**Director’s Message**

It’s the gap that matters. While all of us have our gripes about healthcare, when you look across the health system, many of us have pretty good healthcare. We can see healthcare practitioners when we want, we can afford to follow their recommendations. Yet, that’s not true for all of us. That fact plays out in statistics as a gap between the best health outcomes and the worst health outcomes.

As we head into a winter season of cold dark days, we are reminded to be thankful. Thankful for our loved ones, our homes, and our ability to follow our passions. Yet, we should also be mindful. Mindful of those with less to be thankful for and mindful of how our lives can intersect with theirs. As we head into the winter season, let’s be thankful—and mind the gap. Alan Dow, MD, MSHA is the Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care, and Professor of Internal Medicine in the VCU School of Medicine.

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### Practice Models of Here and Now

**Alan Dow**

VCU faculty recently reported that life expectancy varies by as much as twenty years across metro Richmond. Faculty and students are working to close that gap at the Center for Healthy Hearts, a free and charitable clinic located near Richmond’s Fan District.

The Center for Healthy Hearts is fertile ground for innovative programs that meet the needs of the uninsured. The Center focuses on management of chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol. Patients are most commonly seen by pharmacists, a non-traditional pharmacist-led model, with physicians and nurse practitioners playing a secondary role.

The model works. Patients at the Center have rates of blood pressure and diabetes control better than the national average for insured patients. The model has been so successful that counterparts from medicine, pharmacy, and public health have joined the clinician team, broadening the scope of services to meet the needs of the uninsured.

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### The Fifth Annual Emswiller Interprofessional Symposium

**Working Together for Better Health**

Saturday, February 4, 2017 • Registration at 8:30a • Program at 9:00a - 3:30p

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Henrico, Virginia

Early bird available until December 19, 2016

**Keynote Speakers**

- Bonnie Mazurkiewicz Jennings, PhD, RN, ANNP
- Professor, Neil Hoggatt Woodruff School of Nursing
- Emory University, Atlanta, GA

- Deborah W. Davis
- Vice President for Clinical Services
- Chief Executive Officer, VCU Hospitals, Richmond, VA

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**Information & registration:** go.vcu.edu/ipconference

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**Core Faculty and Staff**

- Alan Dow, MD, MSHA
- Charles Alexander, MA
- Melissa Burton, BS
- Sharon Lanning, DDS
- Kelly Lackman, PhD
- Colleen Lynch, MSN, RN, CPHQ, CCFP
- Elizabeth Miculici, MBA, PMP, CCPR

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**Newsletter Staff**

- Melissa Burton, BS
- Colleen Lynch, MSN, RN, CPHQ, CCFP
- Elizabeth Miculici, MBA, PMP, CCPR

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The mission of the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care is to improve health through collaboration by:

- Implementing interprofessional models of care that advance patient and population health
- Promoting research-driven innovations in interprofessional education and practice, and
- Educating students and practitioners to lead in an evolving interprofessional health care environment.

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**Inside This Issue**

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- Spotlight on Evian Sisson
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- Director’s Message
- Fifth Annual Emswiller Interprofessional Symposium: February 4, 2017
Interprofessional Quality Improvement (IPQI) Projects
Coleen Lynch

Three interprofessional teams of fourth-year medical, fourth-year nursing, third-year pharmacy and second-year health administration students completed a semester-long quality improvement project immersion experience through work on quality improvement projects within VCU Health System. Student teams presented their project findings to faculty and health system stakeholders on the following topics: transitions of care between VCU Health System and skilled nursing facilities; wayfinding in the Ambulatory Care Center; and, procedural complications in the ICU setting. This unique experience gives students the opportunity to design and lead actual quality improvement projects while filling needs identified by the health system performance improvement leadership. All while practicing interprofessional teamwork and communication skills learned in earlier IPE coursework. IPQI is in its fifth year and continues to expand the number of participating programs, students, and number of projects. This experience is being transitioned to an elective course in the next academic year, serving as an official capstone course for the Center’s Quality Improvement and Patient Safety educational efforts.

Coleen Lynch, RN, MSN, CPHQ, CPPS is the Assistant Director for Quality Improvement in the Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care.

Spotlight on Evan Sisson
Evan Sisson, Pharm.D., MSHA, BCACP, CDE, FAAD, is an associate professor at VCU School of Pharmacy where he teaches pharmacy, nursing and medical students about drug therapy for hypertension, dyslipidemia and diabetes. Dr. Sisson earned both his Masters in Health Administration and Pharm.D. degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Sisson provides direct patient care and manages drug therapy under a collaborative practice agreement at the Center for Healthy Hearts, an urban, free, chronic disease clinic which he serves as Board Chairman. Recent publications include the 6th edition of AADE’s Quick Guide to Medications, the 3rd edition of AADE’s Review Guide for the Certified Diabetes Educator Exam and two book chapters in the 3rd edition of AADE’s Art and Science of Diabetes Self-management Education.

Spotlight on Shawne Soper
Shawne Soper, PT, DPT, MBA, is an associate professor and assistant director of clinical education in the Dept. of Physical Therapy at VCU School of Allied Health Professions. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Physical Therapy from East Carolina University, her Master’s in Business Administration from Avett University, and her doctorate in Physical Therapy from Simmons College. She worked at Sheltering Arms for 28 years prior to transitioning to a full-time faculty position 3 years ago. She is professionally active in the American Physical Therapy Association at the state and national levels. Dr. Soper’s primary teaching responsibilities in the VCU physical therapy department are in the areas of professional development, administration, leadership, and health care systems. She also teaches in the introductory interprofessional practice course, IPE-501.

Student Perspectives
How did the IPQI experience impact you? The IPQI project was a unique opportunity to work across disciplines to tackle a real-life problem. It is great to know that our work will be continued after our course is over. Having an inter-disciplinary team allowed us to address problems proactively due to each team member bringing a different view to the team. Katherine Pumphrey – Medicine and Health Administration

How did making the IPEC 501 patient-centric instructional video broaden your understanding of teamwork? We came from different backgrounds with different knowledge, but the common goal of helping others is constant in all of us. Working as a team and harnessing this allowed for an enjoyable experience that hopefully can translate into the workplace on our future careers. Ashley Andersen – Nursing

How did IPEC 501 enhance your understanding of professional roles and responsibilities? One of the most valuable aspects of this course is bringing different professional students together in combinations that are both applicable to our future careers and that encourage us to delve into the worlds of our teammates’ future careers. Simply being in their presence once a week was a good reminder that healthcare is so interconnected. Michelle Flewitt – Physical Therapy

IPEC 501 Awesome Video Award
Nearly 500 health sciences students and 20 faculty concluded the 2016 Foundations in Interprofessional Practice course this month. Eighty-eight student teams presented their capstone projects – patient-centric instructional video – on the benefits of interprofessional collaborative practice – to peers and faculty. Team 6-08A’s project, Cameron’s Interprofessional Care, was recognized by peers and faculty with the 2016 IPEC 501 Awesome Video Award.

Two years ago, several physical therapy students approached Dr. Soper and pitched the idea of opening a student run pro bono physical therapy clinic. Inspired by their enthusiasm and recognizing that this was a unique opportunity for students to apply much of the content they teach, Dr. Soper agreed to be the facility mentor for the clinic. After a long search for affordable and appropriate space, the students fortunately found a home at The Center for Healthy Hearts. Dr. Soper and her colleague Cheryl Finucane, PT, PhD initially aided the students in getting the clinic up and running and now provide ongoing guidance to the students to ensure that the clinic’s model is sustainable despite the continual turnover of student leadership. The students manage all aspects of the clinic and have recruited 25 area physical therapists volunteers to provide the required clinical supervision. The Center for Healthy Hearts has proven to be an amazing partner with the students in this venture offering space and equipment as well as guiding the students through the requirements and considerations of offering pro-bono care. The result is a physical therapy clinic in which the patients receive needed care, the students receive invaluable mentoring, and the community receives the benefit of new physical therapy professionals with a passion to serve.

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