

Invited Speaker Abstract
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Presenting Author & Affiliation:

Tsakitzidis, Giannoula
Department of Primary and Interdisciplinary Care
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
University of Antwerp
Antwerp
Belgium

Title of Presentation

Inter-professional collaboration in Health Care – Yes we can!

1. Abstract

Inter-professional education (IPE) is a pedagogical approach for preparing students of the health professions to provide patient care in a collaborative team environment. Since 2005, students in Belgium from different disciplines in healthcare related education programs (physicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nurses, midwives, dietitians, speech therapists, social workers and bachelors in psychology) are trained to learn to collaborate inter-professionally based on the description of the competence of 'collaborator in healthcare'. Evaluation of the InterProfessional Collaboration In Health Care (IPCiHC)-module has taught us that it is important for future professionals to have a first experience with working together with other future healthcare professionals during educational programs. It helps students to gain insight into problem solving and in more efficient teamwork. Healthcare providers from practice confirmed via a brief survey that they as professional healthcare workers also still need to learn to work together in terms of patient-oriented care. It seems that the continuous link between education, practice and research is extremely important to share knowledge and experience in order to ensure the quality of inter-professional collaboration and thus the quality of care and education. When students are in training they have the intention to work patient orientated, but it only gets meaningful when students experience it in practice and can apply it in practice. In order to share the necessary knowledge and experiences, it is important to collaborate inter-professionally and to always involve the patient in his / her context. Educational programs and practice must be coordinated and continuously evolve adapting to the changing context of healthcare to prepare next-generation healthcare professionals. Embedding IPE within core curricula remains a significant challenge.

2. key references

Tsakitzidis, G., et al. (2015). "Participant evaluation of an education module on interprofessional collaboration for students in healthcare studies." *BMC Med Educ* **15**: 188.

Tsakitzidis G et al. Do not confuse multidisciplinary task management in nursing homes with interprofessional care! *Prim Health Care Res Dev* 2017;18(6):591-602.

Reeves S, Pelone F, Harrison R, Goldman J, Zwarenstein M. Interprofessional collaboration to improve professional practice and healthcare outcomes. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017;6:CD000072.

3. key messages

- Inter-professional collaboration can be taught
- Training inter-professional skills during education programmes prepares future health care providers better to the ever-changing-context
- Reflecting on inter-professional collaboration helps to make success keys concrete and clearly formulated
