



# The Common Thread

A Newsletter from the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care  
Virginia Commonwealth University

ISSUE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2013

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Historic student interactions
- Student success on the national stage
- A regional dialogue on interprofessional practice and care
- Educational innovations from multiple faculty

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Emswiler Symposium	1
Interprofessional Spotlight	2
IPE Case Series	2
Clarion Competition	3
IHPA	3
Contact	4
Mission	4

## First Annual Emswiler Interprofessional Symposium

### Preparing for the Interprofessional Practice Environment of Tomorrow

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 173 individuals from over ten healthcare fields convened at the Greater Richmond Convention Center for the “First Annual Emswiler Symposium”. Never before have such a large and diverse group of health professionals gathered in Virginia to learn about interprofessional education and practice. Participants represented over 17 different organizations, including major academic health centers and health systems.

The conference, funded in part by a gift from Jewell Emswiler, was dedicated to the memory of her husband, Carl Emswiler, a graduate of the MCV School of Pharmacy and a pioneer of collaborative practice in pharmacy.

“Carl would have been so proud to see the different professions at this event,” remarked Mrs. Emswiler.

“Carl Emswiler was a true innovator,” noted



(L-R) Tom Menighan, Alan Dow, Jewell Emswiler, Victor Yanchick — First Annual Emswiler Symposium

Victor Yanchick, Dean of the School of Pharmacy. “He saw how pharmacy practice could contribute to patient care before the rest of us did.”

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring Joanne Disch, Professor of Nursing at the University of Minnesota, Thomas Menighan, CEO of the American Pharmacists Association, and Sheldon Retchin, CEO of VCU Health System. The three panelists engaged in a ninety minute discussion about the future of interprofessional practice and how education and care delivery need to change to meet the needs of our society.

“We must address interprofessional care on multiple levels – educational and clinical,” remarked Susan Johnson, Assistant Professor of VCU School of Nursing. “I was so proud to see we were taking that step forward at VCU. The conference represented an excellent first step.”

“There are a number of national interprofessional conferences, but this conference is the first regional conference that strives to create a dialogue in the broader community about how we can work together to improve care,” said Alan Dow, Director of the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care. “We hope to spark collaborations between educators, practitioners, and leaders to foster the changes we need to improve healthcare.”

The Symposium will be a recurring event each spring.



## Spotlight: Innovators In Interprofessional Education



Sharon Lanning, D.D.S.  
School of Dentistry  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University a

Dr. Lanning received her DDS in 1996 from the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine. She then earned a certificate in Periodontology in 1999 from Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Dentistry. Dr. Lanning became a diplomat of the American Academic of Periodontology in 2008. She was an adjunct Clinical Instructor at Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Dentistry from 1999 to 2002 and full-time Clinical Assistant Professor at University of Michigan, School of Dentistry from 2002 to 2004. She returned to Virginia Commonwealth University as an Assistant Professor in 2004 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2008. Dr. Lanning provides

clinical and didactic instruction to both undergraduate and graduate students, receiving several awards recognizing her outstanding teaching. Dr. Lanning is an active member of several committees at the Department, School, and University levels and currently serves as the Chair of School of Dentistry's Curriculum Committee. She is a member of regional and national organizations including: the American Dental Association, Virginia Dental Association, Virginia Society of Periodontology, American Dental Education Association and American Academy of Periodontology. Dr. Lanning has served as an American Dental Education Association, Change and Innovation in Dental Education liaison since

2007. She is a published author in peer-reviewed journals focusing on dental education. Dr. Lanning has been an invited speaker at annual conferences of the American Academy of Periodontology and American Dental Education Association. She has also completed extensive professional development programs through the University of Michigan, School of Medicine, Academy of Academic Leadership, Institute of Teaching and Learning and American Dental Education Association, Leadership Institute. Most recently, Dr. Lanning was recognized with the WISDM Annual Professional Development Award, 2012 for promoting the professional development of other women faculty.

## A Foundation of Many Colors

The scrubs were pale blue, purple, green, and pink. Across this patchwork of colors, the energy of students engaged in discussion bubbled through the large auditorium. The occasion: a session of the interprofessional case series, a year-long program for students from all five VCU health science schools.

The series, led by Sharon Lanning, Associate Professor in the School of Dentistry, brings together students early in their programs from the schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. Over 600 students participated in the series this year.

The curriculum

spans four sessions during which students follow an older adult woman through a health care experience. For each health care experience, senior students from three programs presented how their profession would evaluate the patient and how they would collaborate with others to ensure optimal care.

After the presentations students and their mentors then fielded questions from the audience about their professions and how they deliver care together.

"The purpose of the program is to teach students about other health professions and how they work together to provider better care," said Lanning. "The most striking part has been the impressive questions from the audience. Students

are really thinking about these issues."

The curriculum is part of larger efforts of the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care to bring students from different health professions together.

"Students and faculty have been gathering on this spot for 175 years to learn about being a health professional," Alan Dow, Director of the Center, noted. "However, I believe this is the first time such a large, interprofessional group of students has convened to learn about, from, and with each other."

"Our goal," said Lanning, "is to create the foundation for more collaborative health practitioners in the future."

*"Students are really thinking about these issues."*



IPE Case Series 2013

## CLARION Competition



**VCU Clarion  
Winners: (L-R)  
Nikhil Singal,  
David Aguero,  
Courtney  
Justice, Parth  
Modi**

The community of Odenia, Ohio was breathless. Plagued by poor air quality related to local manufacturing, the population suffered from high rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (emphysema). In addition, the town's only lung doctor was overwhelmed by the demand for his services, and the affected individuals struggled to get the care they needed for their lung problems. What could be done to help Odenia?

Such was the scenario presented to VCU students as part of the CLARION competition, a national case competition for health professional students. The competition, begun in 2002 at the University of Minnesota, poses a complex healthcare problem to teams of four students representing different

health profession. The students analyze the fictitious situation and present recommendations for improving care of the community.

Six teams, representing Allied Health, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy, described their findings and proposal for improvement to a panel of faculty judges in March. Although all of the teams described thoughtful, innovative solutions, the team of Nikhil Singal (Health Administration), David Aguero (Pharmacy), Courtney Justice (Nursing), and Parth Modi (Medicine) stood above the rest and represented VCU at the national case competition in Minneapolis this April.

"The CLARION competition was an excellent opportunity for me to get a glimpse of my future career as an administrator," remarked Nikhil Singh. "I learned about the challenges and benefits of working in an interprofessional team. It has been an incredible experience to learn about each discipline's perspective approaching problems and solutions."

The event was coordinated by Rho Chi, the Pharmacy Honor Society, and supported by the Center for Inter-professional Education and Collaborative Care and the Department of Health Administration.

DaleMarie Moody, Vice President of Rho Chi and lead organizer of the competition, noted, "In addition to being a student within the School of Pharmacy, I also attend classes to pursue a Certificate in Aging Studies within the Department of Gerontology. Through these courses, I have been able to look at the patient as a whole rather than from the narrow view of pharmacy alone."

"My hope is that implementing an interprofessional case competition here at the MCV campus will provide a similarly powerful experience for other students on campus."

***"I learned about the challenges and benefits of working in an interprofessional team."***

## Inter Health Professional Alliance

Shopping at the Kroger on Lombardy, you might be approached by bright-faced VCU students wanting to talk about health. The students are part of IHPA, a student organization founded by five students in 2010 with the goal of uniting students for a monthly health outreach event. With over 200 students now involved, IHPA comprises students from the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work, and the Dietetics Internship.

The leaders of IHPA pick one health topic each month and train students about the topic through interprofessional educational sessions. Then, the students, armed with a newsletter on the health topic, engage the community at area grocery stores.

"The newsletter serves as a patient

resource and provides talking points for students," explains Alex Enurah, a medical student and founding President of IHPA. "The customers can take it home as a reference after they've talked to members of our group."

"After volunteering with our group, students appreciate what other schools are learning," noted Kroger Outreach Coordinator and pharmacy student, Sarah Aesy. "They understand the importance of working together as a team because, in the end, that will provide patients with the best overall care."

"With so many compassionate, bright students looking to enrich their education, I hope our group will continue to grow in the years to come," says Vice President and third-year phar-



**VCU Students participating in the Inter Health Professionals Alliance**

macy student, Kristen LaCoe. "It's not often that you start an outreach event that brings customers back month after month with great news about how they're being more actively involved in their health!"

For more information including recent publications and presentations, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/ihpavcu/home>.

**Center for Interprofessional  
Education and Collaborative Care  
Virginia Commonwealth University**

**Virginia Commonwealth University  
VP For Health Sciences  
PO Box 980549  
Richmond VA 23298**

**Phone: 804-828-9171**

**E-mail: [ipecenter@vcu.edu](mailto:ipecenter@vcu.edu)**

**Facebook: Center for Interprofessional  
Education and Collaborative Care at VCU**

**Twitter: @VCUCIPE**

The mission of the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care is to improve healthcare through research-driven innovations in education and clinical care that increase effective interprofessional collaboration.

Specific goals include:

- Advancing interprofessional education and collaborative care scholarship, ranging from primary research on how teams function to evaluation of the outcomes of new educational and clinical programs
- Developing educational experiences for healthcare trainees that prepare graduates for the current and future approaches to healthcare delivery
- Creating and supporting organizational structures within VCU, VCU Health System, and the surrounding community for innovative models of collaborative care and interprofessional education

We face a complex series of challenges in modern healthcare. A fragmented system propagates medical errors resulting in harm to patients. Inefficiencies in the system lead to redundant testing and higher costs. And, patients and their families, trying to navigate this complexity successfully, feel overwhelmed by a system not attuned to the needs of the sick. Despite a surge of technological advancement over the past decades, the care we deliver seems far away from the bucolic ideal of the last century.

Our hope for the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care is to create a better approach to providing healthcare. We believe that healthcare teams that place pa-

tients and their families at the center of care can provide comprehensive, coordinated care worthy of our modern society. By studying and educating about the delivery of care, we seek to harness the power of the miracles of modern medicine and apply them in our everyday work of improving the health of our community.

If you have a great idea for interprofessional education or practice or would like to be more involved in some of the ongoing programs, contact us by email at [ipe-center@vcu.edu](mailto:ipe-center@vcu.edu). You can also like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

— Alan Dow  
Director, Center for IPE&CC



**Alan Dow leading an IPE Simulation Session**