

Collaboration: 2009-10 Family and Community Residency Theme

“Every collaboration helps you grow.” Brian Eno

Collaboration is a core value of Family and Community Medicine. It is relationship centered, constructive, longitudinal, and transformative.

Collaboration acknowledges that we all have valuable lessons to learn from each other and perspectives to share.

Collaboration recognizes that our collective shared wisdom is more powerful than the wisdom of any individual or group.

Collaboration requires introspection and reflection upon our behavior and communication to create successful relationships.

“ We humans are social beings. We come into the world as the result of others’ actions. We survive here in dependence on others. Whether we like it or not, there is hardly a moment of our lives when we do not benefit from others’ activities. For this reason it is hardly surprising that most of our happiness arises in the context of our relationships with others.” Dalai Lama

As part of our new 2009-2010 Family and Community Medicine residency curriculum we are happy to be embarking upon new collaborative relationships to improve the education of our future family physicians and the health of our communities.

As part of our new Underserved Care curriculum, we have developed collaborative relationships with Mary Howard Health center- a nurse managed primary care center for homeless individuals, The Nationalities Service Center- providing care to recent refugees, the Pathways Program providing comprehensive care to individuals with unstable housing and chronic mental illness, and the Philadelphia Department of Public health- a leader in care for the uninsured. We are proud to see our collaborator for 15 years, Sr. Mary Scullion, co-founder of Project HOME, named to Time’s 2009 list of 100 most influential people for her success in ending homelessness. We look to her model of robust collaboration to improving the lives of individuals without stable housing.

As part of our longitudinal curriculum we have new collaborative relationships with Psychiatry, Urology, Breast surgery, Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Infectious Disease, and Pediatrics.

As part of our new Quality Improvement in Chronic Disease curriculum we will be collaborating with pharmacists, diabetes educators, nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, and public health practitioners to improve the care we offer our growing population of diabetics.

Collaboration is a process of learning that has enormous potential to effect positive change in education, clinical care, and the health of our population

“In the long history of humankind... those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.” Charles Darwin