

# Interprofessional Psychosocial Oncology Distance Education (IPODE) Project

## Objective

The IPODE project aims to increase access to interprofessional education for psychosocial oncology care and create a network of faculty committed to sustaining interprofessional education in this specialty area. The goal is to improve person-centered care for those affected by cancer.

## Project Approach

The foundations for the project include focus groups, key informant interviews and national stakeholder meetings. Building on these, an online, interactive course is being developed for graduate students in medicine, nursing, psychology, social work and spiritual care. This course will be piloted in the winter of 2008 for a national cohort of students drawn from the eight partner universities. A continuing

*"I've realized that interprofessional collaboration means being able to go to our (psychosocial oncology) colleagues with our questions, our challenges, our wonderings, our stresses... to debrief and say this is what is happening and get feedback and support."*

– Health Professional in an IPODE Project focus group

education version of this course will be developed for delivery via the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology (CAPO/ACOP). Both versions of the course will be developed in English and French. The project will be evaluated using a variety of qualitative and quantitative approaches.

## Results

To date fifteen focus groups (13 Anglophone and two Francophone) have been conducted across Canada with approximately 120 participants. Using thematic analysis, the project team is identifying key areas for interprofessional education for psychosocial oncology, such as: relational practice, core topics for care providers, knowledge of interprofessional collaboration and creating communities of learning.

## Conclusion

The IPODE project stakeholders have become an interprofessional network where innovation and patient/family centered care are priorities. These enthusiastic individuals have contributed strong foundational ideas for course development. Together they have developed a course model, course description and plan for innovative online learning. We look forward to offering the course and learning from the feedback of faculty and students.

## Resources

[www.ipode.ca](http://www.ipode.ca)

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