Interprofessional Communication: There’s No “I” in Team!
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The Joint Commission reports communication errors as a leading cause of sentinel events in the U.S. Breakdown in communication across various health fields has been attributed to a lack of teamwork amongst healthcare professionals. To foster interprofessional teamwork, in 2017, an interprofessional case study event was conducted with undergraduate nursing, nutrition, childlife, social work, and OT/PT students at Tennessee Technological University.

The purpose of this quantitative, one group (n=65) pre/post test research study was to determine the effects of undergraduate interprofessional educational opportunities on students’ perceptions of interprofessional teamwork.

DATA ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Pre-Test Scores Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
<th>Post-test Scores Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Effect Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing students</td>
<td>18.02 (1.9)</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>19.45 (0.9)</td>
<td>0.35</td>
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<td>(n=44)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Healthcare</td>
<td>18.35 (1.3)</td>
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<td>19.10 (1.0)</td>
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<td>students (n=21)</td>
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Using the Independent t-test, there was no statistically significant difference between groups in students’ pretest Interprofessional Teamwork scores (t(59) = 0.66, p=0.51); thus, there was homogeneity between the 2 groups’ pretest scores. There was no statistically significant difference in students’ post-test Interprofessional Teamwork scores as compared to other healthcare students’ scores (t(61) =1.32, p=0.19).

Recommendations
We recommend these events be included in health science students’ educations semesterly.

CONCLUSION
These results indicate the interprofessional case study event helped students’ understanding of the importance of collaboration in the healthcare setting. This increased perception of the value of interprofessional teamwork may result in safer healthcare environments for patients.

Images:
- http://www.uoftmeds.com/images/Student_Health_Team.jpg
- https://i.pinimg.com/originals/d8/05/45/d80545c4ac5cfb5dfb4428df431f4.jpg

References
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Dr. Susan E. Piras
Danny Miller RN

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Recommended Reading: