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Jefferson Makes a Major Contribution to Collaborating Across Borders, IV Conference

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The fourth international Collaboration Across Borders conference (CAB IV) was held in Vancouver BC, Canada on June 12-14, 2013. This conference, held every two years, attracts people involved in interprofessional education and care (IPEC) from across North America, and from other countries such as Japan, Australia and the European Union. The conference is a collaborative venture between the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC) and the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC). The site of the conference alternates between the United States and Canada. As interest and involvement in interprofessional approaches to education and health care grows, so too does attendance at this meeting. The first conference, held at the University of Minnesota in 2007, attracted a little over 300 people. Subsequent meetings in Nova Scotia and Arizona saw attendance increase dramatically, reaching close to 750 in Arizona. This was the largest attendance ever at a conference devoted to interprofessional education. Attendance at the Vancouver conference exceeded that number.

The theme of CAB IV, Transformative Change from the Classroom to Practice, reflects the growth of the interprofessional movement not only in North America but worldwide. Interest and approaches have grown from small educational programs in a few schools to larger programs designed to expand interprofessional programs and to incorporate them as an integral part of education and care instead of an adjunct to it. This represents a growing culture of collaboration within health care. The presentations at CAB IV reflected this transformation. While many presentations applied IPEC to patient safety and primary care, others introduced its' appropriateness in areas such as disaster planning, mental health and refugee aid from such diverse places as Haiti and New Zealand. Still others focused on how changes in technology and architecture are occurring to further advance IPEC. Emphasis was on learning opportunities for a wide variety of health care participants: students, practitioners, educators, patients and patient advocates along with the importance of hearing the "patient voice" in care delivery.

Members of the Jefferson community made significant contributions to this meeting. Thirteen faculty and 3 students from Jefferson attended, representing a diverse segment of the Jefferson community: Family Medicine, Physical Therapy, Nursing, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, JCIPE and OIR. Many of those in attendance were involved in more than one presentation. Eight oral presentations, 4 posters, 1 workshop and a panel discussion were given, providing a look at the wide variety of projects and IPEC approaches across the University.

CAB V is scheduled to be held in 2015 in Roanoke, VA and the organizers are hoping for an even larger turnout.