
About the Forum

Two landmark reports set in motion the idea for establishing a global forum to provide a neutral platform for ongoing dialogue among the health professions that could be the catalyst for needed reforms in health and educational systems around the world. These reports—Health Professionals for a New Century (Frenk et al., 2010) and The Future of Nursing (IOM, 2011)—laid the foundation for the establishment of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM’s) Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education (the Forum), initiated in January 2012.

The Forum’s mission is to apply an ongoing, multinational, multidisciplinary approach to illuminate promising innovations for achieving reforms in the instructional and institutional spheres. Members come together twice a year to network with other members and to attend a Forum-sponsored event. The topic of the event is selected by the members themselves and is planned by a committee that represents the interests of the wider Forum membership.

Written summaries and relevant outputs from each activity are available in hard copy and in PDF, and can be downloaded free of charge from the Forum website, iom.nationalacademies.org/IHPEglobalforum.

The Forum currently has 58 appointed members who are academic experts and health professionals representing 18 different disciplines from 8 countries. It is co-chaired by Malcolm Cox, former Chief Academic Affiliations Officer for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Susan Scrimshaw, President of The Sage Colleges. There are presently 44 sponsors of the Forum that provide the financial support to run the activities of the Forum.

2015 Spring Meetings

The Spring 2015 workshop of the Forum was Envisioning the Future of Health Professional Education. At this 2-day workshop, Forum members focused on envisioning the future of health professional education in light of the Lancet Commission Report. The workshop aimed to explore the implications that shifts in health, policy, and the health care industry could have on HPE and workforce learning; to identify learning platforms that could facilitate effective knowledge transfer with improved quality and efficiency; and to discuss opportunities for building a global health workforce that understands the role of culture and health literacy in perceptions and approaches to health and disease.

Following Day 1 of the workshop, the IOM and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare co-hosted a Gaming Arcade and Showcase, which showcased 26 games and technologies that educate health professionals. The event culminated with SSH awarding Geoffrey Miller, M.S., EMT-P, and Andrew Cross from Eastern Virginia Medical School the Leading Innovator Award to for their entry,
2015 Spring Meetings (continued)

Automated Intelligent Mentoring System (AIMS): Applying Game Technology to Advance Medical Education, which they presented on Day 2 of the workshop. The summary from this workshop was released in September, 2015.

Immediately before the spring workshop, the Forum held a planning meeting to discuss current and future Forum activities and to dialogue on topics of shared interest and concern. During this meeting, Forum members discussed the fast-track study on interprofessional education, which was funded by the individual member sponsors of the Forum and released in April, 2015.

The Forum members also discussed off-cycle activities of the Forum, including the DC Case Challenge, a collaboration with the Roundtable on Health Literacy, and the Innovation Collaborative on Learning through Community Engagement.

Strategic Planning Meeting: Rethinking Health & Education: Breaking Professional Silos

In September 2015, the Forum met to discuss their strategic plan for the next 2 years. The theme and title for this meeting was Rethinking Health & Education for Breaking Professional Silos. Michelle Troseth began the meeting with a presentation on the notion of “polarity thinking” to describe how it is possible to create synergy through the elimination of either/or approaches, and consider both/and approaches instead.

Based on the votes of Forum members, three potential workshop topics were developed: 1) collaborative models of accreditation, 2) education financing reform, and 3) non-traditional methods of learning. The April 2016 workshop will be on accreditation, titled Rethinking Health & Education:

Breaking Professional Silos through Accreditation - A Workshop. The workshop will explore topics such as improving the efficiency and cost of accreditation, engaging new partners in accreditation, the role of accreditation as an element in achieving quality health care delivery and quality health professions education, and challenges and opportunities for accreditation.

Innovation Collaborative on Learning through Community Engagement

The Innovation Collaborative on Learning through Community Engagement (the IC) is a Forum initiative launched in April, 2015. This high-level, member-driven activity aims to address research challenges to spreading and scaling-up innovations in community-engaged health professional education.

The IC responds to calls for health workforce education to better meet health system needs, as well as to calls for evaluating the impact and accountability of education institutions and health systems. There has also been an increase in emphasis on education to address the social determinants of health and to increase community-engaged health workforce education activities.

The IC aims to 1) develop nomenclature for community-engaged education activities; 2) create an interdisciplinary communication platform for shared learning and best practices; and 3) to develop a framework to gather evidence on community-engaged education. The IC has a local chapter in Uganda, and is developing a local chapter in South Africa.

The IC chair is Forum Member Bjorg Palsdottir of THEnet, and the Vice-Chair is Zohray Talib of George Washington University. A strategic planning meeting was held in November, 2015.
Topics of Interest to Forum Members

In March, the Forum hosted a discussion on the workshop summary, *Empowering Women and Strengthening Health Systems and Services Through Investing in Nursing and Midwifery Enterprise*. The workshop Co-Chair, Marla Salmon, and Forum Co-Chair, Susan Scrimshaw, spoke at the meeting.

Several members of the Forum are especially interested in issues concerning stress and well-being, and how this relates to health professional education. Because of the interest in this important topic, an interprofessional group was created for members to discuss how to reduce the stress of being a health professional student. The group held a session during the fall 2015 Forum meeting to discuss the group’s next steps and potential activities.

In addition, many forum members are interested in cost data and financing of health professional education. This was a major topic of discussion during the 2015 fall planning meeting, and two small group discussions were dedicated to exploring the challenges and opportunities related to financing of health professional education.

Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Education on Collaborative Practice and Patient Outcomes

The IOM report, *Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Education on Collaborative Practice and Patient Outcomes*, was released April, 2015. The report, funded by the individual sponsors of the Forum, examines the existing evidence on the complex issue of IPE. The committee members were Malcolm Cox (chair), Barbara Brandt, Janice Palaganas, Scott Reeves, Albert Wu, and Brenda Zierler.

Since the release of the report, the committee and staff have disseminated the report at several conferences (including Collaborating Across Borders). In addition, an editorial on the report will be published in the Journal of Interprofessional Care soon, and two additional articles are in the pipeline for publication.

The final books of the IPE report were printed in December 2015. Copies will be distributed at the April 2016 meetings of the Forum.

Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health

In September 2015, the IOM committee on *Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health* held an open meeting that all Forum members were invited to attend. This study topic was selected by Forum members, and is sponsored by the individual sponsors of the Forum. The open meeting included testimony from study sponsors and from health professional educators who are educating students on the social determinants of health. This was a data-gathering meeting to inform the work and thinking of the committee as they entered into 3 days of closed-session meetings.

The study is will be released Spring, 2016. Videos of the open-session meeting can be accessed online: iom.nationalacademies.org/activities/global/addressing-sdh-study.aspx

Committee members and IOM staff pose for a picture after 4 days of meetings.

From left to right: Bianca Frogner, Cara James, Julian Fisher, Patricia Cuff, Spero Manson, Laura Magaña, Malual Mabur, Bridget Callaghan, Antonia Villarruel, Sandy Lane, Jorg Delva, and Megan Perez (not shown: Adewale Troutman)
FAQs about the IOM Global Forum on IHPE

Q: I heard that the IOM changed its name to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Does that make us the NAM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education?

A: No. On July 1, 2015, the Academies became the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The membership and programmatic arms of the previous IOM have now been separated into the NAM (membership arm) and the IOM (programmatic arm). The Forum is under the programmatic arm, the IOM.

Q: My organization promised 3 years of funding to the Forum.

A: We welcome new organizations and health professional associations to join the Forum as member-sponsors! Please put Patricia Cuff, Forum Director, in touch with your contact at the organization, and they will have a conversation about next steps.

Q: I would like to distribute some of the workshop summaries to interested colleagues. How do I get more copies?

A: We’d be happy to send you additional copies of workshop summaries for dissemination purposes. Email Bridget Callaghan (bcallaghan@nas.edu) and let her know how many reports you would like. Additionally, all of our workshop summaries are available online in PDF form free of charge.

Q: Do we have a hashtag?

A: Yes. If you are using social media at our meetings, use our hashtag #IHPEGF (for IHPE Global Forum).

Is the Forum going to dissolve after those 3 years?

A: No. The Forum is ongoing as long as we have funding to run our activities. There is no set end-time for the Forum.

Q: I know of several groups who are interested in joining the Forum, but are not sure how to do so. What should I advise them?

A: We welcome new organizations and health professional associations to join the Forum as member-sponsors! Please put Patricia Cuff, Forum Director, in touch with your contact at the organization, and they will have a conversation about next steps.

Q: I would like a more detailed narrative of the Forum, please contact Patricia Cuff (pcuff@nas.edu). Patricia would also look forward to speaking with you about your experience with the Forum and your thoughts about the Forum and Forum activities as we move forward into 2016.