Benefits Of Preclinical Osteopathic Medical Students' Joining Interprofessional Research Teams

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Background:

- There are limited options for interprofessional research experiences in which preclinical medical students can collaborate with clinical psychology doctoral students (PsyD).
- Exposure to the psychosocial aspects of medical conditions is underrepresented in preclinical years, limiting students' ability to embody a core principle of osteopathic medicine.
- Patients with end stage kidney disease on hemodialysis have biopsychosocial challenges that require an interdisciplinary approach to collaborative care.

Objective:

- Through this collaboration, students can learn from, with, and about each others' professions to improve their ability to effectively and comprehensively care for patients, such as those undergoing dialysis.

Methods:

- Participants: 7 PCOM students (5 PsyD; 2 DO)
- Completed IRB training; participate in journal article discussions with emphasis on biopsychosocial factors of patient care; learn standardized assessment tools and interviewing skills.
- Students completed a 4-item survey assessing the benefits following 7 months in an interprofessional research team.
- Word Cloud constructed based on responses

Results:

7 of 7 students reported benefits of interprofessional education in the clinical research kidney dialysis lab including:

- Expansion of patient care and problem solving considerations
- Familiarity and comfort with cross discipline language.
- Connecting mind-body-spirit to real life patient care.

Learning included:

- Research skills.
- Empirically-validated assessments and clinical approaches.
- Multifaceted perspective taking.
- Reciprocal relationship between medical treatments and psychological functioning.
- Importance of quality of life.

Conclusion: Integrating psychology and medical students for preclinical research pertaining to the biopsychosocial aspects of patient care is feasible and beneficial to student learning. It is expected that interprofessional learning will ultimately benefit future patient care.

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