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**Interprofessional Education (IPE):** “Occasions when two or more professions **learn with, from & about** each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care.” (CAIPE, 2002)

**IPE Structured Placement:** “Students from a variety of professions, who are presently involved in their own profession-specific clinical placement, (have an) opportunity to participate in **interprofessional placement experiences.**” (University of Toronto, Centre for IPE, 2007)

## Background

### Objectives:

- “Opportunity for students from various disciplines to develop greater **understanding** of the **roles & expertise** each discipline brings to the solution of health problems.”
- “Opportunity for students to **learn & develop clinical expertise together.**”
- “Opportunity to develop an understanding of **team dynamics, communication skills, & conflict resolution** within the context of a well-functioning team.”

(University of Toronto, Centre for IPE, 2007)

### Adult Learning Principles:

- Adults are self-directed learners.
- Bring life experiences & personal abilities.
- Readiness to learn is related to social developmental tasks.
- Seek to learn solutions for immediate real life problems.
- Motivation to learn is internal.

(Knowles, 1975)

### Social-Constructivism Theory:

“Learning occurs through dialogue & social dynamics within a social context.”

(Leif, 2006)

Learners then actively construct their own meaning based upon their pre-existing knowledge & experience.

## Learning Format

Students from various professions selected for a placement on an acute care Geriatric Unit participated in a 4 week IPE experience.



Fall 2014



Spring 2015

### Introductory Session

Principles of IPE  
Collaborative competencies  
Team function  
Conflict resolution

**4 Patient-Themed Tutorials**  
**Group Presentation**  
**Reflective Journaling**

## Professions

Dietetics  
Medicine  
Nursing  
Occupational Therapy  
Pharmacy

Physiotherapy  
Respiratory Therapy  
Social Work  
Speech-Language Pathology

## Outcomes

### Student Feedback:

I Valued...

- Collaborating & learning with peers
- Joint formulation of care plans
- Learning from clinical & content “experts”

Significant Impact of Experience...

- Understanding my role in the “bigger picture” of health care
- Increased respect for other professions
- Understand which professions to consult & why

### Organizational Impact:

- Promote IPE for students & staff
- Support a culture of collaborative practice
- Enhance staff facilitation skills
- Strengthen academic partnership

## Challenges & Opportunities

### Challenges:

- Availability of students on same unit 5 days per week
- All students consulted on case study patient
- Variable academic levels & life experience of students
- Variable skill level of facilitators

### Opportunities:

- Expand placement opportunity to other units / clinics

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