The Interprofessional Education Exchange Project (iPEX): Developing Interprofessional Education in Palliative Care

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Background:
- The value of interprofessional practice and education in palliative care is well-established.
- Multiple challenges limit the development and impact of IPE.
- iPEX was created to promote the design and implementation of IPE in palliative oncology.

Research Objectives:
- To evaluate the impact of iPEX on trainees’ 1) self-reported readiness and competence in IPE, and 2) ability to design a tailored IPE plan.

Methods:
- Teams from 8 institutions are selected annually consisting of up to 5 members, representing a minimum of 3 professions.
- IPEX program includes on-line modules, webinars, expert mentorship, a face-to-face workshop, and monthly team video conferences.
- Teams exchange ideas and experiences regularly.
- A national video conference shares final project designs and implementation plans.

Results:
- In 2018-2019 eight teams were selected.
- Pre and post-test analysis showed improvement (p<0.001) for all IPFS and IPEC domains.
- All teams designed a unique and tailored palliative IPE program incorporating diverse IPE methods.
- Targeted learners ranged from students to practicing professionals.

Conclusion:
- A one-year multimodality training program for faculty and leaders in palliative care improves IPE competencies and confidence, and results in tailored educational programs.

Implications:
- IPE training is feasible and effective and can advance palliative care education.
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