

College of Biomedical and Life Sciences

Interprofessional Education Strategy

1. Interprofessional Education

The College of Biomedical and Life Sciences (CBLS) incorporates Medicine, Dentistry, Health Care Sciences (Nursing and Midwifery and Allied Healthcare Professionals), Pharmacy, Optometry, Psychology and Biosciences. The College is a world-leading centre of academic and clinical excellence, renowned for holistic, student-focused education and specialty training targeted at improving the health and well-being of society.

Interprofessional education is an important part of preparing the healthcare workforce for the global challenges of the 21st century. People are living longer and hence there will be increasing demand arising from a population with multiple morbidities requiring healthcare that is integrated across professional and organisational boundaries.

Much has been achieved in the development of interprofessional education within the Schools, but there is now a significant drive from the professional regulatory bodies, as well as through evolving healthcare practices, to further enhance interprofessional education in the academic delivery of programmes. Interprofessional education must be embedded in the individual professional development of students at all levels. Collaboration, joint working between different disciplines, and partnership with external stakeholders will be critical to developing a transformational interprofessional education portfolio which improves patient care and enhances the learning experience of students.

Our Ambition:

We will develop a world-leading centre for the delivery of effective interprofessional education to prepare a health care workforce that is able to work collaboratively across professional boundaries; to provide sustainable, patient centred health care; and to address the needs of local, national, international and global health challenges.

2. Our focus

To realise our ambition we will focus on the following key areas:

2.1. Ensure excellent student experience

We will work with our students across multiple disciplines to ensure that they learn with, from and about one another such that interprofessional education is relevant, of high standard and fit to prepare them to practise in the 21st century.

2.2. Remain dynamic in a changing healthcare landscape

We will work closely with NHS Health Boards, Local Authorities, third sector, UK and Welsh Government, and professional and regulatory bodies so that education reflects evolving healthcare practice.

2.3. Build a collaborative approach in organising education

Directors of Learning and Teaching will work with staff in schools, with the College Dean of Education and Students, Students 'and the Students' Union' and the College IT Business partner to implement and embed interprofessional education. This will include:

- a. Oversight of curricular activities, practice placements and timetables*
- b. Development of integrated learning outcomes and competencies*
- c. Evaluation of interprofessional education initiatives*
- d. Sharing of noteworthy practice*

2.4. Advance infrastructure and technology to support education

We will work to ensure we enhance physical spaces to promote a multi-professional ethos, coordinate our off-campus venues and use technology to promote and maximise shared knowledge and collaboration.

2.5. Support staff to deliver excellent interprofessional education

We will support faculty development to produce a vibrant innovative community of interprofessional educators that works in teams across professional boundaries, rewarding excellence in the delivery of interprofessional education.

3. Anticipated outcomes

We recognise that health systems nationally and globally are struggling to manage escalating costs, improve safety and quality, and respond effectively to shifting health needs. Challenges also include new environmental, behavioural, and infectious health risks, and profound inequalities in access to care. Through effective and strong interprofessional education, we aim to achieve the following outcomes for patients, healthcare services, students, College and University:

- *Healthcare professionals trained to work collaboratively with the ability to manage challenges presented by changing services; hence creating a flexible workforce where professionals understand the role of the healthcare team and fully utilise their knowledge and skills;*
- *Improved health outcomes:* Through focusing on evidence-based outcomes, we will enhance interprofessional education on chronic conditions and/or multiple diseases (e.g. diabetes, palliative care, infectious diseases, obesity, acute care) that require multi-professional care;
- *Improved safety* as a result of reduced medical error and better coordination of care between professionals thus minimising patients 'falling through the net';
- *Increased access to health care:* interprofessional teams that include allied health professionals are associated with enhanced access to care, increased use of preventive services, use of new technologies, and improved continuity of care;
- *Efficiencies and cost savings* resulting from reductions in service use, reduction of referrals, less medical testing and over-assessment (duplication), increased use of preventive services and reductions in events leading to malpractice claims;
- *Improved learning and student experience:* collaborative learning spaces; understanding and experience of working in the wider healthcare team; preparing for practice;
- *Collision space* for academics from different Schools, healthcare professions and disciplines - essential for innovative practice, problem solving and collaborative working.