

## **Transcultural Competence & Perceptions of Interdisciplinary Healthcare in Students: An Outcomes Study of a China Immersion Program**

### **Abstract**

**Background/Purpose:** Cultural immersion experiences in international healthcare can impact student learning, but studies are needed to assess how those experiences transform perceptions longitudinally. The Creighton University China Honors Interprofessional Program (CHIP) was initiated in 2008 to give students an interactive experience with rehabilitation therapists and health professionals in Shijiazhuang, China. Students from Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Nursing participate in a ten-day cultural immersion trip to China as part of an honors elective course. The purpose of this study is to measure the impact of transcultural competence education in graduates who participated in the China immersion experience utilizing the Inventory for Assessing the Process of Cultural Competence Among Healthcare Professionals (IAPCC\_R), a standardized tool.

**Method:** Two aspects of cultural competence will be assessed: 1) Perceptions about interprofessional education and cultural competency will be measured using survey and focus groups; and 2) Past participants in CHIP will be surveyed using the IAPCC-R on-line survey.

**Results:** Data from this study will be used to determine if interprofessional cultural immersion experiences are effective pedagogy in transforming the cultural competence of future healthcare providers. Preliminary data from this study was presented in September, 2011 at the Midwest Global Health Conference, Omaha, Nebraska.

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