Engaging Students in Interprofessional Collaboration: A United States-Japan Exchange

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Engaging Students in Interprofessional Collaboration: A U.S.-Japan Exchange

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Overall Purpose of Exchange

Kitasato University and Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson School of Health Professions

To promote mutual understanding and friendship, to promote cooperation and progression in the education and research of health sciences at Kitasato University and Thomas Jefferson University.

Recent In-Person Exchanges

OT, PT, Radiologic Sciences

March 2010 TJU students visit Kitasato

March 2011 Kitasato Students visit TJU

Background of Exchange:

◆ Started in 1992 by Dr. Shirley Greening, Chair, Department of Bioscience Technology, TJU and Dr. Takeda, former medical director of cytotechnologist program and former pathologist at TJUH, developed a relationship for faculty exchange with Dr. Hiroyuki Kuramoto, PhD, former chair of the OB-GYN dept. at Kitasato School of Medicine.

◆ 1997: official exchange agreement for Jefferson and Kitasato University students.

◆ 1997 to 2011: over 100 students and 25 faculty from the Jefferson School of Health Professions and Kitasato University have participated in the exchange program.

◆ 2012: Japan earthquake and Tsunami made it necessary to plan different type of exchange; created web conference exchange for 2012 instead of the US students traveling to Kitasato.

International, Interprofessional Internet Conference

March 12-15, 2012

8 AM in Japan 7 PM in Philadelphia

Format

◆ 4 days – Monday-Thursday, March 12-15, 2012
◆ Students from Japan and from the US created and presented powerpoint presentations “live”
◆ Used Adobe Connect; TJU had I.T. technician onsite

Challenges

◆ Working around time zones
◆ Some technical “glitches”
◆ Language
◆ Short timeframe (incl. video production)
◆ Evaluating the event

Timeline for the Internet Conference


Media Used for the Internet Conference

Adobe Connect + YouTube Video

Lessons Learned

◆ Include students in the planning stage
◆ Make sure students understand the purpose & goal of the IPE exercise
◆ Articulate role and responsibility of each profession involved in the IPE activity
◆ Share results of IPE activity with other professionals—internally & externally
◆ Include “students teaching students” in the sessions as much as possible
◆ Have students communicate 1-2 things they learned about from each other
◆ Do not stay in “professional silos”
◆ Work as an interprofessional team
◆ Partner with internet technology staff
◆ Do translation of presentations ahead of time for multi-language exchange conferences