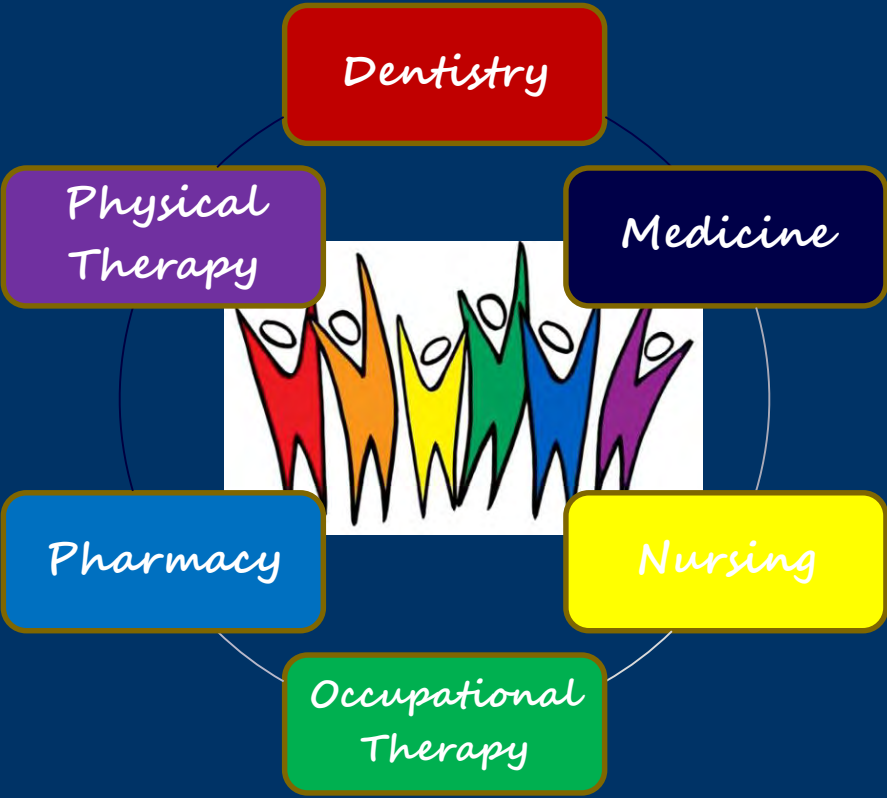




# Keeping Healthy and Active in Your Senior Years: An Interprofessional Community Outreach Initiative

Gretchen M. Garofoli, PharmD, BCACP, Kimeran W. Evans, PT, DPT, Gina M. Baugh, PharmD,  
Ashlee N. McMillan, PharmD, BCACP, Morgan Petite, PharmD\*



## INTRODUCTION

- Interprofessional education (IPE) is an important part of curricula for all health science disciplines.
- It is imperative for senior citizens to receive comprehensive healthcare.
- According to Healthy People 2020, senior citizens are at an increased risk for chronic illnesses and the problems associated with uncontrolled health conditions.
- Senior citizens oftentimes see multiple providers with a lack of continuity of care. Older adults are also on more prescription and non-prescription medications, which can put them at an increased risk for adverse effects including falls.
- Dental services are not covered under Medicare, so many seniors may forego dental care due to the lack of coverage.

## OBJECTIVES

- To assess student and faculty perceptions of the roles and responsibilities of other disciplines on a health care team.
- To describe the impact of an interprofessional experience on participants.

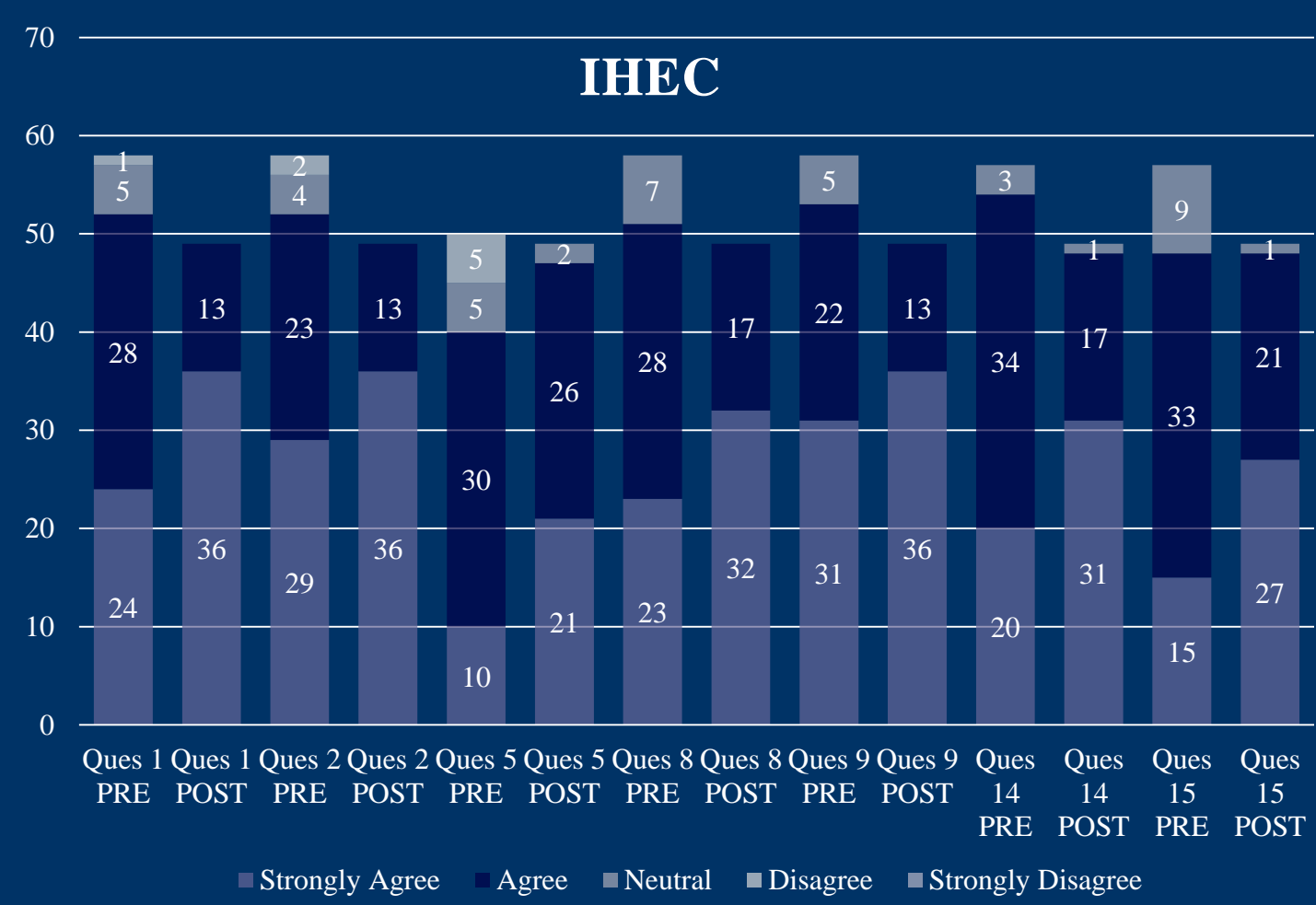
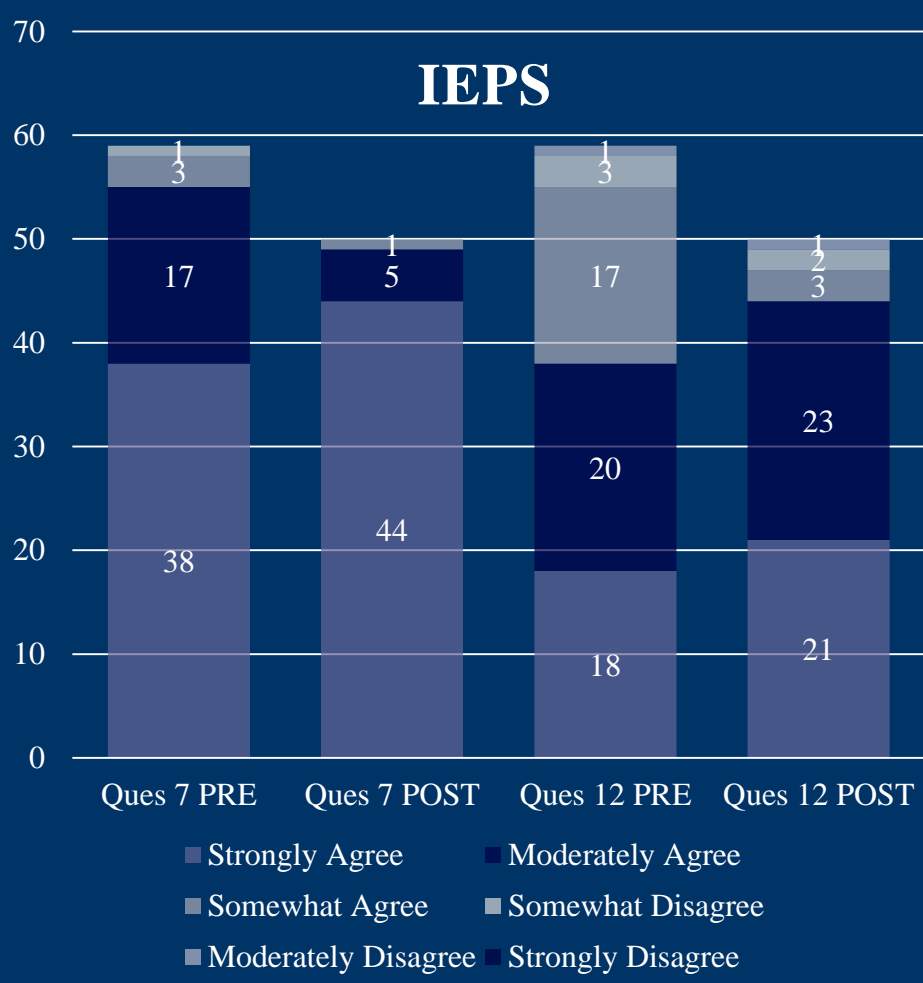
## METHODS

- This study included students and faculty from pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, physical and occupational therapy who worked together to screen and educate older adults at a local senior center.
- Seniors 60 and older were recruited to participate.
- The seniors participated in an initial screening session with a follow-up visit one month later.
- Each student group included one representative from each discipline and was dedicated to one participant. These student/participant groups rotated through each screening and educational session together. Stations included health education and medication history, blood work, fall risk assessment, oral health education, and a car fitting.
- Students and faculty completed the Interdisciplinary Education and Practice Perception Survey (IEPS) and the Interprofessional Health Education Competency Survey (IHEC) prior to and following the event. They also completed an open-ended reflection at the conclusion of the experience.
- IHEC and IEPS were analyzed using JMP 12.0 (JMP Version 12.0, SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC)
- Senior participants completed a knowledge based pre- and post- questionnaire.
- Staff at the senior center completed a short evaluation at the end of the event.

## RESULTS

### Quantitative Student Perception Surveys:

- Descriptive statistics included frequencies for the pre- and post-participation items
- Inferential statistics were also obtained for these same items using a Pearson chi-square to analyze the differences in distribution of frequencies of ordinal responses of the pre (n=58) and post (n=49) scale items.
- Level of statistical significance was set a priori at  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Those items that reached this level are highlighted in the charts below.



### Qualitative Student Reflections:

Forty three students completed a post-project open-ended reflection question asking for a brief description of the activity including their meaning or value of the project. These results were analyzed and coded according to common themes and these results are summarized as follows:

- Students felt it was overall very positive, relevant to their education, and impactful on future work as a healthcare professional.
- They learned more about the role of the other health professions and their scope of practice.
- They improved communication skills with students from other disciplines and patient education skills.

*“I really feel that interprofessional education is key to our success as practitioners and as well-rounded healthcare professionals. As I move forward in my career, I will likely look back on this experience and take comfort in knowing that there are great practitioners in every field, and I can count on them for help and support in the future.”*

## RESULTS

### Community Partner Feedback:

- Positive feedback was received regarding session information/participant education and the representation of multiple health disciplines.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the number of students at the site given space availability.

## IMPLICATIONS

- This outreach activity successfully utilized the expertise of faculty and students from pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, nursing, physical and occupational therapy.
- This IP activity was found to be valuable for students, faculty, participants and the community partner.
- The faculty who implemented this IPE activity have since worked together on two additional outreach projects as a result of this collaboration.
- In the future students who participated in this activity will potentially better utilize the areas of expertise of their colleagues based on what they learned through this project.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors of the study would like to acknowledge Susan McCrone, Amanda Acord-Vira, MOT, OTR/L, Shelia Price DDS, EdD, Holli Neiman-Hart, MD, Angela Godejohn, MD, and Brian Bedwick, PharmD for assisting with the implementation of the event. This project was funded through a Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation “Community-Based Care” Grant.

\* At the time of this project Morgan Petite was a student in the School of Pharmacy and has since graduated.