Libraries and IPE: A Successful Partnership

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Interprofessional Education (IPE)

IPE “occurs when two or more professions (students, residents and health workers) learn with, about, and from each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.” Research shows team-based care leads to better outcomes for patients. Academic institutions are increasingly developing IPE curricula to prepare students for team-based practice.

History of HSL Involvement in IPE

The Health Sciences Library (HSL) Advisory Committee consists of members from each Health Affairs school. In late 2014, members of the committee completed a survey to inform the library of priorities for the next year. IPE was identified as a priority. Later that year, the group decided librarians should be involved in IPE on campus and participate with the Health Affairs Collaborative (HAC).

| MAY 2012 | HAC formed to address IPE on campus |
| LATE 2014 | IPE shared with HSL as priority for Health Affairs schools |
| JAN 2015 | Librarians begin attending HAC meetings |
| JUNE 2015 | HAC requests new position, coordinator of interdisciplinary education, to be housed in and potentially report to HSL; request denied |
| SPRING 2016 | IPE Steering Committee established as subgroup of HAC; librarians part of this group from beginning |

IPE Steering Committee

The IPE Steering Committee was established to advance interprofessional education and collaboration through all schools. It consists of members from HSL and each Health Affairs school:

- Department of Allied Health
  - School of Dentistry
  - School of Medicine
  - School of Nursing
  - School of Pharmacy
  - School of Public Health
  - School of Social Work
  - Health Sciences Library

Librarian Roles on Committee

- Completed environmental scan of IPE activities and initiatives in academic institutions in US and Canada
- Compiled inventory of IPE activities at UNC
- Organized summer reading project
- Advised UNC Clarion National Interprofessional Case Competition team
- Designed committee logo
- Created and maintains library IPE guide https://guides.lib.unc.edu/ipe
- Manages Twitter account @IPE4UNC
- Created and maintains IPE website
- Organizes and promotes events

Office of IPE at UNC

Meg Zomorodi, clinical associate professor in the UNC School of Nursing, will lead the new Office for Interprofessional Education & Practice. This office, established in January 2018, will be housed in the HSL.

Announcement of new office in the UNC University Gazette https://unclive.2H4a21mE

Future Plans

The new Office for Interprofessional Education and Practice will be housed in the Health Sciences Library with HSL librarians serving as equal members of the team alongside the Directors in the professional schools. Three areas highlighting the skills of the library include:

- Academic participation and research dissemination
- Clinical and simulation involvement
- Patient and family engagement

References