siering and Lynn Eaton, Conference Co-Chairs
Carol Subiño Sullivan and Steve Hansen, Program Co-Chairs
Hoag Holmgren, POD Network Executive Director