

## **Promoting Interprofessionalism in an Academic Environment**

\*Michele Zitzmann, MHS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Angela Foley, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Tina Gunaldo, Ph.D.

Mitzi Glover, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

LSU Health Sciences Center

New Orleans, LA

Interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice teams are becoming more prevalent within the health care sector. There is an increasing amount of research in this area, however, the literature is lacking regarding the incorporation of clinical laboratory science (CLS) students in IPE efforts. In 2015, LSU Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) established a Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice. The goal of this center is to coordinate student education utilizing a team-based, patient-centered approach. With this goal in mind, the School of Medicine and the CLS department developed an IPE experience for their students. The clinical focus of the case-based session was blood and hematopoiesis and the IPE focus was exposure to two Interprofessional Education Collaborative competencies: Roles/Responsibilities and Interprofessional Communication. A total of 254 students (49 CLS students and 205 medical students) participated in the two hour IPE experience, which included pre- and post-surveys for assessing student perceptions. Although this was a single IPE experience, there was statistical significance between the pre- and post- assessment scores. Many medical students stated they had developed an increased understanding of the role of the CLS. These results indicate that incorporating IPE experiences in the academic setting increases communication and knowledge of roles among health professional students. CLS students expressed that they often have to explain their profession to others, including students in other healthcare fields. False accusations of laboratory errors due to not fully understanding clinical laboratory testing or the role of practitioners could be minimized with increased communication and interaction between different healthcare students during their educational training. Increasing CLS participation in IPE activities will increase the awareness of the profession and help improve the quality of patient care. Future IPE sessions are planned with CLS and Physician Assistant students, in addition to a campus-wide IPE course for students from all clinical departments at LSUHSC.