

## **Interprofessional Leadership Project: Building Community Capacity in Interprofessional Care to Improve Health Care for Seniors**

***“An Interprofessional Care Education Fund 2008-09 project funded through HealthForceOntario by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities”***

*Interprofessional Care: A Blueprint for Action (HealthForceOntario, July 2007)*

HealthForceOntario (HFO) is a collaborative, multi-year strategy designed to enhance patient care by strengthening Ontario's health workforce. HFO's mandate is to develop strategies to address the province's health human resources needs, work with the education system to develop people with the right knowledge and skills and to advance the practice of interprofessional care which can be defined as the provision of comprehensive health services to patients by multiple health caregivers who work collaboratively to deliver quality care within and across settings.

The 2007 report, *Interprofessional Care: A Blueprint for Action in Ontario* is the document developed, which provides direction for how interprofessional care can be implemented within the health care and education systems. One of the strategies included the establishment of the Interprofessional Care/Education Fund (ICEF) which is a funding program that supports innovative health education or health care projects that foster and build interprofessional teams.

The “Interprofessional Leadership Project” is one of 41 projects funded by HealthForceOntario in 2009 and is a collaborative effort between UOIT & HETRU, The Village of Taunton Mills in Whitby and the RIA-Research Institute for Aging at the University of Waterloo. Key project elements include interprofessional education & supported practicums, overview by a project advisory group, and the exploration of a navigator role. To develop leaders and build capacity, two groups of health care providers in Durham completed a series of education workshops related to ‘interprofessional care for seniors’ and each participant completed a supported six month practicum project. In total, the Interprofessional Leadership Project has resulted in the creation of 37 projects that demonstrate ‘interprofessional care’. The project formally ends in June 2010.

Various project partners and participants include Alzheimer Society Durham, Brock Community Health Centre, Lakeridge Health Corporation, Oshawa Senior Citizens Centre, Ontario Shores, Pickering Village United Church, The Regional Municipality of Durham-LTC & Services for Seniors Division and Public Health Dept, CE LHIN, Consumer, The Village of Taunton Mills, Oshawa Community Health Centre, Community Care Durham, Durham College, Canadian Mental Health Association, Rouge Valley Health System, CE CCAC, Drs. Schmitz, Sujo, Rayman Associates in Optometry, Home Instead Senior Care, UOIT, HETRU, and RIA.

For more information please check the HFO website at:  
<http://www.healthforceontario.ca/WhatIsHFO/AboutInterprofessionalCare.aspx>

To learn more about the Interprofessional Leadership Project please go to the Schlegel-UW RIA Research Institute for Aging Website at:  
<http://www.the-ria.ca/research/themes.cfm>