

**“Enhancing Interprofessional
Collaboration and Learning for
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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Title	INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE- A NECESSITY TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Community-Based Education for Health and Social Care Students</i>
1st Author	FIRDOUZA WAGGIE
Co-Authors	-
Country	SOUTH AFRICA
Abstract N ^o	TUFH605
Content	<p>Background: The ever-increasing burden of disease in South Africa necessitates the adoption of teamwork approaches in the delivery of health care services. The ability for health and social care professions to collaborate within a team is therefore becoming essential more than ever before. There has been insufficient recognition and operationalization of an interprofessional and collaborative response designed to address the social and economic determinants of health of the South African population, even though it has been recognized as important for scaling up essential health care services in South Africa. The Faculty of Community and Health Sciences at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) has a strong focus on interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) and a core IPECP curriculum was developed and integrated into the health and social care professions in the faculty. The theoretical and practice foundation of the IPECP core curriculum is based on the Primary Health Care approach. It is organized using a scaffolding approach from the first to final year level and extends to postgraduate and continuous professional education. Methods: This paper describes the IPECP model, how it is successfully integrated a core IPECP curriculum, the teaching and learning approaches, and how the core IPECP competencies are assessed. The challenges and lessons learned will also be described. Conclusion: Interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) is sustainably embedded in health professions education at UWC, South Africa, thereby contributing to the transformation of the health services and improving the health of the nation.</p>