

# The Impact of an Inter-Institutional, Interprofessional Networking Event to Create Novel Collaborations

Poonam Sharma MD, Megan Holmes PhD, Chan Park MD, Jeff Hoder DPT

## Purpose

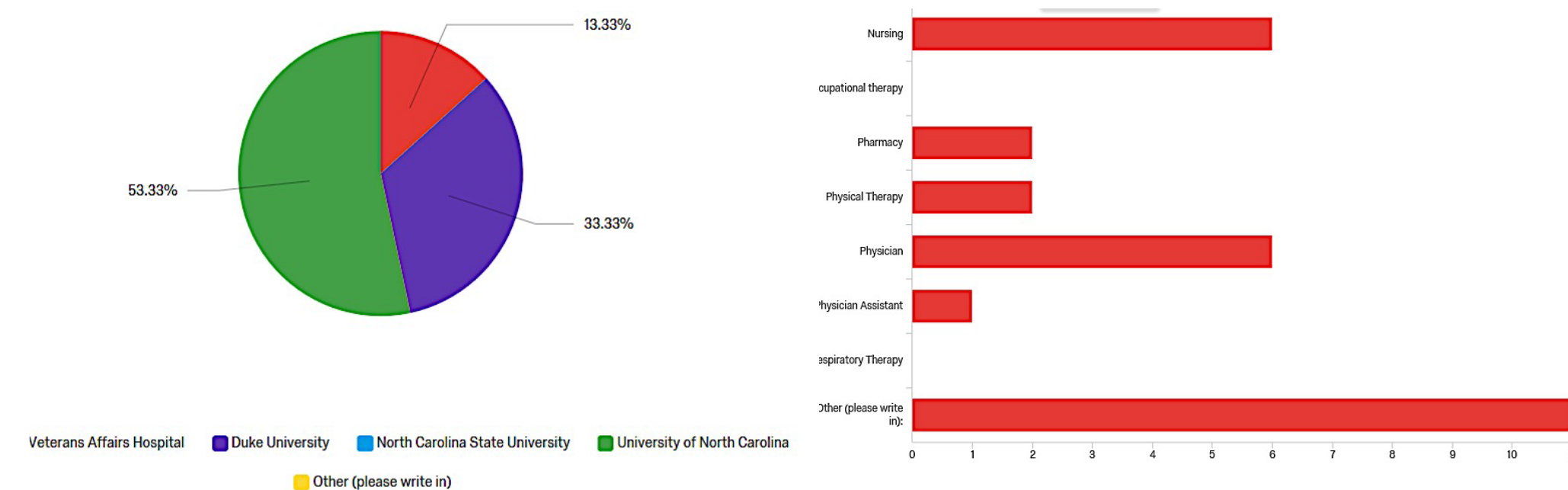
- We hypothesized that an interprofessional networking event involving participants from multiple regional health centers and across two universities could facilitate the development of:
  - new interprofessional collaborations
  - new inter-institutional interprofessional collaborationsamong researchers, educators and clinicians.

## Methods

- Through a collaborative initiative between Duke AHEAD and UNC-Chapel Hill, a networking event was hosted at UNC for regional health professionals and health professions educators.
- An emailed pre-event survey collected:
  - demographic information,
  - attitudes towards interprofessional education (IPE) and practice (IPP) using validated tools (NIPEAS and ACE 15)
  - baseline data on participation in interprofessional collaborations and inter-institutional interprofessional collaborations.
- Impact was measured by paper survey at the end of the event and electronic survey 5 months after the event.

*Thank you to DukeAHEAD and UNC for providing support for this event.*

## The Event



- Attendees came from multiple institutions and professions.
- Networking ice-breaker (interprofessional Bingo).
- Participants self-selected breakout session groups by topics of interest.
- Breakout sessions by topic:
  - 1) IPE in the classroom
  - 2) IPE in the clinical setting
  - 3) IPP for patient care
  - 4) Curricular design of interprofessional activities
  - 5) Assessment and evaluation of interprofessional activities



## Results

- 37/42 registrants attended the workshop.
- **Pre-Event Survey:**
  - 24 people completed the pre-event survey.
  - The majority of participants held a positive attitude towards IPP and IPE
  - Only 3 respondents reported interprofessional collaboration with parties outside of their own institution.
- **Post-Event Survey:**
  - 29 people completed the post-event survey
  - The majority of the participants reported they felt “moderately” to “completely” prepared to create new inter-institutional collaborations because of attending the workshop.
- **5-month Follow-up Survey:**
  - 6/14 respondents reported starting or joining an interprofessional initiative that they were not engaged in prior to the networking event.
  - 4 respondents reported involvement in inter-institutional interprofessional collaboration.

## Conclusions

- **A regional networking event involving health professional clinicians, researchers and educators from diverse backgrounds and different institutions may help break down professional and institutional silos and promote regional collaboration.**