

Qatar Interprofessional Health Council (QIHC)

Our Vision: *To lead the education and development of health care professionals and health care systems which exemplify best practices in interprofessional care for the people and State of Qatar and region.*

Our Mission: *The Qatar Interprofessional Health Council (QIHC) will focus on embedding interprofessional collaboration in healthcare education and practice. Working with partners locally, regionally and internationally, the QIHC will lead and foster collaborative interprofessional initiatives.*

Our Purpose: *To provide a venue for communication and collaboration regarding interprofessional education and practice.*

The World Health Organization defines Interprofessional Education (IPE) as ...

... the process by which a group of students (or workers) from the health-related occupations with different educational backgrounds learn together during certain periods of their education, with interaction as an important goal, to collaborate in providing promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and other health-related services. (from "Learning together to work together for health", WHO, 1988, p6)

More recently the WHO described IPE in terms of improved health outcomes:

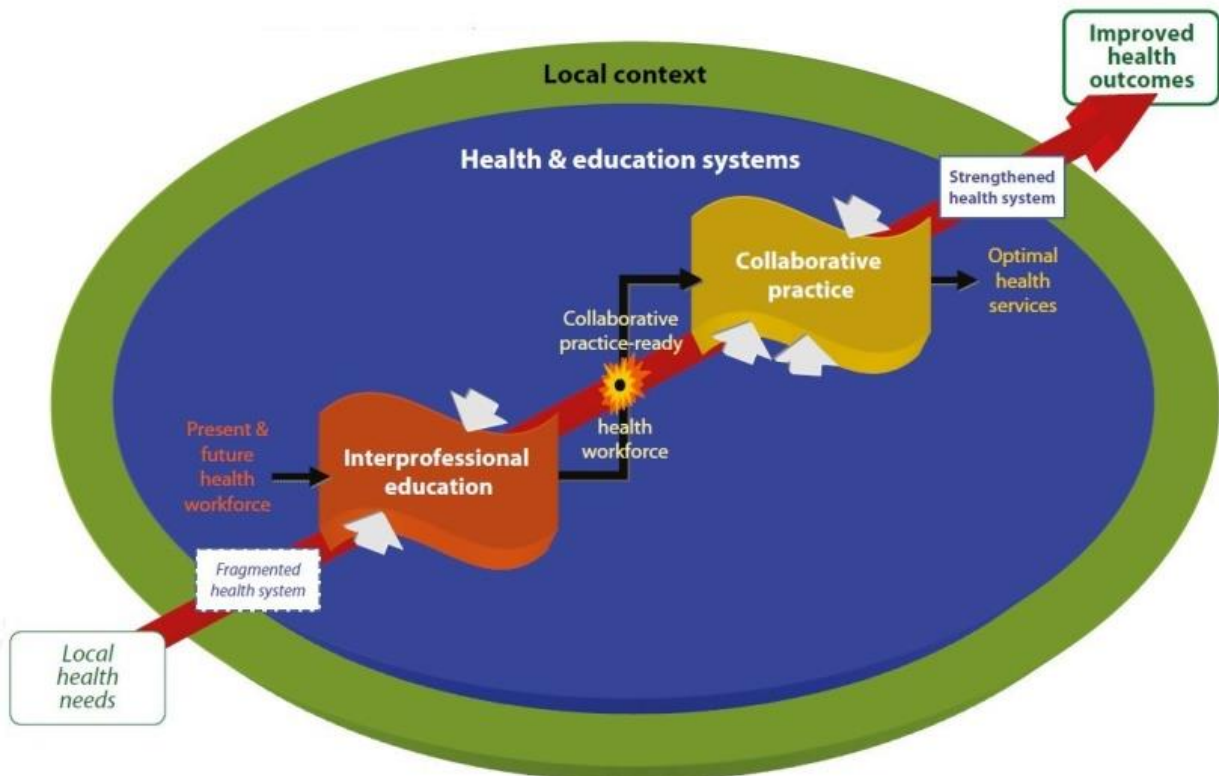


Figure 1: Health and Education Systems

(WHO, http://www.who.int/hrh/resources/framework_action/en/, p9)

For more information about the QIHC please contact bradfjohnson@gmail.com

QIHC's six strategic objectives are:

1. **Knowledge Management-** To lead knowledge production, exchange, application and evaluation in the field of interprofessional education and practice
2. **Capacity Development-** To identify opportunities to provide expert advice, support or resources to organizations or groups implementing interprofessional learning or practice environments.
3. **Partnerships-** To develop and promote strategic partnerships with organizations to foster introduction and integration of interprofessional practices within their own operations.
4. **Role Modeling-**To develop and promote world-class models of interprofessional collaboration within and among partnering QIHC organizations and sectors.
5. **Programs-** To promote integrated approaches to program development that ensure interprofessional education is a component in all health and human service education and continuing education, interprofessional competencies and accreditation standards.
6. **Research & Evaluation-** To partner with policymakers, health providers, patients, and researchers to develop a research and evaluation agenda that asks key questions and evaluates the outcomes of interprofessional education and collaborative practice on health systems.

QIHC Ongoing Work

The QIHC actively promotes its Vision and Mission through a range of ongoing activities ranging from awareness activities, conference presentations, peer-reviewed articles and funded research. Our Purpose is to help provide a common body to promote communication and collaboration in the area of Interprofessional Healthcare Education (IPHE) in Qatar.

Awareness

During the winter of 2011 the council conducted 4 panel discussions at the College of the North Atlantic – Qatar (School of Health Sciences), Qatar University (College of Pharmacy), University of Calgary (Faculty of Nursing), Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (Faculty of Medicine). We discussed what Interprofessional Education (IPE) is and how it benefits health care followed by a discussion of the challenges, barriers, and solutions to the implementation of IPE into pre-licensure programs.

The QIHC membership also promotes the QIHC and its vision and mission whenever possible (e.g., to the AHSI group, Supreme Council of Health, etc.).

In Practice

The QIHC members actively promote interaction between institutions through ongoing IPE activities. In the upcoming year students and faculty from WCMC, QU, and UCQ have been invited to participate in CNAQ's annual skills competition. Similar invitations to present, to participate and to work with faculty and students have been made and accepted. These activities help us to 'Walk the Talk' and to promote IPE within our community.

Presentations

Pyburn, R. (2012). Qatar Interprofessional Health Council. SSH-NLN Interprofessional Education and Healthcare Simulation Symposium, January 2012.

Publications

Johnson B, Pyburn R, Bolan C, Byrne C, Jewesson P, Robertson-Malt S, El-Tawil M, Verjee M. Qatar Interprofessional Health Council: IPE for Qatar, Avicenna 2011:2 doi: 10.5339/avi.2011.2

Research Awards

In May 2011 the QIHC was awarded funding from the Qatar National Research Funds National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) to undertake a project titled "*Implementing Inter-Professional Undergraduate Health Professional programs Health Care Education in Qatar*". This project is aimed at developing a set of shared core IPE competencies that are agreed to from pre-licensure to post-licensure stakeholders. The project will include the development of training modules for instructors and for students. These will be tested using scenario-based activities and subsequently shared with the IPE community in Qatar and with the IPE community at large.

Website

The QIHC has opted to use Facebook to help promote IPE in Qatar which will eventually be supplemented with a full website:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Qatar-Interprofessional-Health-Council/252937198104434>

QIHC Membership

The QIHC membership currently consists of representation from each of the healthcare educational institutions as well as representation from Sidra Medical and Research Center and Hamad Medical Corporation.

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For more information about the Qatar Interprofessional Health Council, about ongoing Interprofessional Education in Qatar, or to discuss partnerships and collaborations, please feel free to contact any of the members of the council or the current Chair, Dr Brad Johnson.