

Nursing, Kinesiology and Psychology Collaboration in HIV Research: Interprofessional Perspectives

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Background

The emphasis on interprofessional activities has had as its' focus, education, clinical practice and to a far lesser extent, research. The focus on education and practice has been to improve health outcomes.



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Background

Collaborative research has often been considered multi-site research by practitioners in the same discipline. An example is the International Nursing Network for HIV/AIDS Research which has engaged in multi-site research since 1996.



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Background

In the process of engaging in Network study VII,

An ecological understanding of physical activity patterns of adults living with HIV throughout the lifespan,

the Corpus Christi/MGHIHP investigators determined that this would be an opportunity to explore the experiences of the site co-investigators with regard to inter-professional collaboration.



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Methodology

It was decided to develop a brief questionnaire to explore the views of the Corpus-Christi site interdisciplinary investigators engaged in the Network study. The questionnaire was composed of four questions that addressed interprofessional collaboration.



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Methodology

- After IRB approval, the research collaborators at the data collection site were sent a link to an online survey on Qualtrics, a program to collect data anonymously.
- The two co-investigators of the current sub-study are not aware of which of their site collaborators on the Network study chose to respond.



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Methodology

For the informed consent process, after receiving information about the study, two questions assessed the participant's eligibility and willingness to participate:

- I am 18 years or older and agree to participate in this Study
- I do not wish to continue with this Study.

If this option were chosen, the participant did not respond to the questions.



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Analysis of questions

1. Content analysis of the sub-study was conducted individually by the two co-investigators.
2. After the independent analysis, the investigators discussed their findings and complete agreement was achieved about the results.



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RESULTS

Themes were identified by the Investigators.

Illustrative Statements are given to convey the views of the research participants.



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Question I: What is the meaning to you of Interprofessional Collaboration

Theme : *Interprofessional*

- diverse background expertise
- multiple perspectives
- working with people outside your field of study.



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Question I: What is the meaning to you of Interprofessional Collaboration

Theme: *Collaboration:*

- Clear communication to all
- Working together for common goals
- Cornerstone of success
- Trademark of positive outcome



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Question I: What is the meaning to you of Interprofessional Collaboration

Illustrative Statement:

“Working with multiple disciplines with the direct or indirect connection to Healthcare. Within the collaboration, there is clear communication with all parties, clarification of roles, the meaning of words, and mutual respect for all persons involved. Working together for common goals.”



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Question I: What is the meaning to you of Interprofessional Collaboration (continued)

Illustrative Statement:

“Interprofessional collaboration means getting to work with others who may be outside of your field of study. You work together toward a common goal and develop an understanding of others’ fields of study in the process.”



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Question II: Discuss your experiences with Interprofessional Collaboration

Theme: *Interprofessional Collaboration Experiences*

- Enhances the quality of research
- Gives a multidimensional, holistic approach
- Achieve higher quality outcomes
- Complex partnership
- Be expert in your particular field
- Meet and work with new professionals



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Question II : Discuss your experiences with Interprofessional Collaboration

Illustrative Statements:

- “ I’ve had many opportunities to work with professionals from other disciplines and find that the overall outcome of the project is always much better than what could be accomplished with a conventional approach.”



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Question II : Discuss your experiences with Interprofessional Collaboration

Illustrative Statement (continued):

“I believe collaboration enhances the quality of research giving it a multidimensional, holistic approach. Each individual brings their unique expertise to the table and different skill sets.”



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Question III: What is most important to you in an interprofessional collaboration?

Theme: *Important to Interprofessional
Collaboration*

- Openness to new ideas
- Mutual respect
- Trust
- Being respected
- My area of expertise



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Question III: What is most important to you in Interprofessional Collaboration?

Illustrative Statements:

- “The best part of the collaboration is the openness to new ideas and perspectives. So, an attitude by collaborators of mutual respect and active listening to diverse viewpoints”.
- “The most important part of a collaboration is the process of dialogue.”



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Question IV: What is the least important to you in Interprofessional Collaboration?

Theme: *Least Important for interprofessional Collaboration*

- Complete consensus
- Defined roles



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Question IV: What is the least important to you of interprofessional collaboration?

Illustrative Statement:

- “ I guess there is a balance between needing to reach complete consensus for the project and fruitful dialog which allows for coordination of multiple perspectives.”



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Question IV: What is the least important to you of interprofessional collaboration?

Illustrative Statement (continued):

- “The extent to which there is a complete consensus at the end is less important than the process of achieving agreed upon goals.”



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DISCUSSION

This study on interprofessional collaboration resulted in a better understanding of the elements important to collaboration of an interprofessional research team.

The research participants had greater ability to identify what was important to them rather than what was unimportant.



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Outcomes of Interprofessional Collaboration

- Clarification of meaning of words
- Mutual respect for all
- Enhances degree of ideas, method, generativity
- More holistic approach
- Develops understanding of other's field of study
- Improved quality of care
- Improved patient outcome



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Conclusions

- The participants generally found interprofessional collaboration to be a positive experience
- There were some admonitions about the importance of a strong leader, trust between the collaborators, and really listening to each other and valuing the contributions made by all team members.
- The participants who responded provided productive reflections and for the most part emphasized the value of interprofessional collaboration.



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Questions?

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