

Advancing Inter-Professional Practice

PARTNERING WITH UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO: EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL CARE (EHPIC)

SickKids, with the support of Margaret Keatings, Vice President Professional Services and Chief Nurse Executive and Ron Laxer, Vice President of Education & Quality, initiated the advancement of Inter-professional Practice. Today, SickKids is collaborating with the University of Toronto's Office of Inter-professional Education and fellow academic health science centres to further advance this evolving approach to the delivery of health care in Canada.

Educating Health Professionals for Inter-professional Care (EHPIC), an initiative of the Office of Inter-professional Education, is aimed at building capacity for inter-professional collaboration at all hospitals within the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN). Each member hospital has been asked to bring together a team of individuals from their respective institutions that have been identified as leaders in the areas of inter-professional practice. Those teams represent their institutions at this newly created forum where there is opportunity for sharing ideas and to learn from each other. The leadership team from SickKids includes Colleen Gruenwald, Bonnie Fleming-Carroll, Sue Tallett, Michele Durrant, Michelle Sholdice, and Barb Neilson.

“This shift to enhanced inter-professional collaboration is in part about sustainability and utilizing our human health resources efficiently, and innovatively,” says Colleen Gruenwald. As we continue to face human resource shortages across all health-care professions, we are pursuing opportunities of working more effectively in teams, eliminating duplication of efforts, and benefiting from the unique contribution that each profession brings to patient and family care. While the overall goal is to improve patient care, the expectation is that enhanced inter-professional practice will also contribute to creating healthier work environments, improved systems of communication and decision making, with greater role clarity.”

In addition to bringing Toronto's Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) centres together in collaboration focusing on the development of inter-professional practice initiatives, EHPIC is also leading changes to health-care curriculum. The University of Toronto is looking at developing curriculum through which students across all health disciplines will be educated in the area of inter-professional practice. As well, TAHSN hospitals will be looking at providing student placements where students, while learning discipline-specific knowledge and skill at a clinical site, will have the opportunity to come together with a team of health professionals and learn how to work collaboratively within an inter-professional practice model.

“This two-pronged approach is essential because you need to have a work environment that will support what students are learning in the academic setting, enabling them to put the theory into practice in the clinical setting,” says Bonnie Fleming-Carroll. “We have been working on inter-professional practice initiatives over the past two years. When we were invited to join EHPIC, the goals aligned perfectly with the work we were already doing and validated those efforts. The collaboration at this level is serving to broaden our perspective, build capacity, and share learning. In the end, we will be able to accomplish much more through collaboration with fellow academic health science centres than any of us could hope to accomplish individually. That same belief is also the driving force behind inter-professional practice: that we will achieve much greater outcomes for our patients through collaboration with others than we would working in isolation.”

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The University of Toronto Office of Inter-professional Education recently obtained a grant from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to advance inter-professional care and inter-professional education. Toronto hospitals were given opportunity to apply for funding from this grant to support implementation of inter-professional practice initiatives at their institutions to support the broad initiative, and SickKids was successful in obtaining funding for a specific research initiative. Staff can expect to see new initiatives being implemented as inter-professional practice pilot projects are introduced in various clinical areas. A number of pilot projects are ready to be launched which will be purposeful initiatives, aimed at moving us forward to achieving inter-professional care outcomes.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION BOARDS ARE AT SICKKIDS!

As part of the Advancing Inter-professional Practice (IPP) Initiative at SickKids, a Family Communication Board pilot project has been launched. This project is aimed to improve communication between the family, child and health care team members in order to create a sense of collaboration. For the pilot, Family Communication

Family Communication Board		
Me and my family	About today	Today's date
My team	Message centre	
About me		

Boards are being installed at each bedside on 4D, 5C, and 7C with the hope to include the rest of the organization after the evaluation. Both family and staff will receive information about how to use the Family Communication Board.

Children and families will have the chance to share their opinions through a family survey. Similarly, members of the health care team will have the opportunity to share their opinions through a staff survey.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Natasha Brownrigg, IPP Project Manager, ext. 2666, natasha.brownrigg@sickkids.ca

NAVIGATION INNOVATION TEAM

Benjamin Alman, Riyana Babul-Hirji, Karen Breen-Reid, Barbara Bruinse, Cindy Bruce-Barrett (IPP co-chair), Peter Cox (IPP co-chair), Daniela Crivianu-Gaita, Krista Cauz, Laurie Horricks, Helen Edwards, Miriam Kaufman, Barbara Neilson, Kim O'Leary, Carol-Ann Smith, Kim Streitenberger, Kathryn Timberlake, Irene Ushycky

CHILD & FAMILY EXPERIENCE INNOVATION TEAM

Ayman Al-Täher, Nicky Brookes, Elizabeth Dettmer, Michele Durrant, Bonnie Fleming-Carroll (IPP co-chair), Frank Gavin, Colleen Gruenwald, Jonathan Hellmann, Pam Hublely, Donna Koller, Karen LeGrow, Lucia Lisboa, Anne Matlow, David Nicholas (IPP co-chair), Jennifer Pepper, Robyn Stremler

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Natasha Brownrigg (IPP Project Manager), Cindy Bruce-Barrett (IPP co-chair), Peter Cox (IPP co-chair), Bonnie Fleming-Carroll (IPP co-chair), Margaret Keatings (IPP chair), Ron Laxer (IPP chair), Seonag Macrae, Ted McNeill, David Nicholas (IPP co-chair), Ivy Oandasan, Debbie O'Connor, Bonnie Stevens, Polly Stevens, Susan Tallett

