

Third-year COMP-Northwest osteopathic medical students Nam Nguyen, Jacob Leroux, Derek Titus, Matthew White, Jessica Hu, and Max Taylor, had the opportunity to give presentations as part of two different panels at the Oregon Health Authority's Mid-Valley Summit in Salem on Sept. 22. The event had approximately 250 attendees including physicians, pharmacists, law enforcement, coordinated care organization administrators and others concerned about the opioid epidemic. The summit was focused on exploring strategies and solutions to curb the epidemic, and the COMP-Northwest students were viewed as part of the solution.

Max, Jessica and Matthew presented a survey they completed of COMP-Northwest and OHSU fourth-year medical students regarding their experiences on clinical rotations related to opioids. "This was eye-opening to the audience to hear the student perspective and how patient stories affect them and how they see this affecting their future career as a physician," said Dr. Katherine Fisher, COMP-Northwest Director of Clinical Education.

Derek, Jacob and Nam presented two screening tools, the "Pain Catastrophizing Scale" and the "Fibromyalgia Screening Tool," both of which have been shown in multiple studies to predict those at-risk for pain medicine addiction before the medication is even started. The students are working on a project to encourage primary care physicians to use these tools.

"Every one of our students were fully prepared and ready with answers to questions presented to them at the end of their presentations," Fisher said. "I cannot say enough to convey how proud I was to see them representing themselves and the school at this high a level."