



Episode 3: Breaking Down Silos in Interprofessional Education (Part 1)

Featuring Amy Blue, PhD

In this episode of *Clinical Learning, Reimagined*, host Leslie Fall, MD, sits down with Amy Blue, PhD, Associate Vice President for Interprofessional Education at the University of Florida Health & Health Professions. Dr. Blue came to this work as a medical anthropologist rather than a clinician, and that outsider's lens shapes the entire conversation. She unpacks the globally recognized definition of interprofessional education—learning about, from, and with other professions—and pushes back on the common assumption that IPE simply means putting learners from different disciplines in the same room. True interprofessional learning, she argues, requires intentional interaction, not the "parallel play" of students from different professions working side by side without ever really talking to each other.

Dr. Blue also reflects on her role helping write the original Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice nearly 20 years ago. This work was born out of a simple but urgent problem: healthcare teams were making preventable errors, and students had no shared framework for learning or language to collaborate. She traces how those four competency domains—values and ethics, roles and responsibilities, communication, and teamwork—have held up over multiple revisions, even as she reflects on what she'd refine given the chance, particularly around how observable and assessable these skills really are in practice.

The conversation turns to one of the thorniest challenges in the field: assessment. Dr. Blue explains why individual, discipline-specific assessment persists even as collaboration becomes more central to training, since each program is ultimately accountable for certifying its own graduates.

She and Dr. Fall dig into what meaningful interprofessional assessment actually looks like in practice, from peer assessment during team-based simulations to the value of role modeling, since students often learn teamwork not from being taught about it, but from watching functioning teams work, including the psychological safety and camaraderie that take years to build among real clinical colleagues.

The episode closes on the throughline connecting all of it: the patient. Dr. Blue and Dr. Fall discuss how quickly patients notice when a care team isn't functioning well together. One example of this is how something as simple as TeamSTEPPS training and "backup behavior," speaking up when something seems off, can be the difference that protects patients from the everyday human error that happens when a complex system gets in the way of good intentions. Dr. Blue also previews her current work exploring the intersection of interprofessional education and health systems science, arguing that teamwork and systems thinking need to be taught together, rather than treated as separate concerns.

Be on the lookout for Part 2 of this episode, coming soon!

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