

## **Interprofessional Education**

### **'Common Learning' Strands**

*for*

**Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry  
&  
City University's Institute of Health Sciences**

#### **Early Common Learning Experience**

This will be undertaken in the first year - with all the students on the medical, nursing and health sciences programmes. The sessions are focussed on common learning activities, to meet specific areas of common need and common standards - such as infection control and other universal precautions. And will also include aspects of teamworking. The approach we are taking is multiprofessional, in that we are expecting the different disciplines to work together with a specific task as a focus for their activities. The programme is run over two half days, one week apart, at the beginning of the academic year. The course is organised around a symposium after which the students break into small groups to work on a presentation task relating to the symposium theme. The groups are then required to give the presentation to other groups and the facilitators. And the closing element is final, whole group, plenary session.

#### **Middle Common Learning Experience**

This will be undertaken in the middle years of the programmes i.e. year two for students on three-year courses and year three for students on five-year courses. Again the students will be working on common tasks. These activities will focus on; communication practices between interprofessional groups, the patient experience and, interviewing and shadowing members of other care-giving professions. In this stage we hope to be moving students from the multiprofessional model, toward the interprofessional model, as described by CAIPE (ref '97) in which two or more professions learn from and about each other. Students will be asked to consider how different professions work together and will be working within multiprofessional, facilitated, seminar groups (to further develop their interprofessional working and learning experiences). This element of the common learning programme is completely work place based.

#### **Final Common Learning Experience**

This will be undertaken in the final year of the programmes (year 3 for three-year courses and year 5 for five-year courses). It will be based within the common activities of multiprofessional groups and will focus on; professionalism, teams, teamworking, collaboration, leadership, advocacy etc - all under the theme of 'self in the team'. It will also link to the NHS leadership framework. In this final stage we are working with the notion of the professional as 'the individual within the team' - which is a slight shift in emphasis away from patients as the centre of interprofessional working and learning. The view is that individual professionals need to reflect on their own practices, as a way clarifying them, with a view to understanding them more deeply so that they may consider possible strategies for further enhancement etc.