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The Future Direction of Inter-Professional Education in Ireland: Insights From Focus Groups With Key Stakeholders

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The future direction of interprofessional education in Ireland

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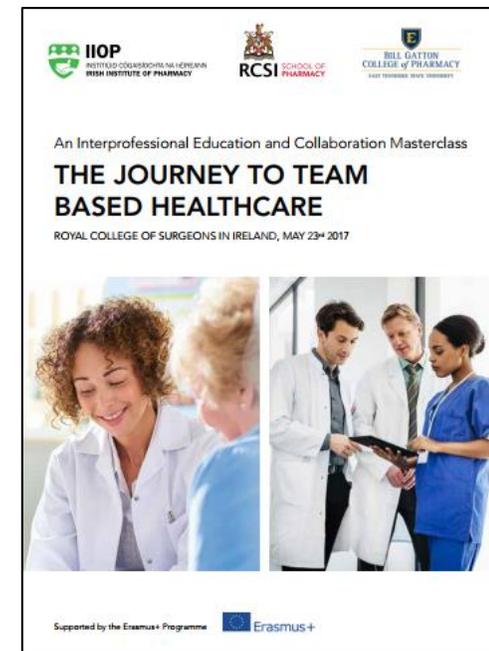
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Background and methods

- **Joint masterclass symposium held in RCSI in May 2017**
- **Masterclass format**
 - Plenary sessions; Roundtable discussions; Focus groups
- **Research aim**
 - To determine key stakeholders' opinions and perceptions regarding the development, implementation and future direction of IPE in Ireland
- **Method**
 - Focus groups conducted with masterclass attendees
 - Topic guide outline:
 1. Development of IPE initiatives
 2. Implementation of IPE initiatives
 3. Future direction of IPE in Ireland
 4. Key priorities for IPE in Ireland
 - Analysis: thematic analysis



Key findings/recommendations (1)

1. Promoting IPE and demonstrating its benefits

- Promote diverse roles of individuals across healthcare teams
- Assess and demonstrate value of IPE across all target groups
- Incorporate mechanisms that directly capture the benefits into the monitoring and evaluation of IPE initiatives
- Share lessons of best-practice

Key findings/recommendations (2)

2. Structures to assist the implementation of IPE

- Incorporate IPE at an early stage of the undergraduate curriculum
- Investigate potential for joint CPD opportunities as IPE/IPC
- Manage expectations to overcome protectionism, and promote collaboration between professional bodies
- Increase linkages between professional and academic institutions
- Explore different models and techniques of IPE/IPC to ensure the 'best fit' within teams and institutions