

# The Future of Oral Healthcare Delivery and Interdisciplinary Collaboration: *A student perspective*



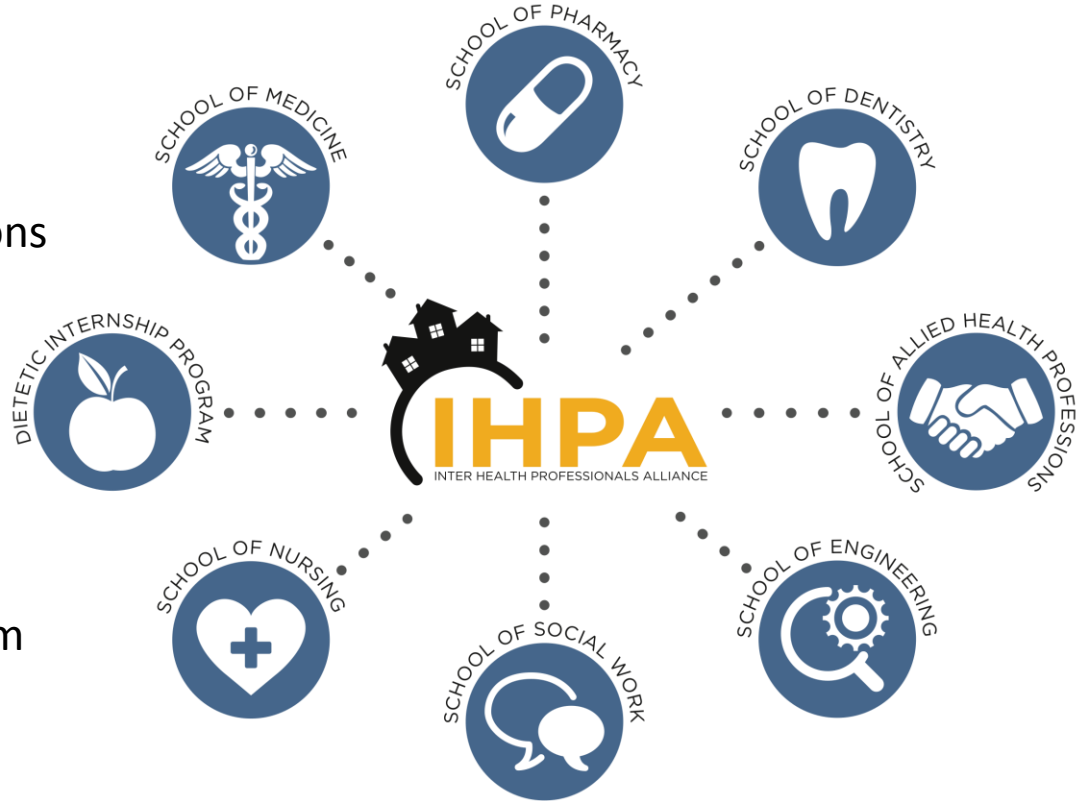
**IHHPA**  
INTER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ALLIANCE

Lyubov Slashcheva  
VCU School of Dentistry  
DDS 2016 Candidate

# Who We Are

The Inter Health Professionals Alliance (IHPA) is one of the only interdisciplinary outreach groups on the Medical College of Virginia Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. It is a student initiated and student run group that has existed for nearly 3 years.

- School of Allied Health Professions
- School of Dentistry
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Social Work
- School of Engineering
- VCU Dietetics Internship program



# Our Mission

The goal of our group is to provide **health education** and public **outreach** projects in underserved Richmond communities through a collaborative effort with professional students from Virginia Commonwealth University. We strive to foster lasting relationships to cultivate a **network** of healthcare professionals that are rooted in teamwork and collaboration. This will not only encourage such professional relationships during our time at MCV, but will encourage an interdisciplinary focus when working with our patients long into the future, to provide high quality, well-rounded care.



# What We Do

- Monthly Newsletters
- Monthly Kroger Outreach
- Educate Then Advocate
- Pre-health student mentorship
- Presentations, posters, and publications



# Monthly Newsletter

- Each month we give out information about our monthly health topic through our collaborative two page newsletter.
- This newsletter is composed of articles written by students from the various schools.
- These articles focus on the monthly health observance, but are guided by the educational background and interest of the author.
- Students can sign up online to write an article in one of our newsletters this year.



## QUITTING SMOKING: FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY.

Alex Enurah, VCU School of Medicine



It has been shown that smoking during pregnancy can hurt both the mother and the baby. Smoking while pregnant can cause stillbirth, miscarriage, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), placental (protective sac around the baby) problems, and low birth weight<sup>1</sup>. In addition, smoking is linked with various cancers in the mother (including lung, throat, mouth, voice box, cervix and more) and stroke, lung disease, heart disease, atherosclerosis, eye disease, gum disease, and osteoporosis<sup>1</sup>. Smoking also exposes others to secondhand smoke, which has also been linked to pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections, wheezing, and coughing in children.<sup>1</sup> For many people, one of the hardest and most challenging things they will ever do is quit smoking. If you are pregnant, smoke, and want to quit, intensive counseling may increase your chances of quitting<sup>1</sup>. There are many community resources that can help you quit- remember, you are not alone. For more information on how to quit, please visit:

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/smoking-how-to-quit/how-to-quit/> and <http://www.smokefree.gov/>.

1. Women's health.gov(2012).Smoking and How to quit. Available at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/smoking-how-to-quit/how-to-quit/>

## WHAT DO TO BEFORE GETTING PREGNANT.

Crystal Adams, VCU School of Social Work

Thinking about having a baby? Did you know that a baby's organs first begin to form in the first few weeks of pregnancy? At this time, you may not even know you are pregnant, so

it is very important that you are physically and emotionally ready for a pregnancy before it even happens. Here are a few tips and things to think about if you are thinking about having a child, or are having unprotected sex and are at risk of getting pregnant:

- Talk with your healthcare provider about possibly getting pregnant, and any risk factors associated with your pregnancy
- Eat a balanced diet, including plenty of folic acid (folate) and iron. Folate, found in leafy vegetables and many fortified breakfast cereals, is needed to prevent birth defects of the spine and skull. Iron, found in cooked beans, lentils, and enriched pasta, prevents anemia. People who are anemic are not able to produce enough healthy red blood cells, and lowers the amount of oxygen that is carried in the blood. Look for vitamins that have both folate and iron.
- Stop taking any drugs, using alcohol and tobacco products. These things can put you and your baby at risk for a number of problems. Please talk with your healthcare provider or other community resources.
- Consider your financial environment. Can you afford to have a baby? Do you have health insurance that will support you and your baby's medical needs?
- Are you and your partner ready to have a baby? Are you and your partner ready to put another person above everything else? Have an open discussion with your partner about having a baby and the changes and challenges that it will bring.

For more information please visit:  
[www.childbirthconnection.org](http://www.childbirthconnection.org)

## PLAN FIRST - FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES PROGRAM

Lynn VanderWeilen, MPH, Department of Health Administration

The Virginia Plan First program pays for family planning services for men and women over the age of 19 who earn equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty level and are uninsured. This means if you are an uninsured, single

*continued on next page*

INTER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ALLIANCE is a collaborative student organization of professional students from Virginia Commonwealth University who provide health education and outreach in the community.





# Kroger Outreach Event

Each month we focus on a new topic of interest to Kroger customers and volunteers with our group. At each outreach event we provide information about the health topic of the month, free blood pressure screening, oral hygiene education, as well as healthy food tours. This is a great way to practice clinic skills and learn how to work together in the modern day medical team.



# Educate then Advocate

The goal of the Educate then Advocate (ETA) session is to unite outreach volunteers and provide educational sessions prior to outreach events. The ETA session includes a presentation by a healthcare professional or student with expertise in the monthly health topic. Following the presentation a case is presented for interprofessional discussion.





# Presentations and Posters

Members from the IHPA have given both oral and poster presentations at multiple conferences and symposiums. We have had representation at the AAMC integrating quality 2013 symposium, the annual meetings of the AAMC and APHA, the First Jewell and Carl Emswiler Interprofessional Symposium, and the annual National Initiative on Oral Health summit .





# Publications

VanderWielen LM, Enurah AS, Osburn IF, Lacoce KN, & Vanderbilt AA. (2013). The Development of Student-led Interprofessional Education and Collaboration. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, doi: 10.3109/13561820.2013.790882

VanderWielen LM, Do EK, Diallo HI, LaCoe KN, Nguyen NL, Parikh SA, Rho HY, Enurah AS, Dumke EK, Dow AW. Interprofessional Collaboration Led by Health Professional Students: A Case Study of the Inter Health Professional Alliance at Virginia Commonwealth University. *Journal of Research in Interprofessional Practice and Education*. Accepted June 14, 2013

Enurah AS, Rho HY, VanderWielen LM, Barden S, Do EK, Slashcheva L. The Inter Health Professionals Alliance: Strengths and Challenges of Interprofessional Student Leadership. *American Journal of Medical Quality*. Under Review.

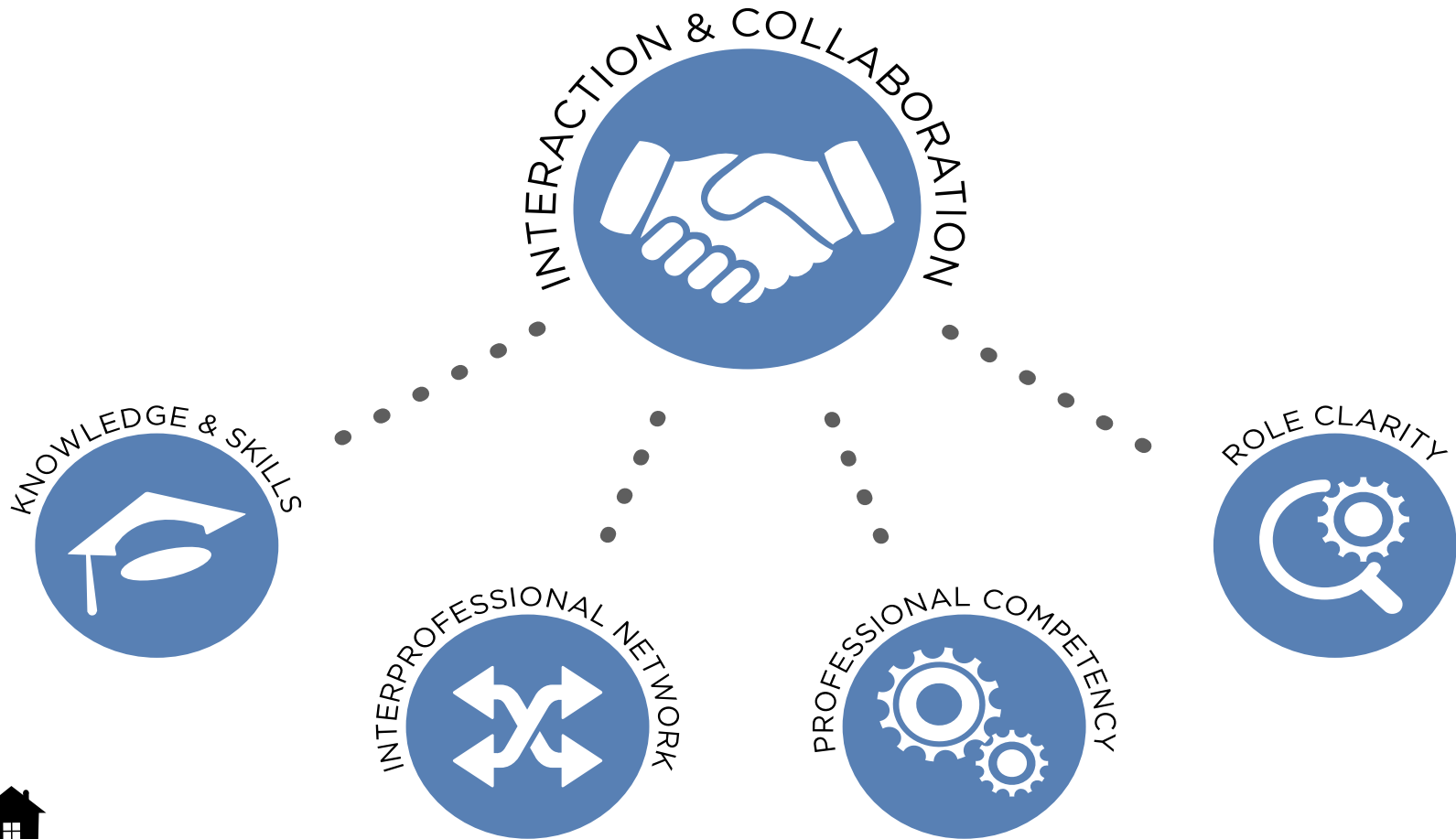


# Awards

IHPA was the first student group to be awarded the currents of change award. In addition the group won best poster at the Jewell and Carl Emswiler Interprofessional Symposium



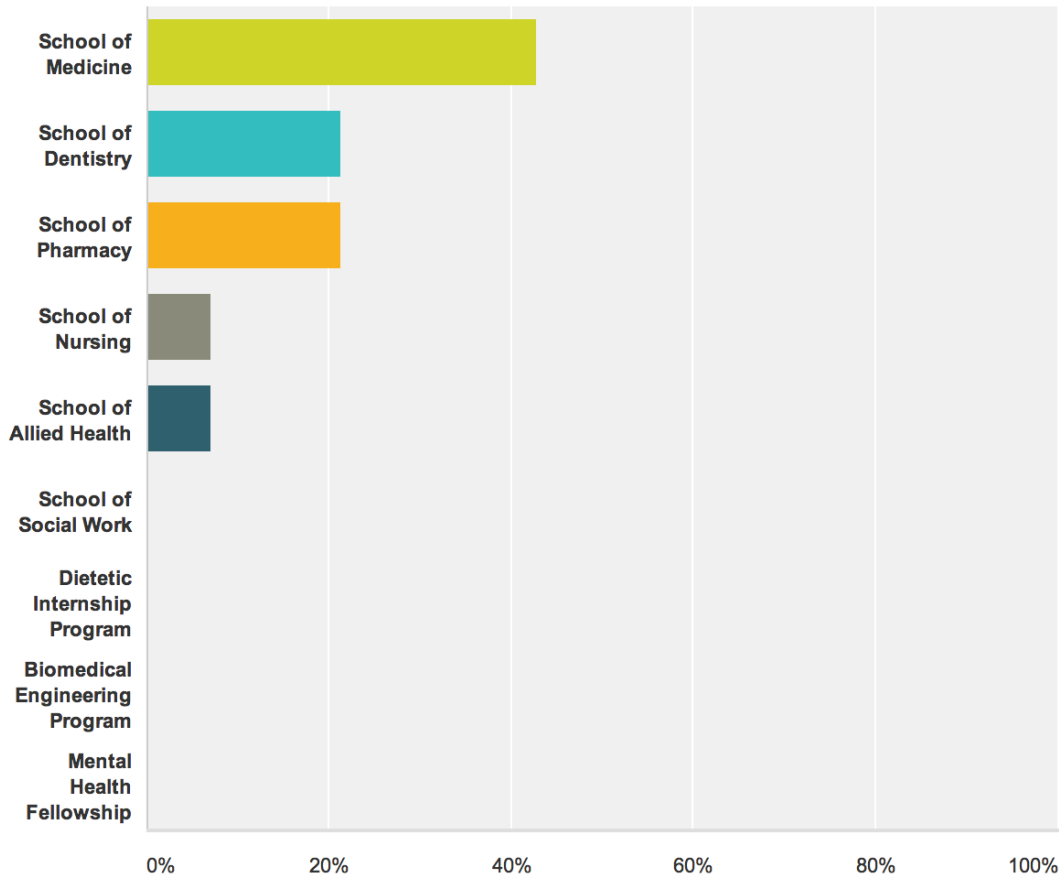
# Benefits of Interprofessional Involvement



# IHPA Participation Survey

In which program are you enrolled?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



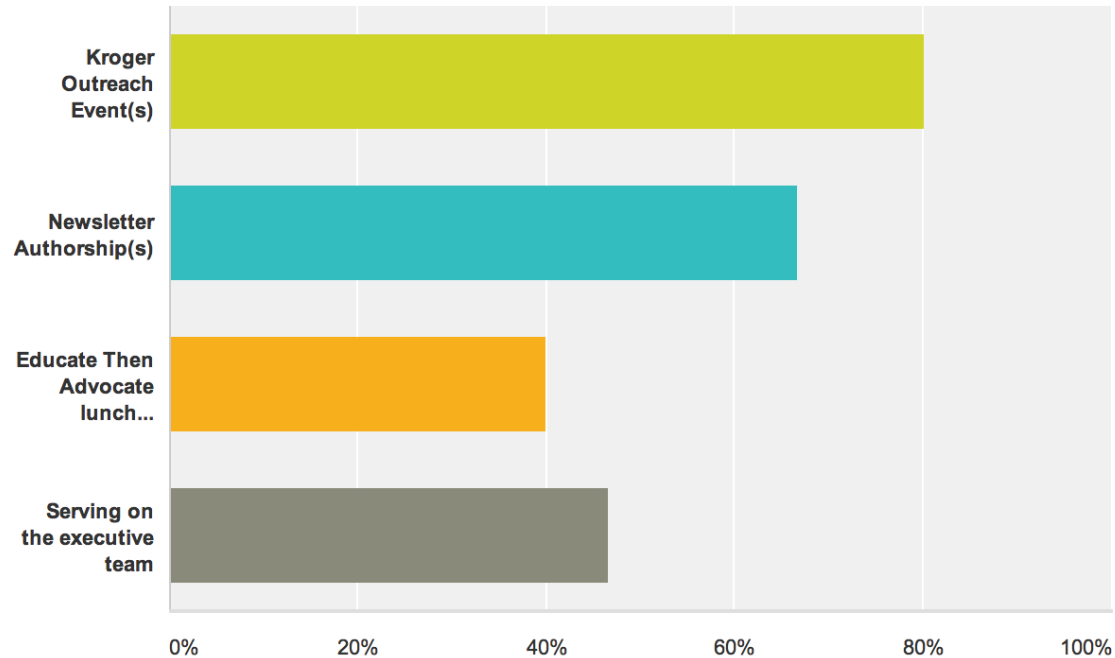
*Others:*

- Department of Psychology
- Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics



## With which of IHPA's activities have you been involved?

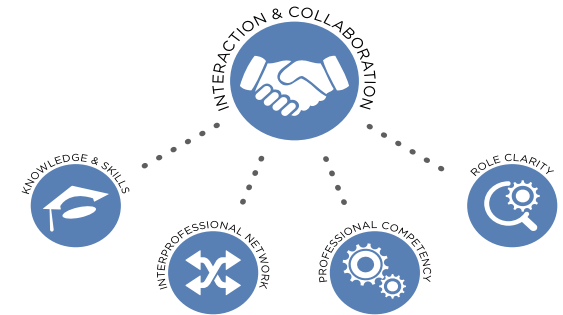
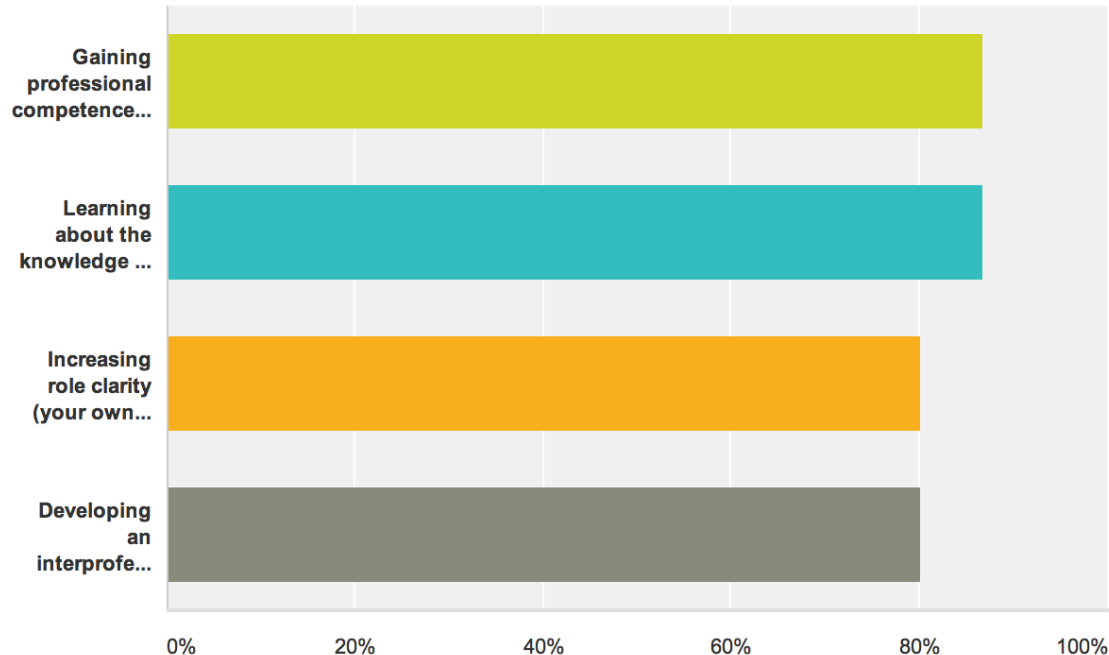
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Kroger Outreach Event(s)	80%	12
Newsletter Authorship(s)	66.67%	10
Educate Then Advocate lunch workshop(s)	40%	6
Serving on the executive team	46.67%	7
Total Respondents: 15		

## Has your participation in IHPA activities benefited you in the following ways?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



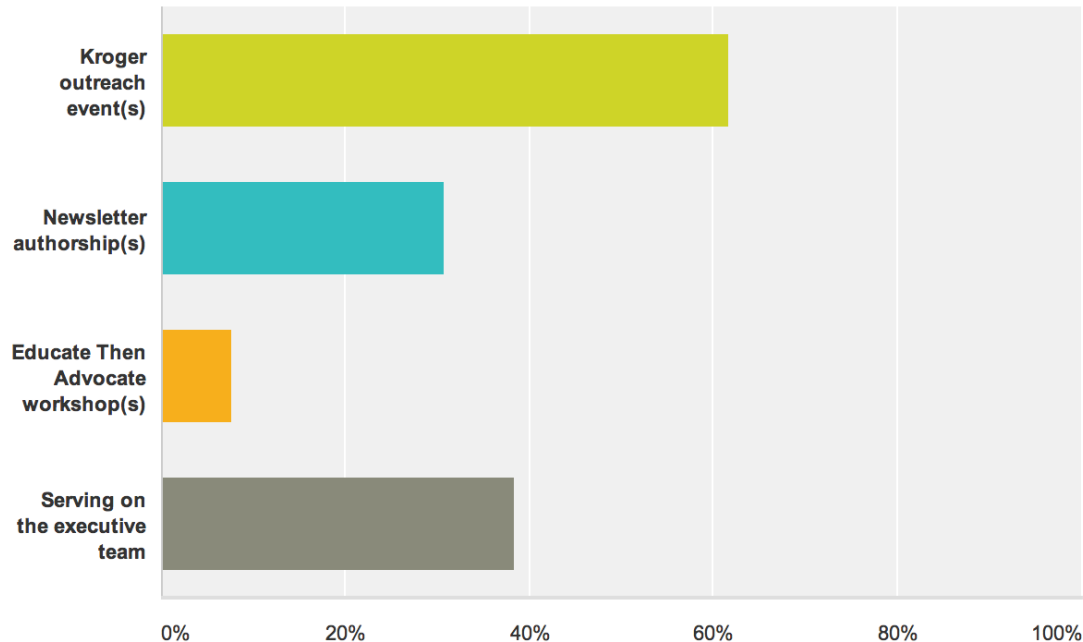
### *Others:*

- Developing leadership skills and advocating for my profession
- Practicing and gaining confidence in taking blood pressure

Answer Choices	Responses	
Gaining professional competence in my own discipline	86.67%	13
Learning about the knowledge and skills of other disciplines	86.67%	13
Increasing role clarity (your own discipline and others)	80%	12
Developing an interprofessional network	80%	12
Total Respondents: 15		

## Which event was most meaningful to you in appreciating the importance of interprofessional collaboration?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 2



### *Others:*

-The combination of all our activities: Working together  
 -The outreach events, since we are working hands-on with other healthcare professionals to serve our patients

Answer Choices	Responses	
Kroger outreach event(s)	61.54%	8
Newsletter authorship(s)	30.77%	4
Educate Then Advocate workshop(s)	7.69%	1
Serving on the executive team	38.46%	5
Total Respondents: 13		

*Please comment about how your involvement with IHPA has shaped the way you perceive/value interprofessional collaboration.*

*Was there a “light-bulb” moment (time/place/event) that you recall when you understood the importance of working in a healthcare team?*

I was so amazed at how all of us from different fields were able to offer various information to people at Kroger. We all worked together to promote health and it was a great experience.

I have only written articles so far. I do think the experience has highlighted one of the most important challenges for the health care team—synthesizing and presenting complex information to the patient.

When my grandmother was sick in the hospital, she was receiving very disjointed care when she needed her doctors to be working together. A pharmacist caught a medication error but it was an isolated action rather than a cohesive group effort. It just makes more sense to me that we need to work together effectively to provide better and more efficient care.

I enjoy hearing about others' experiences—we are all in similar settings but our experiences can differ.



*Please comment about how your involvement with IHPA has shaped the way you perceive/value interprofessional collaboration.*

*Was there a “light-bulb” moment (time/place/event) that you recall when you understood the importance of working in a healthcare team?*

For me, I realize the importance of this whenever I'm in the hospital or hear the horror stories of how long a visit takes just because the nurses and physicians aren't communicating effectively. I think that the quality of care for patients would dramatically improve with improved interprofessional collaboration.

The collaboration on an article for the newsletter was a light-bulb moment for me because it shed light on the many levels of communication that exist even among health care professionals/students and how we need feedback from our peers, and those in the community, to be able to present effective communications.

Working with the executive team has been most rewarding in understanding what environment is conducive to a positive experience in interprofessional collaboration

It was when I was at the first outreach event in the very beginning and saw how great everyone worked together. They were also learning from each other. It was amazing.

Do you have any suggestions for how IHPA could further assist you in gaining skills of interprofessionalism?

I still think we need to find a way to get into the classrooms more to try to reach some of the people who aren't coming to us. We have many "passive" people who don't come to events per se and I think we need to try to reach them as well as those who are already engaged (we need to keep them involved).

I would be interested in learning more about how the healthcare team can advocate for the patient—improving patient safety, outcomes, and satisfaction.

Offer more incentives to engage in and experience the group...community service certification, a pin, an audit course, etc

I think we need to keep advocating for our group to involve more healthcare students as well as other professionals assisting on the healthcare team.

“All three programs share a common goal: for graduates to demonstrate an understanding of other health professions and to provide and promote a team approach to patient care and health care management, which leads to improved patient care.

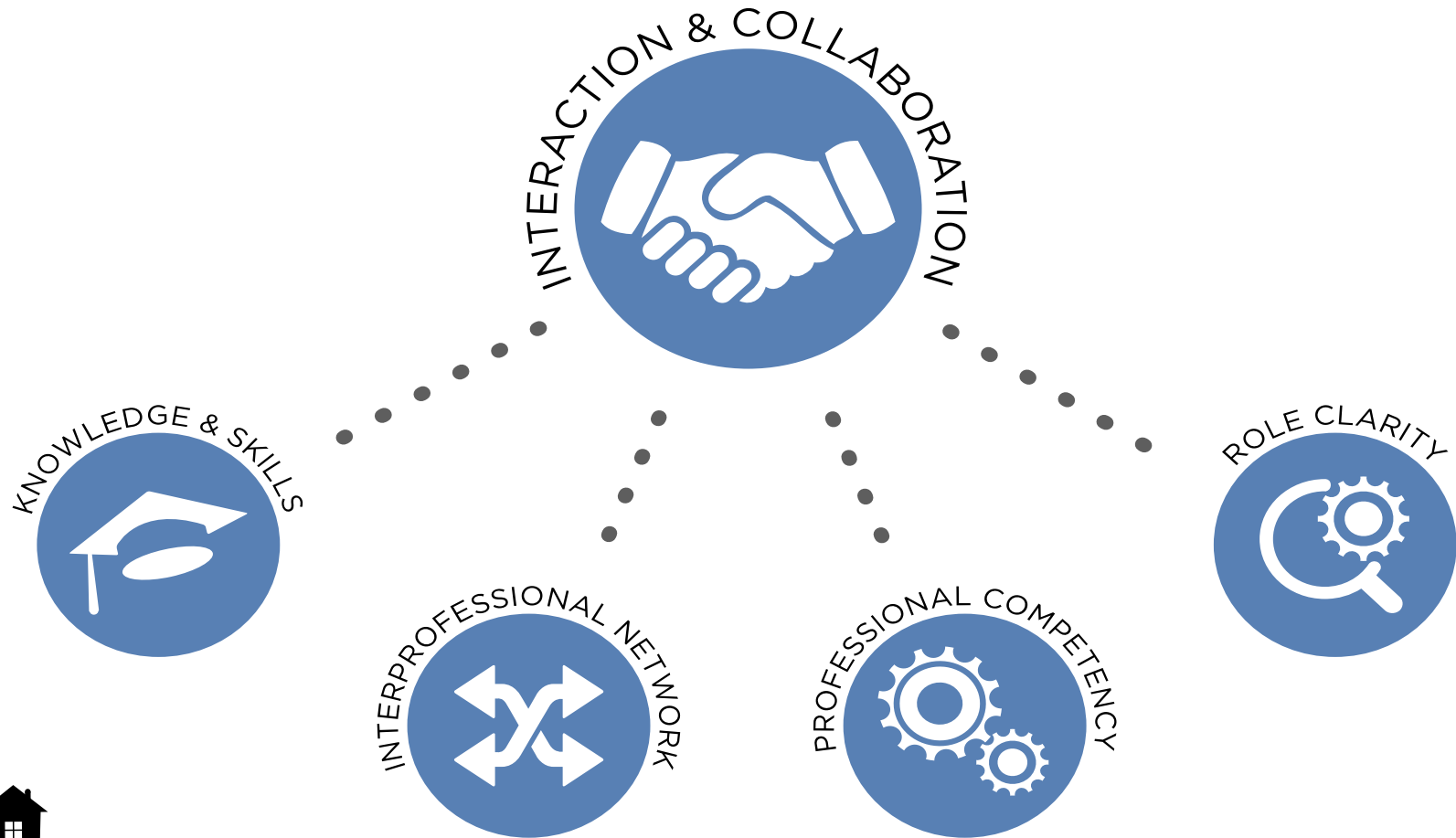
Dr. Andrieu introduced the symposium by first defining what IPE is not. It is not students in the various disciplines of dental education learning together in a classroom, lab, or clinical setting. IPE is also not students in different health education professions learning together in a classroom or lab setting. Nor is it a faculty member from a different profession leading a classroom learning experience.

**IPE is instead defined as students from various health care professions evaluating and treating patients in a team-based environment.** Through this process is developed a respect and common language between and among the health care professions, with the ultimate goal of improved overall patient health. The role of IPE is for students to learn to function as a member of an interprofessional team and to carry such knowledge, skills, and values into practice. This ultimately provides patient care as part of a collaborative team focused on improving overall patient health.”

*Models of Interprofessional Curriculum in Dental Education.  
April 2011. ADEA Bulletin of Dental Education: 44(4).*



# Benefits of Interprofessional Involvement





# Join the Team!



Email us at [ihpa.vcu@gmail.com](mailto:ihpa.vcu@gmail.com)

