

Brief Description of the IPHiGen2.0 Project

Since 2011, the faculty of medicine at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the Department of Applied Health Sciences at the Hochschule für Gesundheit have been experimenting with interprofessional teaching and learning models with medical students as well as students in nursing, physiotherapy, ergotherapy, speech therapy, and obstetrics programs.

As part of the IPHiGen 2.0 project, which focuses on interprofessional behavior in the health care sector, the interprofessional courses developed during the first support phase are to be permanently integrated into the curricula of the medical degree programs of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB), as well as into the ergotherapy, speech therapy, obstetrics, nursing, and physiotherapy programs of the Department of Applied Health Sciences at the Hochschule für Gesundheit (hsg). Successful concepts (e.g. casework) are to be developed further using the experiences from the first support phase and under the new curricular framework conditions. Along the way, learning from, with, and about each other is always in the forefront. The students are given the tools necessary for acting professionally as part of an interdisciplinary team.

The IPHiGen 2.0 project began during the summer semester of 2016 with an initial planning and development phase, which enabled the consideration of the new prerequisites of the universities and implementation of the interprofessional courses as fixed components of the courses of study. The idea is to integrate interprofessional courses into the medical school curriculum as part of the medical interaction phase and into the new interprofessional practice modules scheduled for the new hsg curriculum. By the summer semester of 2017, learning formats for the permanent curricular implementation are to be developed and tested.

In addition to the further development of the teaching concept, training methods and materials for interprofessional skill development are to be conceptualized for future educators. Regular meetings of the supervisors for discussions on professional development are planned during the testing phase. Beginning with the 2017/18 winter semester, courses on interprofessional case conferences that have already been adapted will be carried out and evaluated on a voluntary basis with student groups.

Interprofessional collaboration in the health care sector is an essential building block for future-oriented health care. IPHiGen 2.0 is geared toward teaching interprofessional skills to graduates of all six degree programs from both schools, along with mutual understanding regarding the necessity for comprehensive collaboration in health care from the perspectives of their professional groups.

Because all future students in medical and health care programs in Bochum will take these courses, this is giving rise to a new generation of health professionals who can contribute to an improved quality of care and patient safety by using the expanded team skills they acquired during their academic studies. The continuation of the project will further expand and deepen the existing collaboration between the Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the Hochschule für Gesundheit, which can contribute to the introduction of other interprofessional projects and the support of scientific occupations in the field of interprofessional teaching – even above and beyond the project itself.