Here at JCIPE, another semester has flown by. And again, the Center has been busy expanding and integrating our programs on campus and beyond. This fall, as we welcomed our tenth cohort into the Jefferson Health Mentors Program, we introduced a revised curriculum which is more heavily focused on the social determinants of health and integrates the Social Ecological Model. We also added an eighth profession, Medical Laboratory Sciences, to the mix, expanding our total student enrollment to more than 1400 students! Building on this foundation, this fall we also expanded our more advanced interprofessional TeamSTEPPS® training program. During the course of four workshops, the Center and 16 volunteer interprofessional facilitators from four different professions led 554 students from five professions through simulated case scenarios through which they applied their TeamSTEPPS® skills. Though reportedly pushed outside their comfort zones, students described learning valuable lessons about teamwork, effective communication, leadership, experiential learning and the value of working with other professions. They also reported feeling better prepared for clinicals and “real-world” scenarios. Check out some student feedback in this edition!

As many of you know from having joined us, we hosted our fifth biennial conference on October 28 and 29. One hundred seventy attendees hailed from Canada, Israel and 27 different states. Our keynotes addressed issues of global interprofessional education and practice; the history of Medicare and its impact on our ability to deliver patient-centered, interprofessional care; and the importance of teams in maximizing value in healthcare. A range of oral and poster presentations showcased the advancement of interprofessional education and practice, with innovative pilots becoming integrated with more depth and breadth. Along the lines of this theme, the Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice (JIEP) plans to publish a special conference edition this spring featuring works from the conference and John H. V. Gilbert, C.M., Ph.D., LLD (Dalhousie), FCAHS as guest editor. Finally, many congratulations to Deirdre Yarosh, MA, a Jefferson Pharmacy student, who received JIEP’s Student Award for her peer paper presentation “Examining Health Mentor Perceptions of Student Teamwork.”

In this edition of the recently rebranded newsletter, we have another exciting collection of articles, two highlighting some of the innovative work presented at the JCIPE conference. These include the use of peer teaching between physical therapy and dental students and of Pandemic™, a strategy board game, to teach interprofessional competencies. We are also pleased to bring interprofessional mental healthcare to the forefront in an article about the creation of the Interprofessional Leadership Institute for Mental Health Equity. Finally, two student leaders of the newly launched No One Dies Alone program describe their vision and experience thus far, showing us the power of interprofessional student teamwork in program development and in supporting both patients and one another.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and warm holiday season and a wonderful new year!