Art as a Catalyst for Interprofessional Thinking and Innovation in Health Care

Saturday, March 13, 2010 10:15a.m. to 10:45a.m. 505 Hamilton Bldg

Josh Chuzi, Georgia Perimeter College, Georgia

Throughout history, art and artists have been catalysts of societal change and innovation. Artists, often working in creative communities, spurred each other on to advance not only their own work, but to influence how people around them looked at themselves and their environment. This presentation looks at the question: How can art and making art be used to improve the way health care teams work together and as importantly, to assist them to design better solutions for problems in health care?

For interprofessional teams, making art provides a means to explore relationships between themselves and others. Exercises in spontaneity and creativity get healthcare professionals out of their “comfort zone” and open the door for new ideas, ideas that may not evolve within normal, every day routines. The inherently subjective nature of art allows people, of any discipline, the freedom to explore ideas without the constraints and restrictions present in more objective disciplines. The act of making art, as an exemplar of creative exercise, offers health team members a fresh way to change context, explore new facets of themselves and each other, and look at everyday, often complex problems in new ways.

In this presentation, art exercises specifically crafted for health care professionals are described. We will examine issues in creating environments conducive to making health team members shift from “I don’t do art” to comfortable with a different approach to problem-solving and practice improvement. Participants will be encouraged to explore art and art-making as a new and useful tool to foster interprofessional problem-solving and innovation in complex healthcare environments.