

September 20, 2007

Dr. Jean Yan  
Co-Chair, WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice and Chief Scientist for Nursing & Midwifery, Department of Human Resources for Health, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Dr. Yan:

*Re: Invitation of Partnership for CIHC with the WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice*

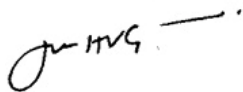
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Thank you for your letter dated June 6, 2007 inviting the *Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (CIHC)* to partner with the *WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice*. One goal of CIHC's Partnerships Committee is to foster and develop relationships with other associations for whom IPE and/or collaborative practice are either a central tenet of their existence, or for whom these matters are part of their core missions.

CIHC's Steering Committee and Partnerships Committee are keen to recognize WHO and be recognized as partners in this joint work, receive updates throughout the course of the Study Group's work, find opportunities to offer input, and offer CIHC's communication networks to further engage individuals interested in interprofessional education and collaborative practice in Canada.

This letter serves to provide notice of our intent to collaborate with you on joint matters concerning interprofessional education and collaborative practice. Please contact Brenda Sawatzky-Girling, CIHC Program Manager, at [brendasg@telus.net](mailto:brendasg@telus.net) or 604.531.7970 if you are interested in discussing this partnership further.

Sincerely,



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06 June 2007

Dear Ms Sawatzky-Girling,

**Invitation of Partnership for CIHC with the WHO Study Group  
on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice**

The urgency for action to enhance human resources for health internationally was recently highlighted by the World Health Report 2006: Working Together for Health which revealed an estimated worldwide shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers. The 59th World Health Assembly recognized this crisis and adopted a resolution (WHA59.23) last May calling for a rapid scaling-up of health workforce production through various strategies including the use of “innovative approaches to teaching in industrialized and developing countries.”

Following several discussions on this topic, the Human Resources for Health Department at the World Health Organization (WHO) has come to recognize the importance of interprofessional education and collaborative practice as one of the innovative approaches that can help tackle the global health workforce challenge. We are excited about the opportunities that interprofessional collaboration may present and are further encouraged by research evidence that suggests its potential to enhance health systems, patient safety, chronic disease management and primary health care delivery.

With renewed worldwide attention on these important issues, the Human Resources for Health Department at WHO in collaboration with the International Association for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (InterEd) has convened a WHO Study Group on Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice and we are writing to keep your organization updated on this latest development and engage Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaboration (CIHC) as a partner in this venture.

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The WHO Study Group consists of almost 30 top education, practice and policy experts from across the world. Our leadership of the Study Group as co-chairs is supported by three working group leaders: Professor Peter G Baker (University of Queensland, Australia) for interprofessional education; Professor Yuchi Ishikawa (Kobe University, Japan) for collaborative practice; Professor Dame Jill Macleod Clark (University of Southampton, UK) for system-level supportive structures; and a project manager, Mr Steven Hoffman (WHO/Geneva), who will concurrently work as WHO's focal point for interprofessional education and collaborative practice. A document listing the international experts that will be serving as members of the Study Group has been included along with this letter.

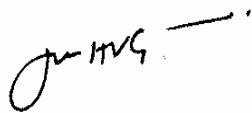
Building on recent progress, the Study Group will not only conduct a much-needed international environment scan and an assessment of the current state of research in this area, but it will also identify, evaluate and synthesize the evidence on potential facilitators, incentives and levers for action that could be adopted as part of a global strategy for interprofessional education and collaborative practice. This work will culminate in the preparation of a technical report and global conceptual framework and will form the basis for follow-up efforts at the global, regional and country level.

We see the recent success of organizations concerned with interprofessional education and collaborative practice as an enabling factor to the success of this project and thus wish to engage CIHC as a partner in this project. We hope to keep your organization updated throughout the course of the Study Group's work, provide opportunities for you to offer input, and utilize your organization's communication networks to further engage individuals interested in interprofessional education and collaborative practice throughout the world.

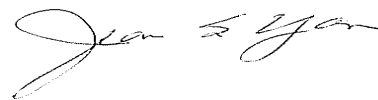
We would appreciate it if you could let us know as soon as possible whether your organization is interested in being recognized as a partner in this venture. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mr Steven Hoffman (hoffmans@who.int) who will be serving as the primary contact for the Study Group.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting endeavor.

Yours sincerely,



Prof John HV Gilbert  
Co-Chair, WHO Study Group on IECP  
President  
International Association for Interprofessional  
Education and Collaborative Practice



Dr Jean Yan  
Co-Chair, WHO Study Group on IECP  
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