Preparing a Workforce for Care of Older Adults through Interprofessional Education
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OBJECTIVE
To describe the development and evaluation of an interprofessional education (IPE) pre-professional geriatrics (PPG) experience involving learners from ten different health discipline programs.

DESIGN
• The IPE PPG experience provided interdisciplinary health professional encounters using a collaborative approach towards caring for older adults held over two, three-hour sessions.
• Case studies in small groups with 10 health disciplines including dentistry (DDS, DH), medicine (MD), nursing (DNP), occupational therapy (OT), pharmacy (Pharm), physical therapy (PT), public health (PH), social work (SW), and speech-language pathology (SLP)
• Learners completed pre- and post-experience surveys framed from session objectives.
• Data from 2016, 2017, 2018 were analyzed.
• Supported by funds from HRSA, DHHS Carolina Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program.

RESULTS
• Over the course of three years, 562 learners participated (DH-42; DDS-60; MD-39; DNP-43; OT-63; Pharm-60; PT-63; PH-61; SW-70; SLP-57).
• From surveys, significant increases in the following areas based on the IPE PPG Experience were noted for all discipline learners:

Table: Average Overall and Domains Pre- to Post-Intervention Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Measure</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Baseline Mean (SE)</th>
<th>Follow-up Mean (SE)</th>
<th>Change in Mean (95% C.I.)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidence in functioning in interprofessional teams</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>6.34 (0.06)</td>
<td>8.29 (0.05)</td>
<td>1.95 (1.83-2.07)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of services provided by other disciplines</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>6.20 (0.06)</td>
<td>8.24 (0.04)</td>
<td>2.04 (1.93-2.16)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of other disciplines in providing health care to older adults</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>8.21 (0.06)</td>
<td>9.15 (0.04)</td>
<td>0.94 (0.85-1.02)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence in knowing when to refer to other disciplines</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>6.72 (0.06)</td>
<td>8.70 (0.04)</td>
<td>1.98 (1.87-2.08)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average1 across domains</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>6.96 (0.04)</td>
<td>8.65 (0.04)</td>
<td>1.69 (1.61-1.76)</td>
<td>&lt;.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Average of all answered questions; note some learners did not respond to one or more questions

CONCLUSION
This collaborative IPE PPG experience demonstrated learners gained skills to apply geriatric principles and critical thinking as IP team members. They demonstrated the ability to construct patient-centered care plans for older adults.