

## FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to the fall 2020/winter 2021 issue of the JCIPE newsletter. 2020 was a year like no other. We witnessed and weathered the impact of the COVID pandemic in a variety of ways, and felt it on nearly every aspect of our professional and personal lives. We also collectively witnessed atrocities too numerous to count, resulting from the deep-seated, systemic racism that is intrinsically tied to health disparities and inequities in this country.

The pain and adversity has made this a dark time in our history, yet, has enabled us, individually and communally, to heed and recognize historically marginalized voices, to reflect on who we are and who we want to be, to build connections and collaborations as a means of amplifying voices, to channel our creativity to formulate previously inconceivable visions and novel approaches, and to harness pain and frustration into the form of action. As we look back and look ahead in writing this introduction to our newsletter, we feel the weight of these times and want to share our deep appreciation for the members of our JCIPE team, for our contributors to this newsletter, and for our readers for your daily work, commitment, and courage.

The pieces you'll read in this newsletter are truly a reflection of the values that form the core of JCIPE's mission, "to generate and sustain an adaptive 'living laboratory' for innovative interprofessional practice and education that improves the lives of patients and populations," as well as the values that have come into laser focus during a trying year. Dr. Wendy Ross says it best in her piece about the Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity (Jeff CAN), "Thinking outside the box only happens when all kinds of minds come together." You can read about JeffCAN's incredible work which underscores the importance of bringing together diverse perspectives to generate creative approaches and solutions.

Partnering with community-based organizations that serve vulnerable groups is fundamental to valuing and bringing together diverse perspectives. Oksana Kazharova, Director of Clinical Services at Pathways to Housing PA, describes how Pathways to Housing PA and JCIPE have worked together in the Enhancing Services for Homeless Populations (ESHP) project, where teams of students from different health professions are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and practice to enhance their work with individuals experiencing homelessness.

The realities of "uncertainty and change" are key lessons learned by students participating in JCIPE's Student Hotspotting (SH) program, as described by Samantha Burke, Megan Hershman, and Tracey Earland. SH involves teams of students from different health professions working together to support patients with complex health and social needs who are experiencing patterns of high healthcare utilization. In SH, students learn about barriers to health and the healthcare system that their patients face on a daily basis. Reflections from these students show that it can be frustrating to witness these barriers first-hand that lack an easy fix. Yet, this piece demonstrates how students can lean into this frustration and cultivate a new mindset through action.

In this newsletter, students share their perspectives on interprofessional experiences and their impact on professional development and future practice. Michelle Rochman, a student in the genetic counseling program, reflects on her experience in JCIPE's Health Mentors Program. She relates the importance of having this shared experience with other health professions students. Working side by side helped dismantle preconceived perceptions about different health professions and recognize

their commonalities. Umara Iftikhar, Masters of Occupational Therapy Student, also shares about her involvement with interprofessional activities with JCIPE. It is exciting to hear about how she viewed her experience as an opportunity to "gain teamwork and leadership skills that you can carry out into practice."

In addition to student IPE champions, we are thrilled to feature faculty IPE champions at TJU like Kelly Pagnotta, the Program Director of the Master of Science Program in Athletic Training. This year, we welcomed students from Athletic Training to the Health Mentors Program. We are also delighted to hear from IPE leaders at Southeastern Louisiana University describing how they have embedded IPE into existing individual program's curriculum. Their innovative approach provides a unique take on how to successfully infuse interprofessional competencies across programs in order to make IPE content relevant and effective.

Last, and certainly not least, we are honored to hear from JCIPE's founding Co-Director and former Chair of Family and Community Medicine, Christine Arenson, MD, now the Co-Director of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education (National Center). She shares on the fundamental vision of the National Center and notably recognizes how an integral part of this vision involves addressing racism within health teams.

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and find inspiration in our contributors' words and work. We look forward to seeing you virtually at the JCIPE Conference: Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century, being held on April 13, 15, and 17th, 2021.