

## WHAT IS INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION?

Every profession has its own unique culture, and the health professions are no different. Historically the education and training of health professionals has been largely siloed, with students learning within their own groups and with minimal exposure to the practices and perspectives of colleagues in related health professions. This sustained separation during the formative educational and training years can foster miscommunication, competition and distrust when students ultimately work together as professionals in the real world.

Interprofessional education engages faculty and students from different health professions in a variety of settings, including shared teaching, learning, and practice environments. There students and faculty deliberately learn together with the explicit purpose of improving collaboration and learning to work with colleagues at the highest scope of their professional capacity to collectively improve care for patients.

The foundation for interprofessional education is already being built at OHSU. The Collaborative Life Sciences Building will bring together students from the schools of dentistry, medicine and nursing, the college of pharmacy and undergraduates from Portland State University under one roof. A single academic calendar for all schools starting in 2013 will further clear obstacles for educational collaboration across professions.