As we write this Letter from the Editors, we are acutely aware that we are in a very different place than ever before. We know that this semester has been exceptionally challenging with the rapid transition to working, teaching and providing clinical care in different formats and adapted settings to do our part to prevent the spread of a global pandemic, unprecedented in our lifetimes. And we also know that the associated fear and sorrow have been exponentially compounded by the systemic mistreatment of and violence perpetrated against our Black colleagues, students, alumni, patients and friends, accentuated during this time by the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and the killing of George Floyd in the hometown of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

To be clear, at JCIPE, we feel passionate about creating a diverse workforce and being mindful of the composition of health care teams, with representation of underrepresented minorities as well as that of diverse health professions. We know now more than ever before that optimal health care delivery involves highly functioning interprofessional teams, and that we need to train our future health professionals in teamwork to enable this. JCIPE is fully committed to fighting racial oppression and aims to do its part by more explicitly incorporating principles and examples of racial justice, implicit bias, and health disparities across our curricula. Furthermore, we aim to facilitate new interprofessional curricula centering the experiences and voices of the vulnerable among us in both educational and clinical settings for all of our students, trainees, staff, and faculty.

Like many of you, since mid-March, we have been continuously reflecting on the two pandemics afflicting our world right now. In particular, we are once again struck by the power of teamwork to inspire and enhance our communities and public health, and to fight the many injustices of a deeply ingrained system in which we all play a part. Teamwork is an essential component, too, of processing current events and our long-standing truths. As such, for this edition of Collaborative Healthcare, we felt it appropriate to turn to our colleagues and invite them to reflect, some directly on current events and some on other important team moments experienced recently. You will read about the incredible efforts of a local community organization, Old Pine Community Center, in partnering with Philadelphia’s Mural Arts and other agencies to continue to feed the food insecure amidst the coronavirus outbreak in Philadelphia. You
will also hear reflections from the two co-founders of COVID Stories, Jefferson’s narrative medicine response to the virus and then to recent racial injustice, inspired by Humans of New York. Readers can explore powerful reflections on both from the Jefferson community through a link accessible within this submission. Finally, two other contributors reflect on the power of interprofessional teamwork in research and of continuing interprofessional education, the latter from an international perspective. We hope their thoughts and descriptions will resonate with readers and spark consideration of how interprofessional teams can lead the research and adult education necessary to fight both global pandemics we are experiencing.

It has been a challenging time that has tested us intellectually, emotionally and physically. We are proud of JCIPE’s and the rest of the IPE community’s rapid transition to remote working, adapted models of clinical care and online interprofessional education. We are now digging deep into our work to learn and teach about and stand up to racial injustice, and looking ahead to fall, when we expect to offer our programs in hybrid formats. We are also busy preparing for our next conference, which has been postponed to spring 2021. To touch base on any of these issues, please reach out to us at jcipe@jefferson.edu. We look forward to continuing to connect with our IPE community to make progress, together.

JCIPE UPDATE

Since the transition to remote working and program delivery, JCIPE has:

- Delivered our Student Hotspotting wrap-up event, with nearly 100 attendees across nine institutions, via Blackboard Collaborate.
- Closed out Module 2 of our Health Mentors Program on Blackboard Collaborate, with 138 student teams presenting SMART goals formulated in partnership with their Health Mentors (community member volunteers) to their peers and 19 facilitators from seven professions.
- Participated in the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education’s Connecting at the Nexus: COVID-19 Edition Webinar Series describing our rapid transition of Module 2 online. Listen to a recording here.
- Piloted online interprofessional simulation with ~75 senior medical and nursing students through our Advanced TeamSAFE program rooted in TeamSTEPPS® from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
- Developed and delivered a didactic version of Advanced TeamSAFE for ~120 medical students, featuring a “phone a friend” role play, during which student pairs called one another and acted out a scenario involving speaking up for patient safety.
- Continued to offer our Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations (ESHP) program in the virtual world of SecondLife®, giving nine learners the opportunity to enact the roles of provider, client/patient and observer in three case simulations.

Congratulations to JCIPE’s own founding co-director, Dr. Christine Arenson, for her appointment as the new co-director of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education!