Geriatric Scholars Program: Improving geriatric care through interprofessional simulation

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Introduction
- The number of older adults in the United States will almost double between 2005 and 2030
- The nation is not prepared to meet their social and health care needs.¹
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Hospital started the Geriatric Scholars Program (GSP) in 2009
- Interprofessional Simulation was added in 2013

Materials and Methods
- Scholars complete an interprofessional collaboration (IC) pre and post-simulation survey and a test for knowledge acquisition.
- Scholars are placed in interprofessional groups of 3-4 and rotate through four geriatric case-based scenarios: polypharmacy/medication history, delirium, care transitions, and functional assessment.
- GSP Class of 2014 (n=20)

Results
- Perceived increase in competency post-simulation (p<0.05)
- Greater agreement that knowledge of geriatric assessment skills is important and healthcare providers should have a greater role in IC in the future (p<0.05).
- Perceived increase in specific knowledge (p<0.05) but not overall test scores post-simulation

Conclusion
- The use of case based simulation in the UAB Hospital GSP is an effective method to increase knowledge, confidence, and comfort in dealing with the unique challenges presented by geriatric patients. The interprofessional nature of these simulations empowered individuals to work more collaboratively and appreciate their role, and the role of the other team members, in improving the patient experience and outcomes.