



Episode 3: Breaking Down Silos in Interprofessional Education (Part 2)

Featuring Amy Blue, PhD

In Part 2 of this conversation, host Leslie Fall, MD, continues with Amy Blue, PhD, Associate Vice President for Interprofessional Education at the University of Florida Health and Health Professions, moving from definitions to what actually makes interprofessional education meaningful. Dr. Blue argues the strongest activities center on ill-defined, patient-centered problems with no single right answer. She describes UF's first-year program where student teams are paired with a community member and asked simply to design a health improvement project, no discipline-specific framing, just a person's real needs. The results, she notes, consistently push teams past their own professional lens and toward genuine shared decision making.

The conversation then takes a turn to One Health and the idea that human, animal, and environmental health are deeply interconnected. Dr. Blue shares a memorable example from her own program: a substance-use IPE activity that includes veterinary students, since some patients use their pets' prescriptions to obtain narcotics for themselves. It's a vivid illustration of learning about, from, and with an entirely different profession, and one that visibly reframes how Dr. Fall, a pediatrician, thinks about the overlap between animal and human health.

Dr. Blue and Dr. Fall also tackle the barriers that persist even in programs already committed to IPE, chiefly curricular time and scheduling, and the creative workarounds Dr. Blue has used, including online formats that add flexibility without adding hours, and building activities around programs willing to participate rather than waiting for full institutional buy-in. That leads into a wide-ranging discussion of AI as a potential future team member: whether a large language model could hold its own core

competencies, why politeness and trust matter as much for a digital teammate as a human one, and how learning to respectfully question an AI's input might even sharpen the way teams question each other.

The episode closes with Dr. Blue's vision for reimagining health professions education from day one: teaching behavioral science and foundational content across professions together (before students differentiate into their respective fields) to build what she and Dr. Fall call "cognitive trust," a foundation of shared learning that makes it easier to reach across professions later. She ends with a challenge to the field: to take a harder look at the hidden curriculum shaping students' real-world experience of teamwork, and to consider whether assessing good collaboration might come down to something simpler than an exhaustive list of behaviors.

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