



Meet an IPE Student Champion from Thomas Jefferson University Gerald Gibbons - MD/MPH Student, Class of 2018

Briefly describe your work with/related to JCIPE:

As an MD/MPH student, I have taken part in the Health Mentors Program (HMP) and TeamSAFE training. HMP was a great introduction to teamwork early in medical school. TeamSAFE was a series of interprofessional simulation sessions in the Hamilton Simulation Center that provided a fantastic team communication experience prior to my start of residency.

Furthermore, over the past two years, I have worked extensively with JCIPE to develop the up-scaled Interprofessional Student Hotspotting Learning Collaborative (ISHLC) at Jefferson, which received status as a National Student Hotspotting Hub this past year. Part of my commitment included a role with the Jefferson ISHLC team in 2016 learning about the social determinants of health faced by a small group of "super-utilizers", or patients who chronically overuse emergency services. The ISHLC team helped improve access to social resources for these patients, coordinated and attended physician visits, and even spoke with family members. Additionally, the team built personal relationships with high-needs individuals who typically lacked social supports. Finally, another MD/MPH student, Charles Baron, and I, along with the JCIPE team developed curricula, timelines, application processes, evaluation plans, and multiple posters and presentations. This all occurred in coordination with five of the different Jefferson Colleges and the Jefferson Care Coordination team.

What excites you about this work?

Building an interprofessional curriculum through the use of previous experiences as a student and having the support to apply these experiences in developing changes and additions to the curriculum was an amazing opportunity. I have high hopes that by participating in the ISHLC program students and advisors will learn about serving a difficult patient population and see their efforts improve patients' lives. In addition, I am a big supporter of "teamwork makes the dream work!" This program epitomizes that phrase as interprofessional teams must work together to provide hands-on interventions for super-utilizers, which typically requires a lot of planning and coordination.

What have you learned that was new?

The building of a new program has been an extremely valuable experience for my career. Learning all the aspects of coordination, communication, networking, and organization required to build a program has been incredible. Attempting to describe the effectiveness of JCIPE is quite difficult, so being able to witness its workings firsthand is truly invaluable.

Why is IPE/CP important to you?

I firmly believe that IPE & CP are the future of healthcare, especially given the focus on quality over fee-for-service. IPE allows students to gain teamwork exposure early in their careers, which can help facilitate positive interactions when caring for patients in practice. Even if the IPE doesn't directly mimic clinical practice, it is still a great opportunity for individuals to work in teams formed with different perspectives and experiences. It is the opportunity to learn that alternative perspectives can lead to great success. Strong IPE programs allow graduated students to work more effectively in practice because they can grasp where their own role ends and where another health profession can better take the lead.