Building Interprofessional Bridges Internationally: A Reflection on Our International Partnership

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The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of global healthcare. Communication between healthcare professionals from different countries is critical to providing optimal patient care. As educators, we must increase the level of global health initiatives in our curricula, allowing students to understand the importance of collaboration with international partners.

Literature regarding trans-Atlantic Pharmacy and Nursing collaborations was limited. Based on this gap, a stakeholder group from 4 schools was created:
- Augusta University College of Nursing (USA)
- University of Georgia College of Pharmacy (USA)
- Robert Gordon University (RGU) School of Nursing and Midwifery (Scotland)
- RGU School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences (Scotland)

Led by each schools interprofessional education (IPE) directors, a Converge Symposium grant proposal was submitted and accepted allowing for the creation of this experience.

### Needs Assessment
- The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the importance of global healthcare.
- Communication between healthcare professionals from different countries is critical to providing optimal patient care.
- As educators, we must increase the level of global health initiatives in our curricula, allowing students to understand the importance of collaboration with international partners.
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### Objectives
1. Review steps in initiating, coordinating, and implementing an International IPE experience
2. Discuss content development, assessment tools, and implementation of an international IPE Experience
3. Examine and propose solutions to overcome potential barriers to success in implementing an international IPE experience

### Lessons Learned
1. Recruit faculty, staff, and administrators with commitment for IPE innovation
2. Remain mindful and considerate of large time differences between participating countries
3. Implement a content development timeline to promote a stable progression toward case vignette finalization
4. Importance of faculty and student team communication
5. Audit available institutional resources early on and leverage the strengths from the pooled resources, especially multimedia resources
6. Expect the unexpected with contingency plans
7. Expert panel was vital
8. Link IPEs to curricula for accountability with student participation
9. Adequate student participation permits a thorough analysis and revision prior to comprehensive program implementation
10. Work closely with all collaborating institutions’ business offices to ensure understanding of grant fund allocation timelines