

Birth of a Center for Interprofessional Education

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The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report entitled *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*¹ recommended a realignment of the health care system to enhance quality, safety, patient-centeredness, efficiency, and equity. One of the recommendations was restructuring clinical education toward an interprofessional practice. A subsequent IOM report² stated that “clinical education simply has not kept pace with or been responsive enough to shifting patient demographics and desires, changing health system expectations, evolving practice requirements and staffing arrangements, new information, a focus on improving quality, or new technologies...” Once in practice, health professionals are asked to work in interdisciplinary teams, often to support those with chronic conditions, yet they are not educated together or trained in teambased skills. Interprofessional education (IPE) “occurs when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care.”³ The most recent 2008 Cochrane Review⁴ on interprofessional education indicated that IPE produced positive outcomes in the following areas:

- Emergency department culture and patient satisfaction;
- Collaborative team behavior and reduction of clinical error rates for emergency department teams;
- Management of care delivered to domestic violence victims; and
- Mental health practitioner competencies related to the delivery of patient care.

IPE is more common in Canada and the United Kingdom, where inclusion is mandated in their educational systems. Across the US, the University of Washington and University of Minnesota are known for contributions to interprofessional education. This article discusses the initiatives of the newly developed Jefferson InterProfessional Education

Center (JCIPE) at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia. JCIPE was initiated and funded by the Deans of Jefferson Medical College and Jefferson College of Health Professions in early 2007, and is dedicated to improving patient care through implementing and evaluating patient-centered, interprofessional education throughout the TJU curriculum. This includes preclinical/didactic education, clinical simulation, and clinical education within highly effective team-care settings working with outpatient practices, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH), affiliates, and community partners. JCIPE serves as a coordinating body to facilitate the development and expansion of interprofessional education, faculty development, and evaluation across TJU. With strong university administrative support, initial activities of the co-directors included establishment of a diverse, enthusiastic steering committee that meets monthly; establishment of the center's website; dissemination of activities and information; and a faculty survey to assess interest and feedback.

The importance of patient-centered care delivered in integrated health care teams is essential to improve patient outcomes and satisfaction in our complex health care system. JCIPE provides opportunities for learners to collaborate with other health professional students early in their educational curricula. Interprofessional faculty member teams are involved early in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Center activities to ensure an interprofessional perspective and to model collaborative behavior.

On Thursday October 23, 2008, JCIPE will launch its 1st Annual Conference, ***InterProfessional Care for the 21st Century: Redefining Education***. This conference is an exciting opportunity for educators, health and social service professionals, policy makers, researchers, and interested stakeholders to cultivate collaborative approaches to interprofessional education programs. Participants will take a closer look at the impact of interprofessional practice on the provision high quality, patient-centered care. This free conference will take place from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, with the morning session covering an array of topics such as: Advancing Interprofessional Education; Improving the Quality of Care; and Mentoring Programs. The afternoon session will consist of specific workshops covering innovative models of curriculum and skill development. A networking lunch and poster session will also be included.

To learn more about this conference and other JCIPE programs, please visit:
<http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/JCIPE/>.

For conference registration questions, please contact Cassie Mills at
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References

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2. Greiner AC, Knebel D (Editors). Institute of Medicine Committee on the Health Professions Education Summit. Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2003
3. Centre For The Advancement Of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE). 2002. Available at <http://www.caipe.org.uk/about-us/defining-ipe/>.
4. Reeves S, Zwarenstein M, Goldman J, Barr H et al. Interprofessional education: Effects on professional practice and health care outcomes. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2008;1:1-10.