# **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access** 

# Effectiveness of simulation-based interprofessional education for medical and nursing students in South Korea: a pre-post survey



#### Abstract

**Background:** Effective collaboration and communication among health care team members are critical for providing safe medical care. Interprofessional education aims to instruct healthcare students how to learn with, from, and about healthcare professionals from different occupations to encourage effective collaboration to provide safe and high-quality patient care. The purpose of this study is to confirm the effectiveness of Interprofessional education by comparing students' attitudes toward interprofessional learning before and after simulation-based interprofessional education, the perception of teamwork and collaboration between physicians and nurses, and the self-reported competency differences among students in interprofessional practice.

**Methods:** The survey responses from 37 5th-year medical students and 38 4th-year nursing students who participated in an interprofessional education program were analyzed. The Attitude Towards Teamwork in Training Undergoing Designed Educational Simulation scale, the Jefferson Scale of Attitudes Toward Physician-Nurse Collaboration, and the Interprofessional Education Collaborative competency scale were used for this study. The demographic distribution of the study participants was obtained, and the perception differences before and after participation in interprofessional education between medical and nursing students were analyzed.

**Results:** After interprofessional education, student awareness of interprofessional learning and self-competency in interprofessional practice improved. Total scores for the Jefferson Scale of Attitudes Toward Physician-Nurse Collaboration did not change significantly among medical students but increased significantly among nursing students. Additionally, there was no significant change in the perception of the role of other professions among either medical or nursing students.

(Continued on next page)

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



© The Author(s). 2020 **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.

<sup>\*</sup> Correspondence: neopedlee@aumc.ac.kr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Jihye Yu and woosuck Lee are contributed equally and co-first authors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 2 of 9

(Continued from previous page)

**Conclusions:** We observed an effect of interprofessional education on cultivating self-confidence and recognizing the importance of interprofessional collaboration between medical professions. It can be inferred that exposure to collaboration situations through Interprofessional education leads to a positive perception of interprofessional learning. However, even after their interprofessional education experience, existing perceptions of the role of other professional groups in the collaboration situation did not change, which shows the limitations of a one-time short-term program. This suggests that efforts should be made to ensure continuous exposure to social interaction experiences with other professions.

**Keywords:** South Korea, Interprofessional education, Medical student, Nursing student

# **Background**

Effective collaboration and communication among health care team members are critical for providing safe patient care. Many health care accidents are associated with communication problems within the health care team and a lack of teamwork skills [1]. Interprofessional collaboration is important in that it increases job satisfaction of all health care team members including physicians, nurses and all allied health team members, positively affects patient satisfaction, and ultimately improves the quality of patient care [2, 3]. Implementation of interprofessional training within medical education is necessary for ensuring patient safety. Within the healthcare team, interprofessional education (IPE) should be initiated as an undergraduate course to cultivate effective communication and collaboration skills among future medical personnel.

IPE aims to instruct healthcare professionals how to learn with, from, and about one another to encourage effective collaboration for providing safe and high-quality patient care [4]. Thus, IPE can be implemented to improve students' clinical performance so that effective communication, collaboration, and teamwork within the health care team can be achieved in the clinical setting [5]. As awareness of its importance grows, IPE is being increasingly implemented in healthcare-process education and studies have shown that through IPE, participating students developed a positive attitude toward interprofessional learning and that their collaboration skills improved [6].

Use of simulations in IPE is increasing [7] and, with developments in medical technology, high-fidelity simulation is increasingly used as a teaching-learning tool for health professionals [8]. Simulation is an effective tool for medical education [9] because it can function like a real patient care setting, and has been shown to improve students' knowledge and communication skills [10, 11]. Simulation-based IPEs are drawing attention in the medical field because they provide students' with opportunities to collaborate, communicate, make decisions, and practice skills among their team members in life-like situations; additionally, students can experience the consequences that arise from their decisions [12]. Furthermore, simulation education allows

medical practice to be performed in a safe environment without the burden or pressures from the actual medical environment [13]. A study conducted on students participating in interprofessional simulation [14] showed that simulation-based IPE fosters communication skills between professions, enhances understanding of other occupations' roles, enables collaboration, and improves self-confidence in collaborative situations, thus demonstrating its educational effectiveness.

Despite the growing awareness of the importance of Simulation-based IPE and related studies, there have been no cases in Korea where simulation-based IPE programs have been implemented and analyzed for medical and nursing students who will play key roles within healthcare teams. The purpose of this study is to analyze the educational effect of simulation-based IPE for medical students and nursing students in Korea. The specific research questions are as follows:

- What is the attitude of medical and nursing students to professional training, awareness of teamwork, and collaboration within the health care team, and competency for interprofessional collaborative practice?
- Are there pre- and post-training differences in students' attitudes toward inter-professional training, awareness of teamwork and collaboration within the health care team, and competency for interprofessional collaborative practice?

## **Methods**

#### Design

This study evaluated pre- and post-measures through quantitative surveys completed by medical and nursing students who participated in a high-fidelity simulationbased interprofessional program.

#### **Ethical considerations**

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Ajou University Hospital (Ethics consent No. AJIRB-SBR-SUR-20-125).

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 3 of 9

#### Setting

The simulation-based interprofessional program conducted from November 26-27, 2019 consisted of a total of three sessions: an adult simulation scenario with a patient complaining of chest pain (Module 1), a maternal scenario of a postpartum hemorrhage (Module 2), and a pediatric scenario in which a child presents with mild viral croup (Module 3). Module 1 aimed to collect information from patients complaining of chest pain to a team of emergency room doctors and nurses who performed the initial treatments. The Module 2 scenario was structured to test students' ability to recognize changes in a patient with postpartum hemorrhage and their ability to engage in effective therapeutic communication with team members so that necessary medical procedures can be performed effectively. The Module 3 scenario aimed to evaluate the health care team's ability to recognize symptoms in a child with febrile seizure symptoms due to viral croup and their ability to employ the necessary medical treatment skills, and to collaborate and communicate among the health care team. Each simulation module used in this study was determined by coordinating the medical and nursing faculty among the required graduation achievements of the university, and the simulation scenario was completed by adjusting the difficulty level through consultation. Although the scenario cases for each module are different, the task to be performed is the same, including diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment action for patients through communication and collaboration between physicians and nurses. Therefore, the module was constructed so that students would have almost the same experience no matter which of the three modules they participated in.

# **Procedures**

A total of 87 students, including 43 medical students and 44 nursing students, participated in the simulation-based IPE program. Students were divided into 22 groups of 3–4 students per group. The 21 teams consisted of 2 medical and 2 nursing students each, and 1 team consisted of 1 medical and 2 nursing students. Two of the three modules were randomly assigned to each team. Therefore, each team experienced a total of two scenario modules. The format and contents of each simulation session are shown in Table 1. In the pre-

briefing session, the instructor explained the aims and process of the program to the participating students. In addition, a simulation scenario template was provided to students so that they can check the scenario setting, learning outcome, description of scenario, and patient information. In the pre-scenario session, students set up a plan for actual simulation, such as analyzing cases and assigning roles based on a given scenario template. In the task training session, students practiced tasks necessary for actual performance such as checking manikin and equipment in the simulation room. In the simulation session, students intervened according to manikin actions based on programming data, and in this process, team members communicated and collaborated with each other. The students in the previous group who experienced the simulation module performed peer evaluation while watching what the students in the next group did. Through peer evaluation, students were able to reflect on their own performance, which serves as a debriefing. In addition, after the simulation session of each module was over, debriefing was conducted with the instructor on the performance of the group.

#### **Participants**

A total of 87 students participated in this program, 43 medical and 44 nursing students. The data of participating students who did not respond to or responded insincerely to the survey to verify the effectiveness of this study were excluded. Thirty-seven fifth-year medical students and 38 fourth-year nursing students participated in the IPE program, and a total of 75 response variables were used for the analyses. Medical students in the 5th grade have competencies for essential treatments and clinical skills through major clinical clerkship, and have basic competencies for coping with emergency situations. In addition, the 4th grade nursing students have completed all clinical practice and have the basic knowledge and skills required in the medical situation at the hospital. In other words, it can be seen that the participants of this study are at the stage before entering the job and have the ability to evaluate their own capabilities. Missing responses or insincere responses were excluded. Students completed the questionnaire before and after IPE participation.

**Table 1** Components of the simulation sessions

| Session component       | Time   | Content   |
|-------------------------|--------|---|
| Pre-briefing            | 20 min | Introduction program objectives and operational processes, and obtain consent to record simulations |
| Pre-scenario activities | 20 min | Situation analysis, coping plan, role sharing, and necessary task determination                     |
| Task training           | 20 min | Required task practice  |
| Simulation              | 20 min | Scenario performance (different groups performed different modules), peer evaluation                |
| Debriefing              | 20 min | Share thoughts on interprofessional experience  |

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 4 of 9

#### Measures

In our study, the attitude toward interprofessional learning was measured using the Attitude Towards Teamwork in Training Undergoing Designed Educational Simulation (ATTITUDES) scale which was developed by Sigalet et al. [15]. This scale consists of 30 items organized into five sub-factors: IPE relevance (7 items, e.g., I want more opportunities to learn with other professionals.), simulation relevance (5 items, e.g., Simulation is a good tool for practicing team decision-making skills.), communication (8 items, e.g., Communication within the team is as important as technical skills.), situation awareness (4 items, e.g., Patient care is improved when all team members have a shared understanding about assessment and treatment.), and roles and responsibilities (6 items, e.g., Monitoring what each team member is doing is important for optimizing patient safety.). Each question was measured on a five-point scale from "strongly disagree" (1 point) to "strongly agree" (5 points). It can be seen that the higher the total score, the more positive students' attitude toward interprofessional learning through simulation-based IPE. In this study, the pre and post-IPE questions show internal consistency (Cronbach  $\alpha = 0.962$  and 0.985, respectively).

To measure the perception of teamwork and collaboration between physicians and nurses, Jefferson Scale of Attitudes toward Physician-Nurse Collaboration (JSAPNC) developed by Hojat et al. [16] was used in this study. This scale consists of 15 items and 4 sub-factors: shared educational and collaborative relationships (7 items, e.g., Interprofessional relationships between physicians and nurses should be included in both professions' educational programs.), caring as opposed to curing (3 items, e.g., Nurses are qualified to assess and respond to psychological aspects of patients' needs.), nurse's autonomy (3 items, e.g., Nurses should be accountable to patients for the nursing care they provide.), and physician's authority (2 items, e.g., Doctors should be the dominant authority in all healthcare matters.). Each item was measured on a four-point scale from "strongly disagree" (1 point) to "strongly agree" (4 points). The higher the total score, the more positively students perceive teamwork and collaboration between physicians and nurses. The Cronbach  $\alpha$  for inter-consistency before and after IPE was 0.911 and 0.935, respectively.

The Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) Competency self-assessment tool developed by Lockeman [17] was used to measure students' competency in interprofessional practice. This scale consists of two subfactors: interprofessional interaction (7 items, e.g., I can use strategies that will improve the effectiveness of interprofessional teamwork and team-based care.) and interprofessional value (9 items, e.g., I can embrace the diversity that characterizes patients and the healthcare

team.). Each item was measured on a 5-point Likert scale from "strongly disagree" (1 point) to "strongly agree" (5 points). It can be seen that the higher the total score, the more students perceived as more competent in interprofessional practice. The Cronbach  $\alpha$  for competency before and after IPE was 0.957 and 0.980, respectively.

# Analyses

Descriptive statistical analyses were conducted to identify the demographic distribution of participants in this study, and t-tests were conducted to explore response differences between the professional groups of medical and nursing students. Additionally, paired t-tests were conducted using SPSS version 25.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA) to identify changes in medical and nursing students' scores before and after IPE participation.

# Results

#### **Demographics**

Participant characteristics are presented in Table 2. There were 1.7 times more male students than female students among the medical-school respondents, while there were 4 times more female students than male students among the nursing-school respondents. Medical students had no prior experience in simulation training, but nursing students had undergone previous simulation training. None of the participating students had any educational experience with other professions.

ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC Competency scores according to profession are presented in Table 3. The differences between ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC Competency were compared and analyzed for both student groups before and after IPE. Nursing students scored higher than medical students in ATTITUDES and IPEC Competency before and after IPE. The two groups did not differ significantly in JSAPNC scores before or after IPE.

The results of comparative analyses of the differences between the ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC

**Table 2** Participant demographic data (N = 75)

|                     | Medical                      | Nursing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Gender              |                              |         |
| Male                | 24                           | 7       |
| Female              | 13                           | 31      |
| Previous experience | ce with simulation sessions  |         |
| Yes                 | 0                            | 38      |
| No                  | 37                           | 0       |
| Previous experience | ce with interprofessional ed | ucation |
| Yes                 | 0                            | 0       |
| No                  | 37                           | 38      |

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 5 of 9

**Table 3** ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC Competency scores according to profession

|          | ATTITUDES   | JSAPNC      | IPEC Competency |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Pre-IPE  |             |             |                 |
| Medical  | 4.18 (0.48) | 3.25 (0.38) | 3.97 (0.66)     |
| Nursing  | 4.50 (0.39) | 3.36 (0.42) | 4.48 (0.49)     |
| t        | 3.15**      | 1.14        | 3.77***         |
| Post-IPE |             |             |                 |
| Medical  | 4.45 (0.73) | 3.36 (0.60) | 4.36 (0.78)     |
| Nursing  | 4.77 (0.29) | 3.52 (0.35) | 4.78 (0.33)     |
| t        | 2.55*       | 1.44        | 3.03**          |

Range of score: ATTITUDES (1–5), JSAPNC (1–4), IPEC Competency (1–5) p < 0.05, p < 0.01, p < 0.01, p < 0.001

Competency scores before and after IPE experience are presented in Fig. 1.

All students participating in interprofessional education showed significant improvement in ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC competency scores. Before the interprofessional education, the average scores of each scale were ATTITUDES (M = 4.34, SD = 0.47), JSAPNC (M = 3.30, SD = 0.40), and IPEC Competency (M = 4.23, SD = 0.63). After the program experience, the score of each scale was found to increase significantly as follows: ATTITUDES (M = 4.61, SD = 0.57,  $t = 4.63^{***}$ ), JSAPNC (M = 3.44, SD = 0.50,  $t = 2.87^{***}$ ), and IPEC Competency (M = 4.57, SD = 0.63,  $t = 5.25^{***}$ ).

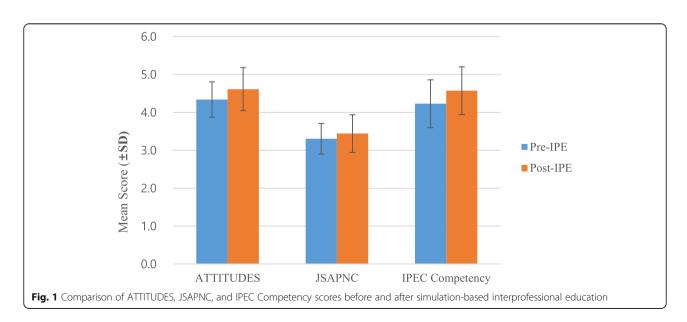
Table 4 shows the ATTITUDES, JSAPNC, and IPEC Competency scale scores for medical and nursing students before and after participating in IPE programs. The overall score for nursing students was higher than that for medical students, but the score for physician's authority, one of the sub-factors of the JSAPNC scale

was higher among medical students (pre: M = 2.80 vs. M = 2.57, post: M = 2.92 vs. M = 2.72).

The total scores from ATTITUDES (t = 2.50, p < 0.05vs. t = 5.32, p < 0.001) and IPEC Competency (t = 3.44, p < 0.01 vs. t = 4.34, p < 0.00) increased significantly after IPE in both medical and nursing students. The total score for JSAPNC showed no significant change among medical students, but a significant increase among nursing students (t = 3.02, p < 0.01). Regarding changes in scores before and after IPE by JSAPNC sub-factors, in "shared educational and collaborative relationships," which both measure the perception of collaboration between physicians and nurses, the scores from both medical students and nursing students increased (t = 2.36, p < 0.05). vs. t = 3.64, p < 0.01). For medical students, however, there was no change in scores for caring as opposed to curing, nurse's autonomy, or physician's authority, which measures the identity of each profession group. Also, there was no significant change in the score for physician's authority among nursing students.

#### **Discussion**

We found that nursing students were more positively aware of interprofessional learning and competency in interprofessional practice than medical students. Prior studies that compared the impact of IPE experience on the perception of interprofessional learning between the different professional groups have yielded mixed results. A study that compared attitudes to interprofessional learning before and after IPE [15] for different professional groups showed that medical students had more positive attitudes toward IPE than nursing students, which is a contrary finding to this study. This means that certain profession, nurses or physicians, do not



Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 6 of 9

**Table 4** Comparison of pre- and post-simulation scores for interprofessional education between medical and nursing students

| Scale           |  |      | Medical $(n = 37)$ |        | Nursing $(n = 38)$ |         |
|-----------------|--|------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|
|                 |  |      | M (SD)             | t      | M (SD)             | t       |
| ATTITUDES       | Relevance of IPE                                   | Pre  | 4.10 (0.53)        | 2.35*  | 4.39 (0.47)        | 5.33*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.35 (0.76)        |        | 4.75 (0.31)        |         |
|                 | Relevance of Simulation                            | Pre  | 4.16 (0.60)        | 2.61*  | 4.43 (0.49)        | 4.68*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.46 (0.76)        |        | 4.81 (0.33)        |         |
|                 | Communication                                      | Pre  | 4.21 (0.54)        | 2.09*  | 4.61 (0.38)        | 4.34*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.46 (0.75)        |        | 4.85 (0.29)        |         |
|                 | Situation awareness                                | Pre  | 4.15 (0.49)        | 2.36*  | 4.45 (0.49)        | 3.51**  |
|                 |  | Post | 4.45 (0.78)        |        | 4.67 (0.41)        |         |
|                 | Roles and responsibility                           | Pre  | 4.27 (0.57)        | 1.90   | 4.61 (0.45)        | 3.24**  |
|                 |  | Post | 4.53 (0.76)        |        | 4.80 (0.33)        |         |
|                 | Total  | Pre  | 4.18 (0.48)        | 2.50*  | 4.50 (0.39)        | 5.32*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.45 (0.73)        |        | 4.77 (0.29)        |         |
| JSAPNC          | Shared educational and collaborative relationships | Pre  | 3.29 (0.49)        | 2.36*  | 3.59 (0.40)        | 3.64**  |
|                 |  | Post | 3.51 (0.59)        |        | 3.77 (0.32)        |         |
|                 | Caring as opposed to curing                        | Pre  | 3.37 (0.47)        | 0.68   | 3.60 (0.49)        | 2.82**  |
|                 |  | Post | 3.43 (0.63)        |        | 3.79 (0.37)        |         |
|                 | Nurse's autonomy                                   | Pre  | 3.55 (0.47)        | 0.30   | 3.68 (0.44)        | 2.37*   |
|                 |  | Post | 3.58 (0.60)        |        | 3.81 (0.37)        |         |
|                 | Physician's authority                              | Pre  | 2.80 (0.65)        | 0.81   | 2.57 (0.86)        | 1.18    |
|                 |  | Post | 2.92 (0.99)        |        | 2.72 (0.83)        |         |
|                 | Total  | Pre  | 3.25 (0.38)        | 1.36   | 3.36 (0.42)        | 3.02**  |
|                 |  | Post | 3.36 (0.60)        |        | 3.52 (0.35)        |         |
| IPEC Competency | Interprofessional interaction                      | Pre  | 3.85 (0.78)        | 3.52** | 4.38 (0.60)        | 4.31*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.31 (0.83)        |        | 4.71 (0.41)        |         |
|                 | Interprofessional value                            | Pre  | 4.10 (0.62         | 2.93** | 4.58 (0.46)        | 3.82*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.41 (0.76)        |        | 4.85 (0.30)        |         |
|                 | Total  | Pre  | 3.97 (0.66)        | 3.44** | 4.48 (0.49)        | 4.34*** |
|                 |  | Post | 4.10 (0.53)        |        | 4.39 (0.47)        |         |

\*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001

always have a more positive attitude toward interprofessional learning than others. What direct or indirect experiences they had in patient care settings in previous clinical practice may be more important factors for attitude toward interprofessional collaboration and interprofessional learning [18].

Prior to this study, neither the nursing- nor medicalstudent participants had IPE experience, but medical students had 1 year of clinical experience practice, while nursing students, who were at the end of their fourth year, had almost 2 years of clinical experience practice and the nursing students had previously undertaken simulation in clerkship. Clinical experience practice provides positive and negative role modeling observations and collaboration among doctors, nurses, and other relevant allied health practitioners [19], and extensive exposure to situations that require collaboration with other professional groups may affect students' perceptions of interprofessional learning [20]. It can be understood in the same context that the more experienced clinical practice, the higher the self-competency in interprofessional practice. Therefore, one interpretation of our results is that nursing students with more clinical experience practice responded more positively toward interprofessional learning and self-competency in interprofessional situations than medical students. After simulation-based IPE, the attitude toward interprofessional learning for all participating professions improved. These results are consistent with a prior study [21] in which a simulation-based IPE program had a positive effect on the attitudes of medical and nursing students toward IPE. Additionally, after simulation-based IPE, the

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 7 of 9

perception of all students who participated in teamwork and collaborations between physicians and nurses had improved.

However, sub-analyses of only medical students and only nursing students revealed no change in medical students' perception about nurse autonomy nor nursing students' perception about physician authority according to factors measuring perceptions of professional identity. In other words, we observed no change in students' perception of the professional identities of the different profession groups, which is in contrast with a previous study [22, 23] that found changes in stereotypes of other professions after IPE. We infer that this is due to the cultural contexts of the rigid Korean medical organizations. Two days of short-term IPE is unlikely to change students' perceptions of the roles of other professions compared to what they learned through their clinical training in the hospital. The point of focus between physicians and nurses is different in the clinical settings, the physicians are in charge of a directive role that makes the overall decision-making, and the nurse takes on a subservient role that focuses on patient care [24]. Our findings suggest that existing stereotypes about specific professions are challenges to be overcome in interprofessional learning. Beyond short-term special programs, it is necessary to include interprofessional collaborative training in clinical practice so that students can fully understand the role of other professions through the process of experiencing, observing, interacting, and reflecting positive modeling [25, 26].

After simulation-based IPE, self-reported competency improved for both medical and nursing students. Through IPE, students improved their ability to communicate and solve problems collaboratively among their health care team, and to understand team members and perform patient-centered care more effectively. A prior study [27, 28] found that interprofessional simulation improved self-competency in communication, collaboration, and situation management among team members in clinical settings. Competency development is a key component of clinical training [29]. Continuous provision of IPE improves competency, which helps postgraduates perform proficiently in their field of patient care. Patient care in clinical contexts always requires effective teamwork and communication skills among the health care team. However, because the current university education system is centered on majors, the necessary qualities for collaboration are insufficiently cultivated. IPE could be a good alternative approach to fill this learning gap.

This study is meaningful in that it is an empirical study that identified the educational effects of simulation-based IPEs in Korea, where IPE education has not yet been enacted. This study evaluated the educational effects of IPE, but this study has limitations in that it is a study on a single and short IPE. In order to analyze the effects of IPE in more detail, it is necessary to conduct IPE periodically and then perform analysis based on accumulated data. In addition, in analyzing the effects of the IPE program, there are limitations in that there may be various factors that can affect the study results in addition to the factors considered in this study. It is necessary to conduct a follow-up study that considers more various related variables such as student achievement. This study also has limitations in that it used an outdated scale that was developed to investigate the perception of teamwork and collaboration between physicians and nurses. When using it in future research, it is necessary to consider using it after going through an appropriate revision for the item according to the current situation. It also has an important limitation, in that it did not evaluate how long the effects of IPE will last. A reliable estimate of the effect duration is important for setting the cycle of education. It would then be necessary to conduct a study among postgraduates who participated in IPE as students to periodically evaluate the persistence of the educational effects of IPE. Additionally, in the long-term, when students embark on real clinical work after graduation, it is important to conduct research to evaluate whether healthcare professionals who had IPE experience during their training show better clinical performance through effective teamwork and communication.

#### **Conclusions**

This study was conducted to assess attitudes toward interprofessional learning, perception of teamwork and collaboration between doctors and nurses, and self-reported competency of students in interprofessional practice, and to compare the differences before and after simulation-based IPE. Through IPE, students' attitude toward interprofessional leaning and self-competency in interprofessional practice were improved. The perception of teamwork and collaboration between physicians and nurses showed no significant change among medical students but increased significantly among nursing students. Additionally, there was no significant change in the perception of the role of other professions among either medical or nursing students.

In this study, we found evidence for a positive educational effect of IPE in terms of participants recognizing the necessity of IPE and improving students' confidence in their inter-professional collaboration abilities. However, the fact that the existing perception of the role of other professions did not change after IPE shows the limitations of a one-time short-term program. Efforts should be made to include programs within the clinical-practice curriculum that provide social interactions with other profession groups in clinical situations so that students can be continuously exposed to these experiences.

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 8 of 9

#### Abbreviations

IPE: Interprofessional Education; ATTITUDES: Attitude Towards Teamwork in Training Undergoing Designed Educational Simulation; JSAPNC: Jefferson Scale of Attitudes toward Physician-Nurse Collaboration; IPEC: Interprofessional Education Collaborative

#### Acknowledgements

This study was conducted on an IPE program with the support of the Simulation Center of the college of Nursing at Daegu Science University. All the authors appreciate the willingness to utilize all the space in the simulation center.

#### Authors' contributions

YJH, LWS, LJH developed the study concept and design. YJH and LWS analyzed and interpreted the data, and drafted the manuscript. LSK acquired the data. KMR, CSC, LSE, KSS, JYJ, KDW, JHJ, LYJ, HSJ, KY, and KSM assisted in the interpretation of the data, and revised the manuscript. LJH critically revised the manuscript and supervised the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Funding

No funding was obtained for this study.

#### Availability of data and materials

The dataset used during the current study is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

#### Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Ajou University Hospital (Ethics consent No. AJIRB-SBR-SUR-20-125). It proceeded with consent exemption. This study was conducted to confirm the educational effect of the simulation-based interprofessional education program implemented as a part of educational exchange through MOU between Ajou University School of Medicine and college of nursing at Daegu Science University. Based on the survey data received from the participating students, the analysis was conducted through retrospective research, so consent was exempted.

#### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

#### **Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### **Author details**

<sup>1</sup>Office of Medical Education, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>2</sup>College of Nursing, Taegu Science University, Daegu, South Korea. <sup>3</sup>Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>4</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>5</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>6</sup>Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>8</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea. <sup>8</sup>Ajou Center for Clinical Excellence, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, South Korea.

# Received: 25 August 2020 Accepted: 19 November 2020 Published online: 26 November 2020

#### References

- Davenport DL, Henderson WG, Mosca CL, Khuri SF, Mentzer RM. Riskadjusted morbidity in teaching hospitals correlates with reported levels of communication and collaboration on surgical teams but not with scale measures of teamwork climate, safety climate, or working conditions. J Am Coll Surg. 2007;205:778–84.
- Galletta M, Portoqhese I, Carta MG, D'Aloja E, Campaqna M. The effect of nurse-physician collaboration on job satisfaction, team commitment, and turnover intention in nurses. Res Nurs Health. 2016;39:375–85.
- Vestergaard E, Nørgaard B. Interprofessional collaboration: an exploration of possible prerequisites for successful implementation. J Interprof Care. 2018; 32:185–95.

- Reeves S, Fletcher S, Barr H, Birch I, Boet S, Davies N, et al. A BEME systematic review of the effects of interprofessional education: BEME guide no. 39. Med Teach. 2016;38:656–68.
- Brashers V, Erickson JM, Blackhall L, Owen JA, Thomas SM, Conaway MR. Measuring the impact of clinically relevant interprofessional education on undergraduate medical and nursing student competencies: a longitudinal mixed methods approach. J Interprof Care. 2016;30:448–57.
- Burford B, Greig P, Kelleher M, Merriman C, Platt A, Richards E, et al. Effects of a single interprofessional simulation session on medical and nursing students' attitudes toward interprofessional learning and professional identity: a questionnaire study. BMC Med Educ. 2020;20:65. https://doi.org/ 10.1186/s12909-020-1971-6.
- Zhang C, Thompson S, Miller C. A review of simulation-based interprofessional education. Clin Simul Nurs. 2011;7:e117–26.
- Meyer BA, Seefeldt TM, Nqorsuraches S, Hendrickx LD, Lubeck PM, Farver DK, et al. Interprofessional education in pharmacology using high-fidelity simulation. Curr Pharm Teach Learn. 2017;9:1055–62.
- Cook DA, Hatala R, Brydges R, Zendejas B, Szostek JH, Wang AT, et al. Technology-enhanced simulation for health professions education: a systematic review and meta-analysis. JAMA. 2011;306:978–88.
- Brim NM, Venkatan SK, Gordon JA, Alexander EK. Long-term educational impact of a simulator curriculum on medical student education in an internal medicine clerkship. Simul Healthc. 2010;5:75–81.
- McGregor CA, Paton C, Thomson C, Chandratilake M, Scott H. Preparing medical students for clinical decision making: a pilot study exploring how students make decisions and the perceived impact of a clinical decision making teaching intervention. Med Teach. 2012;34:e508–17.
- Arthur C, Levett-Jones T, Kable A. Quality indicators for the design and implementation of simulation experiences: a Delphi study. Nurse Educ Today. 2013;33:1357–61.
- 13. Datta R, Upadhyay K, Jaideep C. Simulation and its role in medical education. Med J Armed Forces India. 2012;68:167–72.
- Labrague LJ, McEnroe-Petitte DM, Fronda DC, Obeidat AA. Interprofessional simulation in undergraduate nursing program: an integrative review. Nurse Educ Today. 2018;67:46–55.
- Sigalet E, Donnon T, Grant V. Undergraduate studnets' perceptions of and attitudes toward a simulation-based interprofessional curriculum: the KidSIM ATTITUDES questionnaire. Simul Healthc. 2012;7:353–8.
- Hojat M, Fields SK, Veloski JJ, Griffiths M, Cohen MJ, Plumb JD. Psychometric properties of an attitude scale measuring physician-nurse collaboration. Eval Health Prof. 1999;22:208–20.
- Lockeman KS, Dow AW, DiazGranados D, McNeily DP, Nickol D, Koehn ML, et al. Refinement of the IPEC competency self-assessment survey: results from a multi-institutional study. J Interprof Care. 2016;30:726–31.
- Hood K, Cant R, Baulch J, Gilbee A, Leech M, Anderson A, et al. Prior experience of interprofessional learning enhances undergraduate nursing and healthcare students' professional identity and attitudes to teamwork. Nurse Educ Pract. 2014;14:117–22.
- Palmer R, Stilp T. Learning by doing: the MD-PA interprofessional education rural rotation. Rural Remote Health. 2017;17:4167 Available from: https:// www.rrh.org.au/journal/article/4167.
- Keshtkaran Z, Sharif F, Rambod M. Students' readiness for and perception of inter-professional learning: a cross-sectional study. Nurse Educ Today. 2014; 34:991–8.
- Scherer YK, Myers J, O'Connor TD, Haskins M. Interprofessional simulation to foster collaboration between nursing and medical students. Clin Simul Nurs. 2013;9:e497–505.
- Ateah CA, Snow W, Wener P, MacDonald L, Metge C, Davis P, et al. Stereotyping as a barrier to collaboration: does interprofessional education make a difference? Nurse Educ Today. 2011;31:208–13.
- Liaw SY, Siau C, Zhou WT, Lau TC. Interprofessional simulation-based education program: a promising approach for changing stereotypes and improving attitudes toward nurse-physician collaboration. Appl Nurs Res. 2014;27:258–60.
- Casanova J, Day K, Dorpat D, Hendricks B, Theis L, Wiesman D. Nursephysician work relations and role expectations. J Nurs Adm. 2007;37:68–70.
- Khalili H, Orchard C, Laschinger HK, Farah R. An interprofessional socialization framework for developing an interprofessional identity among health professions students. J Interprof Care. 2013;27:448–53.
- 26. Gilligan C, Outram S, Levett-Jones T. Recommendations from recent graduates in medicine, nursing and pharmacy on improving

Yu et al. BMC Medical Education (2020) 20:476 Page 9 of 9

- interprofessional education in university programs; a qualitative study. BMC Med Educ. 2014;14:634–40.
- Watters C, Reedy G, Ross A, Morgan NJ, Handslip R, Jaye P. Does interprofessional simulation increase self-efficacy: a comparative study. BMJ Open. 2015;13:e005472. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2014-005472.
- Garbee DD, Paige JT, Bonanno LS, Rusnak W, Barrier KM, Kozmenko LS, et al. Effectiveness of teamwork and communication education using an interprofessioanl high-fidelity human patient simulation critical care code. J Nurs Educ Pract. 2013;3. https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v3n3p1.
- 29. Maqnani D, Di Lorenzo R, Bari A, Pozzi S, Del Giovane C, Ferri P. The undergraduate nursing student evaluation of clinical learning environment: an Italian survey. Prof Inferm. 2014;67:55–61.

# **Publisher's Note**

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

#### Ready to submit your research? Choose BMC and benefit from:

- fast, convenient online submission
- thorough peer review by experienced researchers in your field
- rapid publication on acceptance
- support for research data, including large and complex data types
- gold Open Access which fosters wider collaboration and increased citations
- maximum visibility for your research: over 100M website views per year

### At BMC, research is always in progress.

Learn more biomedcentral.com/submissions

