

Interprofessional Education

A Novel Curriculum Bridging the Educational Divide of Medical, Veterinary and Other Health Professional Students

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Western University of Health Sciences



- Small, Private, Not for profit, University
- 1978: College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, now 9 colleges
- 2649 current students
- 7409 alumni
- 70% Female 30% Male
- Student: faculty ratio 13:1
- Incoming class 847 students



Western U Mission: “to produce in a humanistic tradition, health care professionals and biomedical knowledge that will enhance and extend the quality of life in our communities”

- Osteopathic Medicine
- Allied Health Professions (PT, PA, MSHS)
- Pharmacy
- Graduate Nursing
- Veterinary Medicine
- Dentistry
- Optometry
- Podiatry
- Graduate College of Biomedical Sciences



Why Inter Professional Education (IPE)? Why at Western?

Goal: “is for Western U graduates to demonstrate an understanding of other health professions and to provide and promote a team approach to patient care and health care management, leading to improved patient care.”



Justification

- **Definition:** *"Occasions when students from two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care"*.

- Freeth et al. *Effective Interprofessional Education: Development, Delivery & Evaluation*. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, UK, 2005.

- Patient care enhanced
- Change in population demographics, growing number of elderly- coordinated care even more essential.
- Emerging Diseases- requires a collaborative approach
- Enhance graduates' resumes, employment opportunities
- Enhance job satisfaction ratings
- Decrease work related burn out or compassion fatigue

IPE Curriculum

IPE 5000/ 5100 Didactic - Case based group work

IPE 6000/6100 Simulations- Teamwork in Health Care

Graduation Requirement

Mandatory University Seminars

IPE 5000/5100

Core Competencies

- Communication
 - Collaborative Practice
 - Scope of Practice
- (Not mastery of medical issues)

Format

- Lecture (remote /on campus)
- Small group, team work
- Grand Rounds
(remote/lecture theater)



Process

- Patient centered cases-paper format
- Common medical conditions/scenarios
- Students work in small teams to apply the core competencies
- Ethical, behavioral, social and psychological issues
- Meet for 2 hours on 2 consecutive Wednesdays



Roles and Responsibilities

- Reader
- Scribe
 1. Patient Concerns
 2. Professional Roles and Plans
 3. Learning Issues
- Secretary
- Summarizer
- Faculty facilitator (90)



“To Be or Not To Be”

- Food Animal Veterinarian in the Central Valley of CA
- Dairy Farm TB testing -8 bovine positive reactors
- 4 workers houses on site with spouses & children
- Raw milk consumption
- 20/24 humans positive reactors (including 2 children and 3 spouses)
- Workers undocumented

Core Competencies

- **Communication**-to farmer, to health team, risk communication to public
- **Collaborative practice**-team players? State public health vet, community health nurse, pharmacist, health officer, TB control officer,
- **Scope of Practice**



“Retriever Madness: A *Tail* of Mary Jane and Munchie”

- 4 y.o. golden retriever, Munchie, presents to a critical care facility- hyperactive, chomping at the air, agitated
- Family – parents, teenage daughter, Mary Jane, school age son
- Dog got into bottle of Vicodin™ in Mary Jane’s room, parents noted “strange plant fragments” near bottle
- Veterinary Clinician works up as possible acetaminophen toxicity, upon hospitalization begins to suspects cannibinoid toxicity does not mention the family
- Mary Jane goes out partying that night with teenage friends, illicit drug and alcohol use, RTA, 3 fatalities,
- MJ in a coma, long term physical rehabilitation

Core Competencies

- **Communication**-vet to family, human hospital team
- **Collaborative Practice**-patient centered care
- **Scope of Practice**- vet's legal ethical responsibility to report marijuana? To whom?



Case highlights veterinary function in social well being of community, not just physical well being

Future IPE plans

California Campus:
Interprofessional Clinical
Practice

**Satellite Campus in
Oregon:**

- Comp Northwest –Aug 2011
(100 students)
- 1300 students in 40 mile
area (3 other campuses)
- Nursing, vet med,
pharmacy, OT, social work,
law students
- Same cases as in California

Interprofessional
Suites



Questions?





References

- Western University Inter Professional Education Home Page accessed February 2011 at <http://www.westernu.edu/interprofessional-about>
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