

# Development of an Interprofessional Scholarship Advisory Group (iSAG)

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## Background

At an academic medical center with growing expectations for scholarship, those who are focused on medical education research may encounter hurdles to publish. The challenges to publish in a peer review journal impact promotion, funding and research opportunities.

As part of the newly founded Teaching Excellence Academy for Collaborative Healthcare (TEACH), a focused initiative was to support those who are interested in medical education scholarship. The purpose of the group is to serve as a support for education research and scholarship, provide a collaborative peer-mentoring environment in education research and improve the production of scholarly outputs.

## Methods

- The Interprofessional Scholarship Advisory Group (iSAG): a small multidisciplinary group of individuals from across the health system representing various departments (veterinary school, basic science education, library, faculty development) and institutions (VTCSOM, JCHS, VT).
- Likeminded individuals work together to promote education scholarship.
- Comprised of professionals with complementary talents and skills that support the scholarly needs of the group.
- Meets monthly to discuss projects that are in the works or being developed, scholarship hang-ups, or brainstorm new scholarly ideas.
- Everything discussed during meetings is confidential.
- Meetings do not exceed one-hour in respect of participants' schedules.
- Agenda items are collected electronically prior to each meeting.

## Results

- In early 2017, iSAG was founded by eleven participants who shared an interest for medical education and medical education scholarship.
- Over the course of several months, iSAG members have gathered to discuss potential medical education scholarship ideas and provide guidance on current projects.
- iSAG as a community of educators implemented active peer collaboration that benefits from a diverse interest and skill set.
- The small meeting group size allows for a comfortable environment which promotes peer support and collegial exchange of ideas.
- This community of practice has evolved in the short few months since conception to accommodate busy schedules and allow remote participation options.



## Representation of Complementary iSAG Skills



## Discussion

iSAG has provided a viable model for developing a community of practice and fostering scholarship for health professions educators at our institution.

In the few months since its inception, iSAG has proven itself a successful model for providing support and encouraging the scholarly productivity of its members. In summary the project has experienced a successful launch and has been an inspiration for its members.