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Collaborating for Education and Practice:
An Interprofessional Education Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador
Project Newsletter

Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education (CCHPE)
Memorial University of Newfoundland

Medicine, Pharmacy, Social Work & Nursing students will be working closely together in the near future

Students and professionals in medicine, pharmacy, social work and nursing will be learning and working more closely together in the future. The CCHPE project, Collaborating for Education and Practice: An Interprofessional Education Strategy for Newfoundland and Labrador, has been developed as part of collaborations involving the Faculties of Medicine and Education, the Schools of Social Work, Nursing, Pharmacy, Centre for Nursing Studies, Western Regional School of Nursing and Memorial’s Counselling Centre. A project steering committee has been formed to guide the planning, implementation and evaluation of the overall project. Project co-leaders are Drs. Dennis Sharpe and Vernon Curran.

The first few months of the project have been busy ones, with the hiring of new staff, formation of numerous committees and working groups, and the beginning of project evaluation activities. This newsletter is intended to introduce you to the project, bring you up to date on activities, and link you to resources on interprofessional education for collaborative patient-centred practice.

Project Launch Event

On Sept. 22, John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada and Regional Minister for Newfoundland and Labrador, announced a federal contribution of $1.25 million to the Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education (CCHPE) at Memorial University to develop an interprofessional education curriculum with activities that span the health professional education continuum.

Minister Efford’s announcement was the highlight of a launch event held at the Fluvarium. The launch included presentations by Drs. Curran and Sharpe on the project as well as messages of support from senior administration at Memorial University, the Deans and Directors of involved faculties and schools, and representatives of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association. Student representatives spoke about activities planned for the newly-formed interprofessional student’s association at Memorial. A full story on the launch event is available online at: www.med.mun.ca/med/medATmun/articles/05sept/005_IPE.htm
A project steering committee has been formed to guide the planning, implementation and evaluation of the overall project. Membership includes representatives of the academic and service setting partnership, as well as patients, practitioners, educators and learners. The Committee has met on several occasions to date.

**Co-Chairs:**
Dr. Dennis Sharpe  
Faculty of Edu., Co-Director, CCHPE

Dr. Vernon Curran  
Faculty of Medicine, Co-Director, CCHPE

**Members:**
Ms. Juanita Barrett  
Team Leader, Office of Primary Health Care, Gov. of NL

Dr. Shelly Birnie-Lefcovitch  
Director, School of Social Work

Dr. Khalid Aziz  
Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Susan MacDonald  
Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Linda Hensman  
Director, School of Pharmacy

Ms. Cathy Gogan  
ADM, Dept. of Edu., Gov. of NL and Patient Representative

Mr. John Peddle  
Exec. Director, NL Health Boards Ass.

Dr. Sandra Lefort  
Director, School of Nursing

Dr. Peter Cornish  
Director, Counseling Centre

Mr. David Thomas  
Medical Student

Mr. Michael Godsell  
Pharmacy Student

Ms. Jean Pike  
Social Work Student

Ms. Pam Ledrew  
Nursing Student

Ms. Jacqueline Turner  
Patient Representative

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**Project Overview**

The overall intent of the project is to develop and promote interprofessional education. More specifically, the goals are to:

1. Expand and promote pre- and post-licensure interprofessional education activities in both education and practice settings;

2. Enhance the collaborative patient-centered practice competencies of an increased number of learners and practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador;

3. Conduct a systematic evaluation of the curriculum framework and project activities;

4. Organize and deliver faculty development initiatives to foster positive attitudinal changes, increased understanding of the roles and responsibilities of other health care professionals, and skill acquisition in the areas being taught to students.

The project includes activities from the undergraduate to the continuing professional education level. Interprofessional education activities at the undergraduate and graduate levels will be integrated within and across the curriculum of each participating health professional and/or social work education program at Memorial University. At the practitioner level, a continuing interprofessional education program focusing on collaborative practice in rural mental health care will be developed and delivered to members of primary health care teams located in rural communities across the province. Further information about the project is available on the Web at http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/iecpcp/iecpcp2.htm.

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**Evaluation Progress Report**

The evaluation component of the IECPCP project is currently underway. Surveys are currently being administered to all students and faculty within social work, pharmacy, medicine and nursing. These initial surveys are being used to provide baseline data with respect to current attitudes towards interprofessional education and interprofessional health care teams. Surveys have been administered in-person and online with a web-based version of the survey. At present, approximately 1100 students and 100 faculty have been surveyed. We anticipate these numbers will increase by the end of this phase of the evaluation and extend thanks to all those who have participated.

**General Evaluation:**

The evaluation component of the IECPCP project is underway. Surveys are currently being administered to all students and faculty within social work, pharmacy, medicine and nursing. These initial surveys are being used to provide baseline data with respect to current attitudes towards interprofessional education and interprofessional health care teams. Surveys have been administered in-person and online with a web-based version of the survey. At present, approximately 1100 students and 100 faculty have been surveyed. We anticipate these numbers will increase by the end of this phase of the evaluation and extend thanks to all those who have participated.

**Curriculum Evaluation:**

Each module and learning block developed over the course of this project will be evaluated in terms of learner satisfaction, perception of other profession's roles, team skills and attitudes toward health care teams. Planning is currently underway for these curriculum specific evaluations, which will coincide with the delivery of the modules and learning blocks, scheduled to begin in 2006.
Several new staff have been hired to assist with the many activities associated with the IECPCP project:

Jennifer Forristall, BSc, MASP  
Research Assistant  
Telephone: 777-8810  
Email: Jennifer.Forristall@med.mun.ca

Jennifer is the Research Assistant with the Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice (IECPCP) Project. She is responsible for coordinating and participating in research and curriculum development activities including meetings of the Evaluation Research Team, liaising with curriculum development teams, collaborative practice preceptor teams, students, faculty, and staff for the purpose of curriculum development and delivery. Jennifer is also responsible for the development of evaluation instruments, recruitment of respondents, literature reviews, statistical analysis and other research related duties. At some point during the project she will be contacting the many students, faculty and other health professionals in nursing, medicine, social work and pharmacy as part of the project evaluation. Jennifer recently completed a Masters degree in Applied Social Psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her research interests include program evaluation, health promotion, and education for health professional students.

Brenda Kirby, B.Voc.Ed.  
Administrative Staff Specialist II  
Telephone: (709)777-8809  
E-mail: bkirby@mun.ca

Brenda Kirby is the Project Manager with the Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice project. This project encompasses interprofessional education activities which span the health professional education continuum from the pre-licensure to the post-licensure level. Brenda has more than twenty years of experience in postsecondary education as both instructor and administrator of a private training college.

Dianne Traverse  
Intermediate Secretary  
Telephone: 709-777-7302  
Email: dmtraver@mun.ca

Dianne Traverse is an Intermediate Secretary with the Centre as well as with the Office of Professional Development. Dianne provides administrative support for the Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient Centered Practice project and the Building a Better Tomorrow Initiative. Dianne is a new employee at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her previous administrative positions have been with both the public and private sectors.

Two New Faculty Members Will Also Be Hired

Two new tenure-track faculty members will also be hired as part of the project. The search process for these positions is well underway and applications are currently being screened by the search committee.
Curriculum Development News

Curriculum development teams have been formed for all interprofessional learning blocks and modules. Teams are comprised of faculty from Medicine, Pharmacy, Social Work, Nursing (Center for Nursing Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland & Western Regional School of Nursing) and the Counseling Centre as well as health professionals and representatives of community service agencies. Western Regional School of Nursing faculty are participating in the curriculum planning process by teleconference. The curriculum teams are developing the structure of the learning blocks and modules including an e-learning component and determining an implementation schedule for winter and fall 2006.

Information on the curriculum development teams, including membership, is available at the project web page at:
http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/iecpcp/iecpcp2.htm

Useful Internet Links on Interprofessional Education

CCHPE website (look for the IECPCP project page):
http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/

IECPCP Health Canada website:
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/hhr-rhs/strateg/interprof/index_e.html

Also available on the CCHPE website:
IECPCP brochure (pdf), IECPCP curriculum framework handout, IECPCP backgrounder handout