

**IPE in Action**  
**Collaborating for Education and Practice:**  
**An Interprofessional Education Strategy for**  
**Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Objective:**

The goal of the Memorial University project is to expand and promote pre- and post-licensure interprofessional education activities in both education and practice settings, and thereby enhance the collaborative patient-centred practice competencies of an increased number of learners and practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador.

**Project Approach:**

- Develop and implement interprofessional education learning blocks and modules for medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and social work undergraduate students.
- Develop and deliver the Rural Mental Health Interprofessional Training Program which focuses on the development of interprofessional, collaborative practice skills of primary health care teams and other professionals in targeted communities.
- Develop and deliver the Interprofessional Collaboration Workshop aimed at improving the teamwork skills of postgraduate health professional students, nursing and allied health professionals.
- 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.
- Conduct a systematic evaluation of the curriculum framework and project activities.

**Results:**

Using a blended learning approach, the project has introduced several required interprofessional modules and learning blocks into the undergraduate student programs in nursing, pharmacy, medicine and social work at Memorial University, as well as having fostered interprofessional practice-based learning opportunities. We also continue to build teamwork skills and collaborative practice competencies of various health professionals in both rural and urban settings through specifically designed workshops.

**Quotes:**

*“The idea of bringing together students from different disciplines in the field of health care to discuss the issues around patient care was very motivating. We all left these sessions more informed and as a result had a better understanding of the roles they as health care workers will play in interprofessional care in the future.”*

- Jacqueline Turner, Patient Representative and IP Education Facilitator

*“It was excellent to have a simulated patient incorporated into this activity. The case was well designed to include all faculties and their area of knowledge.”*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> year pharmacy student from the HIV/AIDS Interprofessional Module 2007

*“The changes that I have made and what I took away from the workshop is that I have just become that much more aware of the importance of team building and the team...everybody working together. If anything, I think I have taken away from it the ability to be more in tune with team members and to be more in tune with myself as to how I approach my job and the representation that I can contribute.”*

- Allied Health Staff from Interprofessional Workshop 2006

**Conclusion:**

We are looking forward to sustained interprofessional activities and development in a wide variety of health care settings ranging from undergraduate/pre-service programs to practitioner workshops. Evaluations of students, faculty and other health professionals continue to reveal positive attitudes towards interprofessional education and teamwork, and organizational and institutional support is gaining momentum.

**Further Reading:**

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pages/activities/iecpcp.htm> - Project Website

[http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pubs/IECPCP\\_Curriculum.pdf](http://www.med.mun.ca/cchpe/pubs/IECPCP_Curriculum.pdf) - Curriculum Framework

<http://www.mun.ca/rmhit/> - Rural Mental Health Project