

ARTICLES

Current trends in interprofessional education of health sciences students: A literature review

Erin Abu-Rish¹, Sara Kim², Lapio Choe³, Lara Varpio⁴, Elisabeth Malik¹, Andrew A White⁵, Karen Craddick⁶, Katherine Blondon⁷, Lynne Robins⁸, Pamela Nagasawa¹, Allison Thigpen¹, Lee-Ling Chen¹, Joanne Rich¹ and Brenda Zierler¹

¹School of Nursing, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, ²Department of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, ³College of Nursing, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington, USA, ⁴Academy for Innovation in Medical Education, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, ⁵School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, ⁶School of Pharmacy, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, ⁷Department of Health Services, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA, ⁸Department of Medical Education, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

There is a pressing need to redesign health professions education and integrate an interprofessional and systems approach into training. At the core of interprofessional education (IPE) are creating training synergies across healthcare professions and equipping learners with the collaborative skills required for today's complex healthcare environment. Educators are increasingly experimenting with new IPE models, but best practices for translating IPE into interprofessional practice and team-based care are not well defined. Our study explores current IPE models to identify emerging trends in strategies reported in published studies. We report key characteristics of 83 studies that report IPE activities between 2005 and 2010, including those utilizing qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research approaches. We found a wide array of IPE models and educational components. Although most studies reported outcomes in student learning about professional roles, team communication and general satisfaction with IPE activities, our review identified inconsistencies and shortcomings in how IPE activities are conceptualized, implemented, assessed and reported. Clearer specifications of minimal reporting requirements are useful for developing and testing IPE models that can inform and facilitate successful translation of IPE best practices into academic and clinical practice arenas.

Keywords: Interprofessional education, literature review, health professional students

INTRODUCTION

Effective communication across multiple healthcare disciplines and professions is critical to ensure the delivery of safe and efficient care (Greiner & Knebel, 2003). Yet, many healthcare professionals enter practice without sufficient training in interprofessional care and coordination (Barr, 2002). Interprofessional education (IPE) transcends uni-professional and siloed approaches to health professions education. It emphasizes interactive learning *with* and *from* members of other professions to improve professional practice and care delivery (Barr, 2002). The recent landmark Lancet report, "Health professionals for a new century: Transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world," highlights the importance of the timing, duration and relevance of IPE in promoting behavior changes among individual health professionals and in responding to the pressing needs of our increasingly complex and interdependent healthcare systems and populations (Frenk et al., 2010).

Over the years, a number of systematic and general scoping reviews of the IPE literature contributed to our current IPE knowledge base. These reviews largely addressed three main topics. One topic involves the conceptual basis for IPE and development of related competencies, such as mutual respect, role knowledge and clarification, patient-centered care and IP team communication (Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative [CIHC], 2010; Choi & Pak, 2006; D'Amour, Ferrada-Videla, San Martin

Rodriguez, & Beaulieu, 2005; Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel, 2011; Reeves et al., 2011). Another topic addresses strengthening research methods for demonstrating effective teamwork and communication as facilitating factors of IPE (Barr, Freeth, Hammick, Koppel, & Reeves, 2006; Hammick, Freeth, Koppel, Reeves, & Barr, 2007; Ireland, Gibb, & West, 2008; Lapkin, Levett-Jones, & Gilligan, 2011; Payler, Meyer, & Humphris, 2008; Reeves et al., 2009, 2010; Remington, Foulk, & Williams, 2006; Zwarenstein et al., 1999, 2000). Most notably, Lapkin et al. (2011) provide an in-depth analysis of nine selected randomized controlled and longitudinal IPE studies and report a descriptive assessment of research quality of the reviewed studies. A third major topic focuses on developing sustainable models for IPE implementation that can be mainstreamed into health professions curricula and clinical practices (Barr & Ross, 2006; Barr et al., 2006; Choi & Pak, 2007, 2008; Freeth & Reeves, 2004; Mitchell et al., 2006; Reeves, Goldman, Burton, & Sawatzky-Girling, 2010; Reeves et al., 2011). Reviews reported by Reeves et al. (2010, 2011) provide the most up to date survey of IPE participants, interventions and outcomes.

Our literature review builds upon the existing foundational work conducted by IPE researchers. The unique areas of our contribution are as follows. First, we report a large-scale review that exclusively targets IPE issues involving pre-licensure health professions trainees. This focus was necessitated by the Macy Foundation grant that our team received for developing and pilot testing innovative IPE models targeting medical, nursing and pharmacy students. Second, our review included quantitative, qualitative and mixed research studies published between 2005 and 2010 to avoid duplicate reviews that covered prior years. Therefore, it represents an up to date review of this 5-year period. Third, our review extends the work of Reeves et al. (2010, 2011) and addresses a wide range of IPE aspects including curriculum content and structure, mode of facilitating interprofessional interactions, faculty recruitment and retention, faculty skill-building and institutional leadership and financial support. Our overall purpose was twofold: (1) to detail the rich diversity of approaches to IPE targeting health professions students and (2) to identify areas for strengthening the future of IPE research. We believe that our review significantly contributes to the evolving and expanding knowledge base of IPE strategies, outcomes and research methods.

This review was undertaken by an interprofessional research team at the University of Washington (UW), Schools of Nursing, Medicine and Pharmacy, in collaboration with a medical education qualitative researcher at the University of Ottawa. Funding from the Josiah Macy Jr Foundation and the Hearst Foundations supported this review as part of a larger IPE grant project.

METHODS

Study inclusion criteria

This literature review includes reports of qualitative, quantitative and mixed method educational intervention

studies published in peer-reviewed journals between 2005 and 2010. We focused on this time interval in order to capture the most recent trends in IPE and to build upon the existing reviews reported in the literature. Studies were required to include all three of the following criteria: (1) an interprofessional mix of pre-licensure health professions students as the target learner group, (2) an educational program or intervention with an emphasis on IPE skills and/or competencies and (3) assessment or evaluation data that demonstrated IPE effectiveness on learning outcomes or that documented educational experiences of health professions students.

Study identification

The following databases were searched for English language studies: PubMed, Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), ISI Web of Knowledge (Thompsen Reuters), Excerpta Medica Database (EMBASE), and the Campbell Collaboration. We designed search strategies in consultation with a senior research health science's librarian. Boolean searching techniques (using "AND" and "OR") included the following terms: inter- and multi-professional, discipline, education and health professions students (see Web Appendix for General Search Strategy and Example, <http://collaborate.uw.edu/resources-and-publications/ipe-resources/appendices-table-of-content.html>). This method was augmented with manual searching of references in the reviewed articles. Three research team members discussed and applied inclusion/exclusion criteria to screen potential articles for inclusion in an iterative process. One team member was trained to review articles with work verified by the other two team members. The team engaged in iterative discussions when questions arose until consensus was reached. A total of 83 articles were included in the final pool for full review. The literature search and article identification flow are shown in Figure 1.

Data extraction and synthesis

Our interprofessional research team developed a data abstraction tool for documenting key elements of the design, content and evaluation of IPE programs and models reported in the reviewed studies. A total of 49 items were classified into the following categories: (1) study profile, (2) characteristics of educational intervention/program described, (3) type and number of students, (4) faculty roles and responsibilities, (5) assessment methods, (6) outcome measures and (7) other information (e.g. administrative model, barriers, leadership and financial supports). The tool was pilot tested by five team members and refined through an iterative process using an evolving coding guideline (see the Web Appendix for a copy of the Online Data Extraction Form and Coding Guide). The final data extraction form was delivered via Catalyst, a UW Web survey tool, for facilitating multiple coders' work.

An inter-rater reliability (IRR) across coders was established through the following protocol. First, two trained coders reviewed the articles (LC, EM). Second, a random

Initial Search 1966-2010	Pubmed: 3684	ISI Web of Knowledge: 308	EMBASE: 121	CINAHL: 108	ERIC: 60	Campbell Collaboration: 0
Retrieved	4281 articles					
De-duplication, Title, & Abstract Review	-4032					
Articles for Full Review	249 + 10 (manual search)= 259					
Did not Meet Inclusion Criteria (99)/Published Prior to 2005 (77)	-176					
Included in Literature Review	83					

Figure 1. Literature search and article identification process.

sample of 30% of articles was reviewed by paired coders formed from the larger coding team. We attained an IRR of 87.6% across 26 articles (range: 79–93%). Upon completion of article coding, extracted data were downloaded from the online data extraction tool and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 19.0. We report descriptive statistics for quantitative data; qualitative content was analyzed for themes and frequencies.

RESULTS

Study information

The majority of the studies were published in the USA ($n = 34$, 41.0%), followed by Canada ($n = 17$, 20.5%) and UK/Ireland ($n = 12$, 14.5%; see Table I for complete country list). Academia ($n = 44$, 53%) was the most common education setting followed by combined academic and other settings ($n = 27$, 32.5%), such as inpatient, outpatient/ambulatory, simulation center, patient's home or community. Fewer than 20% ($n = 15$) of studies were based on multi-institutional collaborations. Only eight studies (9.6%) involved a randomization of students to educational interventions (see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings).

Description of students and faculty

Over 20 000 students were involved in IPE activities across the reviewed studies (mean: 267; range: 7–4099; Table II). Although the majority of studies included students from either 2 ($n = 35$, 42.2%) or 3 professions ($n = 28$, 33.7%), 23 of 83 (25%) studies involved four professions or more. Of the studies involving 2 professions, 24 out of 35 (68.6%) included nursing students and 1 other profession, with medical students being the predominant peers for nursing students ($n = 13$, 37.0%). Student demographic information (e.g. age and gender) was reported in 40 studies (48.2%). The academic level of students participating in the IPE program (e.g. sophomore, first year resident and so on) was not consistently reported.

With regards to IPE faculty, the majority of studies ($n = 68$, 81.9%) did not report how faculty obtained their IPE skills, particularly in leading or facilitating the IPE activities. In addition, many reported having faculty

from three or more professions involved in designing educational programs ($n = 35$, 42.2%). However, few studies documented strategies for preparing ($n = 15$, 18.1%), recruiting ($n = 9$, 10.8%) or retaining ($n = 3$, 3.6%) IPE faculty.

Educational programs/interventions

Educational programs and interventions varied greatly across the studies (Table III). Approximately, half of the studies ($n = 39$, 47%) reported employing learning theories or conceptual frameworks to guide their IPE programs. How these theories and frameworks guided the development of IPE models is less clearly described. For example, adult learning theory and contact hypothesis – a theory that interpersonal contact is the most effective way to increase intergroup understanding and reduce prejudice – were most frequently cited. Yet, only three (3.6%) studies explicitly mention the contact hypothesis as a guiding framework for developing their study interventions. This suggests a missing link between theory and practice in the IPE studies we reviewed.

The majority of studies ($n = 59$, 71.1%) reported that their IPE activities have been in place for 5 years or less, followed by 13 (15.6%) studies in implementation for more than 5 years (see Web Appendix for References to Specific

Table I. Setting of included studies.

Study setting ($n = 83$)		
Category	No.	%
Country		
United States	34	41.0
Canada	17	20.5
UK/Ireland	12	14.5
Australia	6	7.2
Sweden	4	4.8
Belgium	2	2.4
Denmark	1	1.2
Germany	1	1.2
Hong Kong	1	1.2
Japan	1	1.2
Nepal	1	1.2
New Zealand	1	1.2
Taiwan	1	1.2
Turkey	1	1.2
Setting		
Academic setting	44	53.0
Academic + other settings	27	32.5
Nonacademic setting	12	14.5

Table II. Description of students and faculty.

Description of students and faculty (<i>n</i> = 83)		
Category	No.	%
Professions represented		
Two professions	35	42.2
Medical + nursing	13	37.0
Nursing + nonmedical	11	31.4
Medical + non-nursing	10	28.6
No medical or nursing	1	2.9
Three professions	28	33.7
Four professions or more	20	24.1
Faculty		
Faculty development offered	15	18.1
Recruitment strategies reported	9	10.8
Retention incentives reported	3	3.6

Findings). Eleven studies (13.3%) did not report how long their IPE activities were implemented for. IPE activities offered to students tended to be a one-time event ($n = 48$, 57.8%), such as a workshop or simulation training in team communication. Only a few studies described IPE activities that were offered on an annual basis ($n = 8$, 9.6%) (see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings). Each IPE activity lasted from <6 hours ($n = 15$, 18.1%) to 1 year or longer ($n = 5$, 6.0%) with the majority ranging from 1 to 8 weeks ($n = 19$, 22.9%; see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings).

The reviewed studies reported multiple IPE strategies and formats. Small group discussion was the predominant format ($n = 48$, 57.8%), followed by case- or problem-based learning ($n = 40$, 48.2%), large group lectures ($n = 31$, 36.1%), reflective exercises ($n = 29$, 34.9%), clinical teaching or direct interaction with patients ($n = 29$, 34.9%), simulation ($n = 22$, 26.5%) and community-based projects ($n = 14$, 16.9%). There was some overlap between small group discussion and case- or problem-based learning where most case- or problem-based learning involved small group discussion, but not all small group discussions involved case- or problem-based learning. Less commonly reported educational strategies included the use of e-learning for IPE delivery ($n = 13$, 15.7%) or shadowing of clinical providers or students from other professions ($n = 12$, 14.5%; see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings).

One out of five studies ($n = 24$, 28.9%) reported that students received formal credit for completing the IPE course. Approximately, half of the studies ($n = 39$, 47%) did not explicitly state whether student participation was mandatory. Among studies that reported the type of requirement, 10.8% of studies required a mandatory attendance by students ($n = 9$) although participation was voluntary in 30.1% ($n = 25$) of studies. A few studies ($n = 10$, 12%) included a mixed group of students with different participation requirements (e.g. participation was mandatory for medical students but an elective activity for pharmacy students). Although faculty developed the vast majority ($n = 70$ of 80, 87.5%) of their educational programs, 16 studies (20.0%) reported contributions by students or patients and families (see Table III and Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings).

Outcomes and assessment methods

All studies reported learning outcomes with the majority of studies ($n = 67$, 80.7%) reporting more than one. The most common outcomes were students' attitudes toward IPE ($n = 64$, 77.1%), followed by gains in knowledge of IPE competencies or clinical systems ($n = 33$, 39.8%), student satisfaction with IPE courses ($n = 30$, 36.1%) and team skills, for example, in resuscitation, leadership and communication ($n = 25$, 30.1%; Table IV). Knowledge tended to target students' understanding of professional roles, collaborative approaches, clinical/patient care content, care models, quality improvement, patient safety and cultural competence. Patient-oriented outcomes, such as healthcare utilization and clinical outcomes involving diabetic patients, were not widely examined ($n = 6$, 7.2%; see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings). We found that students' attitudinal or behavioral changes were rarely assessed longitudinally.

Among assessment tools, surveys were most commonly used ($n = 63$, 75.9%), followed by qualitative methods such as interviews, focus groups and debriefings ($n = 37$, 44.6%) and knowledge tests ($n = 15$, 18.1%). In addition to

Table III. Characteristics of educational interventions.

Educational interventions (<i>n</i> = 83)		
Category	No.	%
Length of intervention implementation		
< 1 year	20	24.1
1–5 years	39	47.0
6–10 years	9	10.8
Over 10 years	4	4.8
Frequency of course		
One-time activity	48	57.8
Multiple times during year	17	20.5
Occurring annually	8	9.6
Duration of educational intervention		
< 6 hours	15	18.1
> 6 hours, < 1 week	14	16.9
1–8 weeks	19	22.9
One quarter/semester	14	16.9
1 year	5	6.0
Educational strategies		
Small group discussion	48	57.8
Patient case analysis	40	48.2
Large group lecture	31	36.1
Clinical teaching/direct patient interaction	29	34.9
Reflective exercises	29	34.0
Intervention reported as offered for credit	24	28.9
Simulation	22	26.5
Community-based projects	14	16.9
E-learning	13	15.7
Shadowing	12	14.5
Written assignments	11	13.3
Workshops	9	10.8
Other (e.g. interviews, joint lab sessions and patient/family visits)	13	15.7
Developers of intervention		
Faculty only	52	62.7
Faculty + students	2	2.4
Faculty + other health professionals	5	6.0
Faculty + patients/families/community (no students)	2	2.4
Mixed (multiple combinations of above)	9	10.8
Other/unclear	10	12.0

Table IV. Outcomes and assessment methods.

Outcomes and assessment methods (<i>n</i> = 83)		
Category	No.	%
Outcomes		
Attitudes (e.g. toward IPE and toward other professions)	64	77.1
Knowledge (quality, roles)	33	39.8
Satisfaction	30	36.1
Skills (e.g. resuscitation skills)	25	30.1
Patient-oriented outcomes	6	7.2
Other	30	36.1
Number of outcomes included		
1 outcome	15	18.1
2 combined outcomes	39	47.0
3 or more combined	28	33.7
Assessment methods		
Attitude/perception/satisfaction survey	63	75.9
Interview/focus group/debrief	37	44.6
Program evaluation/feedback	37	44.6
Knowledge test	15	18.1
Skill performance ratings	8	9.6
Other	14	16.9
Reliability reported	26	31.3
Validity reported	18	21.7

including self-assessments by students, 37 studies (44.6%) incorporated program evaluations and 8 (9.6%) developed and implemented observational ratings for assessing students' skills (e.g. communication and teamwork; see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings). Approximately, one-third of the studies (*n* = 26, 31.3%) provided evidence of reliability and 18 (21.7%) reported validity of the assessment instruments. Few tools were validated in-house as investigators predominantly used instruments with established validity.

Factors limiting and facilitating success

Sixty-five studies (78.3%) cited barriers to IPE implementation (Table V). Scheduling was identified as the most frequently reported barrier to IPE implementation (*n* = 39, 47.0%), followed by difficulty in matching students of compatible levels (e.g. having different levels of skill/background, experience and clinical knowledge during clinical simulations; *n* = 15, 18.1%). Investigators also noted limitations in faculty and staff time (*n* = 12, 14.5%), insufficient funding (*n* = 10, 12%) and inadequate administrative support (*n* = 6, 7.2%) as barriers. Among studies that reported administrative support as the key facilitating factor for success in IPE, financial support (e.g. institutional or grant support; *n* = 32, 38.6%), staff support (*n* = 12, 14.5%) and leadership buy-in (*n* = 6, 9.8%) were most frequently cited.

DISCUSSION

In this paper, we described a cross-sectional review of IPE activities based on 83 studies published between 2005 and 2010. The diversity of educational approaches that we reported points to great potentials of both strengthening the IPE evidence base and widely disseminating effective educational interventions. We focused on studies that

targeted the pre-licensure health professions and incorporated qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods. Given the range of educational programs that are introduced to students at matriculation and that continue till completion of training, we conclude that health professions students are exposed to IPE activities at various points during their training.

One notable finding from our review is that interprofessional faculty members are not the sole developers of IPE activities. In 20% of the studies that we reviewed, students, patients and families served as co-developers of the educational processes, which reflect perspectives of multiple IPE stakeholders. Small group discussion and problem-based learning were by far the most frequently described educational format, which is more conducive to student-to-student interactions and team building than didactics. In addition, clinical teaching, direct patient interactions and community-based projects represented other types of educational formats. With an increasing adoption of simulation-based learning in health sciences education, we believe that this method will become an integral educational modality in advancing IPE. Although most studies did not report reliability and/or validity of evaluation instruments, those that did predominantly used instruments with established psychometric rigor. Over time, the use of common instruments across IPE programs would lead to programmatic comparisons and meta-analyses within the field of IPE.

In addition to innovative IPE approaches, this review also revealed areas for methodological improvements in IPE research. Mainly, the lack of detail and heterogeneity of outcome measures applied to IPE studies may limit the ability to draw conclusions about preferred educational strategies or best practices. Consistent with the findings of previously published IPE research, we have identified four main themes in the current pre-licensure IPE literature: (1) many reported IPE programs are not guided by theoretical or conceptual frameworks; (2) there is inconsistency in reporting of descriptive details of study settings, population

Table V. Barriers and administrative supports.

Barriers and administrative supports (<i>n</i> = 83)		
Category	No.	%
Barriers to implementation		
Scheduling	39	47.0
Learner-level compatibility	15	18.1
Preparation time required	12	14.5
Funding	10	12.0
Outcomes measurement	7	8.4
Negative interdisciplinary interactions/hierarchies	7	8.4
Administrative support	6	7.2
Faculty not prepared for role	4	4.8
Administrative support		
Financial support (institutional, grant, combination or others)	32	38.6
Staff support	12	14.5
Leadership buy-in	6	9.8
Dedicated office space	1	1.2
Technology support	2	2.4

samples and outcomes weaken opportunities for comparison; (3) few studies conducted longitudinal follow-up of IPE outcomes and (4) minimal attention to issues of faculty development threaten successful replication.

First, the absence of an explicit theoretical framework suggests a disconnection between educational theories and their application to practice. This raises an important opportunity for improved rigor in future IPE interventions and for advancing the IPE theoretical framework. As reported in the review by Reeves et al. (2011), we encourage the reporting of theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of IPE programs. More detailed information about conceptual frameworks enables assessment of the fit among research objectives, teaching methods and outcomes across studies.

The second major gap in the IPE literature relates to inconsistencies in the descriptive details of study settings, populations and outcomes. This inconsistency has been identified by previous reviews as an ongoing weakness in the state of IPE literature (Lapkin et al., 2011; Reeves et al., 2011). More specifically, we found that many studies provided inadequate descriptions of study components including implementation strategies, participants and/or outcome measures. Therefore, the previous IPE researchers' recommendations have not been fully embraced by the IPE research community. Detailed descriptions of key research components would better inform future IPE scholars in their explorations of cutting edge research questions.

Third, the majority of interventions were single event activities and had been implemented for less than 5 years. This trend limits the development of the best strategies for targeting long-term behavior changes and potential to positively impact patient outcomes. Longer term interventions and longitudinal follow-up of learning outcomes are needed to identify enduring outcomes that may lead to practice changes. As highlighted by Reeves et al. (2010), an increasing number of studies are reporting longitudinal effects of IPE and utilizing more robust study designs. However, these studies are still in the minority among published IPE literature. Sustained growth in this area requires investment in centers that have stable investigators, faculty and funding committed to long-term evaluation of IPE.

Fourth, we identified a lack of reporting on systematic training to prepare faculty for assuming an IPE role. Faculty development has been regarded as an essential component of teaching or facilitating IPE competencies (Hammick et al., 2007; Reeves et al., 2012; Silver & Leslie, 2009; Steinert, 2005). Without targeted IPE training, faculty members are not adequately prepared to develop IPE programs or facilitate discussions with students who bring multiple perspectives from different health professions. Implementation of faculty development training for IPE will require significant administrative investments and collaborations within and between health professional schools. Several studies reported innovative approaches to building an IPE faculty pool to include cultural advisors (Kairuz & Shaw, 2005), education specialists or theologians (Medves et al., 2008). Similarly, a few studies included patients, families and students in the content development team, which we highlight as an

innovative strategy (see Web Appendix for References to Specific Findings).

Our study has several limitations. We developed a data extraction instrument and coding criteria within our interprofessional, multi-institutional research team, but did not consult external experts. We addressed this limitation by reviewing relevant literature to identify published coding schemes, but may have missed important IPE dimensions in our review process. As a result, some of our criteria may not correspond to definitions used in recently published IPE competencies and guidelines. Another limitation involves a lack of a formal quality assessment of included articles. Our primary goal was to capture a broad IPE knowledge base by including a wide array of reported IPE activities. We believe that our approach complements the Cochrane-like reviews that applied more stringent quality standards. We recognize that a quality assessment of studies would have generated useful patterns in key results we reported, as was the case in the recent systematic review by Lapkin et al. (2011).

Our review may have also been limited by the number and diversity of authors who coded the studies. To address this, we provided coder training (see Coding Guide in Web Appendix) and built in overlapping reviews of sampled articles for generating IRR. Our reported IRR of 87.6%, while an acceptable standard, could have been higher with a smaller group of reviewers from similar specialty domains.

CONCLUSIONS

As described above and as has been identified in previous reviews, greater consistency in how IPE activities are reported in the literature is recommended in order to better understand the existing IPE models and provide a stronger theoretical basis for future IPE implementation. Therefore, we encourage the use of structured reporting guidelines and/or an accompanying technical paper in order to increase comparability and replicability of future IPE interventions. Based on the examples of formal reporting of research studies (Ireland, Gibb, & West, 2008), the authors have developed a template for researchers to follow in their reporting of IPE interventions. The structured reporting template, termed Replicability of Interprofessional Education (RIPE), is provided in the Web Appendix. We believe that the use of the RIPE template will help foster greater comparison across studies, further theory building and promote the development of best practices.

We also recommend inclusion of technical papers on IPE via Web Appendices for authors to communicate detailed aspects of IPE research studies. Already adopted as compulsory for publication in health systems' cost-effectiveness research, technical papers are valuable means of describing comprehensive study components. The IPE technical paper, as attached in the RIPE template, would outline information necessary to replicate IPE study design by including the following descriptions: (1) theoretical framework, (2) stated objectives of the intervention, (3) development and design of the intervention, (4) voluntary/required nature of the IPE intervention, (5) level and

numbers of students and health professions, (6) frequency and duration of the IPE intervention, (7) teaching strategies, (8) faculty development, (9) validation of the tools used to assess/measure outcomes, (10) cost and resource utilization to implement the intervention, (11) institutional leadership support, (12) barriers/facilitators of implementation and (13) community partnerships.

Our review describes recent findings from a broad survey of the state of IPE research within the pre-licensure health professions literature. We echo the past recommendations by other IPE researchers and call for a greater consistency in reporting IPE models. This is one important way to contribute to the evolving and expanding IPE knowledge base of strategies, methods and outcomes and ultimately, to prepare competent interprofessional trainees.

NOTE

Summary tables describing interventions and outcomes as well as complete references for all included articles are available via the Web Appendix at the following link: <http://collaborate.uw.edu/resources-and-publications/ipe-resources/appendices-table-of-content.html>.

Declaration of interest

This work was supported by grants from the The Josiah Macy Jr Foundation (Grant # B08-05), the Hearst Foundation, and by Grant Number TL1 RR 025016 from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the article.

REFERENCES

- Barr, H. (2002). Interprofessional education: Today, yesterday, and tomorrow. *The Learning and Teaching Support Network for Health Sciences & Practice from the UK Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education*. Retrieved from http://www.hsaparchive.org.uk/doc/mp/01-03_hughbarr.pdf/view (accessed 11 October 2010).
- Barr, H., Freeth, D., Hammick, M., Koppel, I., & Reeves, S. (2006). The evidence base and recommendations for interprofessional education in health and social care. *Journal of Interprofessional Care, 20*(1), 75–78. DOI: 10.1080/13561820600556182.
- Barr, H., & Ross, F. (2006). Mainstreaming interprofessional education in the United Kingdom: A position paper. *Journal of Interprofessional Care, 20*(2), 96–104. DOI: 10.1080/135618206000.
- Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative [CIHC]. (2010). *A national interprofessional competency framework*. Retrieved from <http://www.cihc.ca> (accessed 11 October 2010).
- Choi, B.C., & Pak, A.W.P. (2006). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education, and policy: 1. Definitions, objectives, and evidence of effectiveness. *Clinical Investigative Medicine, 29*(6), 351–364. PMID: 17330451.
- Choi, B.C., & Pak, A.W.P. (2007). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education, and policy: 2. Promotors, barriers, and strategies of enhancement. *Clinical Investigative Medicine, 30*(6), E224–E232. PMID: 18053389.
- Choi, B.C., & Pak, A.W.P. (2008). Multidisciplinarity, interdisciplinarity, and transdisciplinarity in health research, services, education, and policy: 3. Discipline, inter-discipline distance, and selection of discipline. *Clinical Investigative Medicine, 31*(1), E41–E48. PMID:18312747.
- D'Amour, D., Ferrada-Videla, M., San Martin Rodriguez, L., & Beaulieu, M.D. (2005). The conceptual basis for interprofessional collaboration: Core concepts and theoretical frameworks. *Journal of Interprofessional Care, 19*(Suppl. 1), 116–131. DOI: 10.1080/13561820500082529.
- Freeth, D., & Reeves, S. (2004). Learning to work together: using the presage, process, product (3P) model to highlight decisions and possibilities. *Journal of Interprofessional Care, 18*(1), 43–56. DOI: 10.1080/13561820310001608221.
- Frenk, J., Chen, L., Bhutta, Z.A., Cohen, J., Crisp, N., Evans, T., Fineberg, H., et al. (2010). Health professionals for a new century: Transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world. *The Lancet, 376*, 1923–1958. DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)61854-5.
- Greiner, A.C., Knebel, E. (Eds.), (2003). *Health professions education: A bridge to quality*. Committee on the Health Professions Education Summit. ISBN: 0-309-51578-1. Retrieved from <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10681.html>
- Hammick, M., Freeth, D., Koppel, I., Reeves, S., & Barr, H. (2007). The best evidence systematic review of interprofessional education: BEME Guide No. 9. *Medical Teacher, 29*, 735–751. DOI:10.1080/0142590701632576.
- Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel (2011). *Core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice: Report of an expert panel*. Washington, DC: Interprofessional Education Collaborative. Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education/pdf/IPECReport.pdf>
- Ireland, J., Gibb, S., & West, B. (2008). Interprofessional education: Reviewing the evidence. *British Journal of Midwifery, 16*(7), 446–453. Retrieved from <http://www.intermid.co.uk/cgi-bin/go.pl/library/abstract.html?uid=30462>.
- Kairuz, T., & Shaw, J. (2005). Undergraduate inter-professional learning involving pharmacy, nursing, and medical students: The Maori health week initiative. *Pharmacy Education, 5*, 255–259. DOI: 10.1080/1560221050037637.
- Lapkin, S., Levett-Jones, T., & Gilligan, C. (2011). A systematic review of the effectiveness of interprofessional education in health professional programs. *Nurse Education Today, 1*–13. DOI: 10.1016/j.nedt.2011.11.006.
- Medves, J., Paterson, M., Chapman, C.Y., Young, J.H., Bowes, N., & Hobbes, B. (2008). A new interprofessional course preparing learners for life in rural communities. *Rural and Remote Health, 8*, 1–8. PMID: 18302494.
- Mitchell, P.H., Belza, B., Schaad, D.C., Robins, L.S., Gianola, F.J., Odegard, P.S., Kartin, D., & Ballweg, R.A. (2006). Working across the boundaries of health professions disciplines in education, research and service: The University of Washington Experience. *Academic Medicine, 81*(10), 891–896. DOI: 10.1097/01.ACM.000238078.93713.a6.
- Payler, J., Meyer, E., & Humphris, D. (2008). Pedagogy for interprofessional education – what do we know and how can we evaluate it? *Learning in Health and Social Care, 7*(2), 64–78. DOI: 10.1111/j.1473-6861.2008.00175.x.
- Reeves, S., Goldman, J., Burton, A., & Sawatzky-Girling, B. (2010). Synthesis of systematic review evidence of interprofessional education. *Journal of Allied Health, 39*(3 pt 2), 198–203. Retrieved from <http://www.ingentaconnect.com.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/content/asahp/jah/2010/00000039/A00103s1/art00005>
- Reeves, S., Goldman, J., Gilbert, J., Tepper, J., Silver, I., Suter, E., & Zwarenstein, M. (2011). A scoping review to improve conceptual clarity of interprofessional interventions. *Journal of Interprofessional Care, 25*, 167–174. DOI: 10.3109/13561820.2010.529960.
- Reeves, S., Tassone, M., Parker, K., Wagner, S., & Simmons, B. (2012). Interprofessional education: An overview of key developments in the past three decades. *Work, 41*, 233–245. DOI: 10.3233/WOR-2012-1298.
- Reeves, S., Zwarenstein, M., Goldman, J., Barr, H., Freeth, D., Hammick, M., & Koppel, I. (2009). Interprofessional education: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes. *Cochrane Database*

- of *Systematic Reviews*, 1. Art. No.: CD002213. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD002213.pub2.
- Reeves, S., Zwarenstein, M., Goldman, J., Barr, H., Freeth, D., Koppel, I., & Hammick, M. (2010). The effectiveness of interprofessional education: Key findings from a new systematic review. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, early online, 1–12. DOI: 10.3109/13561820903163405.
- Remington, T.L., Foulk, M.A., & Williams, B.C. (2006). Evaluation of evidence for interprofessional education. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, 70(2). Article 66. DOI: 10.5688/aj700366.
- Steinert, Y. (2005). Learning together to teach together: Interprofessional education and faculty development. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 19(Suppl. 1), 60–75. DOI: 10.1080/1356182050081778.
- Silver, I.L., & Leslie, K. (2009). Faculty development for continuing interprofessional education and collaborative practice. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions*, 29(3), 172–177. DOI: 10.1002/chp.20032.
- Zwarenstein, M., Atkins, J., Barr, H., Hammick, M., Koppel, I., & Reeves, S. (1999). A systematic review of interprofessional education. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 13(4), 417–424. DOI: 10.3109/13561829909010386.
- Zwarenstein, M., Reeves, S., Barr, H., Hammick, M., Koppel, I., & Atkins, J. (2000). Interprofessional education: Effects on professional practice and health care outcomes. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, (3). Art. No.: CD002213. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD002213.