WHO Definition of Interprofessional Education (IPE)

“When students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.”

(WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice, 2010)
WHO Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice

“Collaborative practice happens when multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, carers and communities to deliver the highest quality of care”
The Number of People with Chronic Conditions is Rapidly Increasing

The Health System

Governmental Public Health Infrastructure

- Community
- Clinical Care Delivery System
- Governmental Agencies (other than Public Health)
- Education Sector
- Employers and Business
- The Media

SOURCE: For the Public’s Health: The Role of Measurement in Action and Accountability (IOM, 2011)
Models of Inter- and Trans-professional Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Pre-secondary education</th>
<th>Post-secondary education</th>
<th>Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominant</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-professional</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-professional</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Public health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core + specific competencies</td>
<td>Systematic teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community health workers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courtesy of Dean Julio Frenk (Harvard SPH)
Interprofessional Education and Population Health

Two main dimensions for population health:

I. IPE with clinical professions
II. IPE with non-health professions

Courtesy of Dean Julio Frenk (Harvard SPH)
IPE with Clinical Professions

• What are the population-level competencies that clinical professions should develop?

• What are the specific instances of teamwork practice between clinical and population health professionals?

• Are there competencies common to all health professionals around problem-solving, communication, and teamwork?

• How do different institutional designs affect the effectiveness of IPE?

Courtesy of Dean Julio Frenk (Harvard SPH)
IPE with Non-health Professions

• Public health is inherently interprofessional. Should we also make it intentionally interprofessional?

• What are the specific competencies that should be developed vis-à-vis collaboration with lawyers, engineers, economists, policy analysts, urban planners, journalists, and other relevant professions?

Courtesy of Dean Julio Frenk (Harvard SPH)