

# Creation of an Interprofessional Research Fellowship: Partnership Between the College of Health Sciences and Center for Interprofessional Collaboration

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## Objectives

By the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to

1. Describe the rationale for the creation of an IPE research fellowship
2. Discuss the process for creation of a research fellowship including identifying logistical challenges generally and at their institution
3. Summarize measurable outcomes of a research fellowship
4. Envision what this may look like at your institution including barriers and strengths



## A Bit About Me....

- Practicing Speech Language Pathologist since 2012
  - Worked as Clinical Educator in SLP program at ETSU from 2017-2024
- Completed doctorate in October of 2024
  - Dissertation: Self-Rated Interprofessionalism Between Allied Health Professionals
- Currently teaching in BS Rehabilitative Sciences program
- Began as inaugural IPE Research Fellow in Fall of 2025



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## Two Models

### IPE at ETSU



1. On-Ground Synchronous
  - Occurs over *two* years with *four* meetings per academic year
  - Over 400 students from 10 professions
  - 40 small groups
  - Includes community partner meetings, standardized patient interactions in simulated learning environments
  - Curriculum developed around the IPEC Core Competencies (IPEC, 2023)
    - Year 2 adds lenses of Leadership, Advocacy, Health Disparities
2. Online Asynchronous
  - Two modules (open for 3 weeks) in each semester for one year
  - Closely follows year one on-ground format and model



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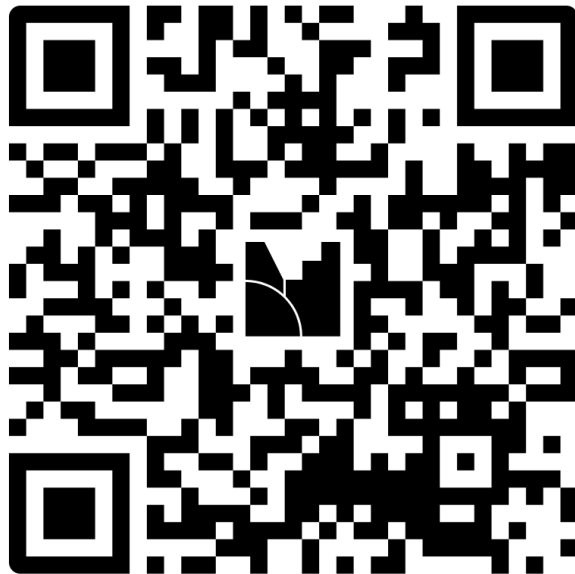
# Comparing Models

- Similarities
  - Jefferson Team Observation Guides (JTOG)
  - Faculty development
  - Quality Improvement Evaluations
  - Based on the IPEC Core competencies
  - Engagement with Standardized Patients
  - Same small group across sessions with dedicated faculty member
  - Similar Models: didactic and then skills practice
- Differences
  - Asynchronous vs Synchronous
  - Engagement with SP in person vs. through discussion boards



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IPE at Your  
Institution



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## Rational for Development of Fellowship

- Gunaldo et al., (2023) identified the need for a more systematic approach to studying Interprofessional Education and Practice
  - IPE research needs a framework to guide the reporting of IPE variables that should be included in a methods section to encourage replication and generalization
- ETSU IPE long-standing goal of increasing research productivity
  - Moving from *retrospective data analysis* to *intentional proactive research*
  - Beyond program evaluation
    - Mixed methods, longitudinal studies, *bridging the gap*



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## Rational for Development of Fellowship

- Limited fellowships like this exist
  - Many in medicine and basic research
  - In these fields the benefits are well-documented for the fellow and the institution (e.g., Dubose et al., 2009; Karpinski et al., 2017)
    - e.g., Improved research productivity and output, training for the fellow, faculty, enhancing the scholarly environment, distributing workload, facilitates collaboration
- Supporting early career researcher/faculty development and leading by example re: interprofessional collaboration



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# Process for Development of Fellowship



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-  Need Identified – more rigorous research without additional time
-  Idea Origin – director of CIC serving on dissertation committee
-  Exploration Meetings – CIC & prospective fellow' Dean of College of Health Sciences & CIC
-  Visioning meetings – CIC & Chief Research Officer ETSU
-  Agreement – Creation of MOU between CIC and CHS
-  Consultation – Contacting national IPE researchers for possible mentorship

Logistical Challenges with Research Fellowship



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## Logistical Considerations/ Challenges

**Coordination**  
between CIC & CHS  
to execute MOU

**Time/Scheduling**  
Balancing fellows  
faculty  
responsibilities with  
fellowship  
expectations

**Communication**  
Not always in the  
same physical space

**Realistic Objectives  
and Expectations**  
balancing fellow/CIC  
goals and priorities



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## Desired Outcomes for CIC

- Develop structure and logistics for a formal Interprofessional Research Program (and specifically a Research Working Group for the CIC)
- Increased submissions/publications/presentations to IP journals and meetings
  - Roemo et al., (2024) Significant linear growth in number of publications annually after instituting a research fellowship
- "Practice what you preach" in terms of interprofessional collaboration across units
  - Academic Health Sciences, Vice Provost for Research, and beyond



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# Benefits from My Perspective



Opportunity for skills development



Interprofessional Collaboration



Aligns with my career and research goals



Excited to contribute to the development of a structured IPE research program at ETSU

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## Proposed Structure

- 20% buyout of time for the fellow
  - 1 course release
- Equates to 1/day per week focused on IPE Research
- Dedicated office space on Thursdays
- One year initially with option to renew for a second year



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## Fellowship Outcomes



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## Year 1 Objectives

- Develop Research agenda/priorities for IPE program
  - Program evaluation, student experience, applied, faculty development
- Targeted Literature Reviews
- Engage in specialized training/mentorship
- Research Committee development
- Present at national or international IP conference
- Submit a reflective editorial on the process



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## Fall Semester



Orientation to office and IPE curriculum



Personal development  
work

Clifton Strengths, Research  
Philosophy



Developing year one objectives



Targeted literature reviews

IPE foundations, gaps, Gunaldo et  
al., article



IP Research Group development



Developed initial research and grant ideas



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## Research Working Group

- **Aim** – Working Group composed of IP Faculty dedicated to engaging in IPE Research
- **Plan**
  - Visioning Group to build foundation for working group
  - 2 Visioning Meetings to help
    - Articulate the vision and goals for a research working group
    - Identify research priorities (institutional, community, gaps)
    - Provide strategies to promote a culture of team science
    - Recommend an operational structure
    - Define measures of success



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## Semester 2 Objectives

- Research visioning group meetings (scheduled) and research working group mission developed and personnel identified
  - Hope to have at least 1 meeting of working group before summer
- Dedicated weekly mentorship meetings and solidify external mentor
- Submit IRB for one research project



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## Fellowship Lessons Learned

- Happily, IPE and fellow goals aligned. However, discussions about what we would have done had they not
  - Discussed developing objectives prior to initiation of a fellowship
- Few centers have formal IPE Research programs
- Importance of regular meetings, consistent communication, and strategies to facilitate collaboration with different work styles



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## Personal Lessons Leaned

- Strong foundation of IPE at ETSU and IPE literature
- Don't rush the process- importance of 'sitting in thought'
- As imagined, interprofessional collaboration can be logistically challenging
- Visual brainstorming (pen and paper) is a beneficial strategy for me



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## Questions?! Discussion



- What gaps in IPE research or scholarship at your institution most resonate with the rationale for developing a research fellowship?
- How do we move IPE research beyond program evaluation toward theory-driven, generalizable, and replicable research?
- How feasible would a fellowship like discussed (e.g., course release or buyout, timing, personnel) for IPE-focused scholarship be at your institution? And what barriers exist?
- What unique challenges have you encountered when conducting truly interprofessional research across units and disciplines? And what strategies have you found effective for managing different work styles, timelines, and expectations across professions?
- If you were starting an IPE research fellowship tomorrow, what would you do differently based on what was shared today?

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2. Gunaldo TP, Lockeman K, Kirkpatrick A, Zorek JA, Dow A (2023). Advancing interprofessional research: the need for a systematic approach. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 37(2), doi.org/10.1080/13561820.2022.2049220
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