Welcome to our fall 2018 edition of Collaborative Healthcare! This past fall was an especially busy time of year for us at JCIPE. We offered all of our major programs in addition to hosting our biennial national conference and engaging in an exciting strategic planning process.

In September, as the 12th cohort of Jefferson Health Mentors Program (JHMP) students began our newly revised curriculum that focuses on social determinants of health, our second expanded cohort of student hotspotters partnered with Jefferson and regional patients burdened with the most complex medical and social needs to collaboratively address the patients’ health goals. Our two virtual world programs, Enhancing Services to Homeless Populations (ESHP) and Alzheimer’s Virtual Interprofessional Training (AVIT), are steadily growing and ESHP now includes an optional onsite experiential component. We plan to expand both programs in the coming year. At the same time as we are working to train highly effective teams to improve the health of patients and populations, we are partnering with our surrounding community to improve the lives of patients locally. This is a recurring theme in our work, and in this edition of the newsletter.

Patient and community engagement was also threaded throughout October’s Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century conference. The meeting, JCIPE’s sixth, saw record attendance, with more than 200 participants from across the country, along with several international attendees, coming together to share insights and ideas, projects and research in the field. We were “wowed” by an opening Keynote by Dr. George Thibault, former President of The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, and by a tremendous panel of plenary speakers, including Dr. Mark Goldszmidt, Centre for Education Research & Innovation, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Western Ontario; Dr. Patty Coker-Bolt, Division of Occupational Therapy, Medical University of South Carolina; and Dr. Peter H. Vlasses, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Dr. Thibault reflected on his 10-year presidency at The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the advancements in IPE during that time. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his vision and leadership in the field. Our keynote panelists discussed moving away from focusing solely on the individual learner and practitioner and towards investing more in the development of effective teams. This includes attention to the sociomaterial elements of the practice environment, an argument by Dr. Goldszmidt, which was featured in last spring’s newsletter.

Additionally, for the first time ever, the conference began with four pre-conference workshops, bringing participants together for interactive learning from national experts about such diverse topics as transformational leadership, narrative medicine, TeamSTEPPS® training and student hotspotting. Two of the articles in this edition of the newsletter stem from works presented at the conference. The first, written by a team at Jefferson, describes an initiative to train interprofessional teams to appropriately manage pain in the face of the opioid epidemic. The second, contributed by our neighbors at La Salle University, describes an interprofessional poverty simulation. Both deal with pressing local and national issues that require collaborative care and also relate to our growing cadre of programs working with underserved populations. Our students learn how to connect with community members using an interprofessional approach during our flagship JHMP, also featured in this edition of the newsletter via reflection essays by an occupational therapy and physician assistant student. We are excited to showcase all of this work in the fall edition of Collaborative Healthcare!

Before signing off, we want to thank all of the many stakeholders who actively participated in our programs, conference or strategic planning efforts; we value your contributions and hope you found these activities as rich and thought-provoking as we did! Until our spring publication, we sign off by wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season and a productive and peaceful New Year!