

WCC-ATBH

Aims, Management and administration

Aims and Objectives

The World Coordinating Committee for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (WCC-ATBH) consists of representatives of regional networks for interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health and social care across the world. Inter-professional Education occurs when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care (CAIPE, 1997). Interprofessional Collaborative Practice occurs when multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds provide comprehensive services by working with patients, their families, carers, and communities to deliver the highest quality of care across settings (WHO, 2010).

The aims are to:

1. promote, support and sustain networks of interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice (CP), and to establish and maintain communication between them
2. define and coordinate values, principles, and concepts of IPE and CP, and coordinate the promotion of these values, principles, and concepts
3. promote knowledge about interprofessional practice and education worldwide, by publicizing, listing, disseminating, and referring to significant publications (research-based and policy-based)
4. actively work with other world associations and organizations with regard to human health and education (e.g., WHO, UNESCO, worldwide professional bodies), to promote interprofessional practice and education
5. promote and support the organisation of the biennial ATBH (All Together Better Health) conference series and select conference hosts through a fair and transparent process.

Membership

Each network agrees that in membership of the WCC it will:

- act for and actively promote global health and wellbeing through interprofessional practice and education;
- engage health, social care and other professions equitably as partners;
- respect and value differences between professions;
- apply principles of equal opportunities within and between those professions;
- promote parity between the professions in the learning environment;
- act for, promote and support interactive student-led, user-focused, practice-based, interprofessional education and user-focussed collaborative practice;
- promote and disseminate research into interprofessional education and practice;
- share evidence, experience and expertise in interprofessional practice and education between the networks and beyond;
- actively promote and support each ATBH conference.

Each member network ensures that the network is effectively represented in the WCC. To join and maintain WCC membership, a network is expected to:

- have an explicit focus on interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health and social care and related professions
- explicitly espouse the same values as the WCC
- cover a region with usually a minimum of 20m inhabitants (although this may be waived in cases where an important and distinct geographically or culturally defined population is to be represented)
- be open to institutions and individuals active in or for health and social care, including education, clinical practice, government and policy-making
- provide information to the WCC concerning its aims, membership criteria and structure, (e.g., the processes for consulting members for nominating representatives).

Structure and management

The WCC is a de facto committee of members representing national and multinational associations and networks of interprofessional practice and education around the world. The WCC as an independent body has no income, expenditure, financial liabilities or other resources. Network representatives, Chair and Secretary work in and for the committee on a voluntary basis. All network representatives are equally and directly involved in all decision-making. When the number of networks represented in the WCC increases it may be necessary to change the management structure.

Network representatives

The role of all committee members is to work together to achieve the aims of the WCC, to consult with and represent the views and experiences of their networks, and to promote the WCC within their network and to the IPE and CP community and other organisations. Each network nominates one committee member and one or two other people to act in their absence if necessary. Each committee member representative stands for a term of not less than two and not more than six years, at the end of which they may be nominated again for a further term. Committee members are expected to provide information about key developments and resources of interprofessional practice and education to the website.

Chair and Vice chair

The committee is chaired by a committee member for a period of two years, with networks taking it in turn to provide the chair. A chair can resign at any time. The term of office may be shortened or extended where this is agreed by the WCC to best meet its objectives.

The role of the chair is to represent the WCC, liaise on behalf of the WCC with external organisations, chair WCC meetings and work with the Secretary and committee members to keep the WCC focussed on its core functions and ensure the effective running of the WCC, including communication, policy- and decision-making, in accordance with its aims, values and procedures. The WCC can choose to appoint a vice-chair, who can act with the Chair or eventually (when necessary) replace her or him in his absence and with her or his agreement.

Chair and Vice Chair should closely work with the Secretary in preparing the meetings.

Secretary

The role of Secretary is to work with the Chair and/or Vice chair in setting the agenda for meetings and to oversee the development of the website. The Secretary is responsible for the distribution of information, coordination and recording of minutes of WCC meetings and other related activities, including liaison with other organisations as appropriate. The Secretary does not represent a network or have a vote in WCC decision-making. The Secretary is appointed by agreement of the WCC usually for a three year term. The term of office may be shortened or extended where this is agreed by the WCC to best meet its objectives.

Meetings

Meetings of the WCC take place by online discussions conducted by email and file sharing during specified periods, online conferences and a biennial face-to-face meetings at the All Together Better Health Conference.

To facilitate decision-making, draft papers are circulated prior to meeting dates for discussion, followed by specific proposals for decision (summarising all comments and/or aggregated votes) circulated by the Secretary.

To maintain transparent and open communications all correspondence concerning meetings, agenda items and decisions is sent to all WCC members. All WCC members are expected to respond to communications from the Chair and Secretary within the set time limits. Members are free to communicate/reply to all members (or with all members in cc) about their opinion. Where it concerns a confidential or practical issue, communications can be directed to the Chair, Vice chair or Secretary.

Decision-making

Decision-making in the WCC is based on the benefit and the advancement of the world association and its values. By preference decisions are to be reached by establishing a consensus. Where this is not possible, or a consensus not clear, a vote may be taken. Each WCC member (including the chair) has one vote. In most cases votes will be made openly and decisions made by simple majority. The Committee may decide that a minimum proportion of positive votes is required for a proposal to be accepted and a minimum number of total votes expressed is necessary for a voting to be valid. When the decision concerns the appointment of the Chair, Vice chair or Secretary, or where a representative is involved in an application to host the ATBH conference, there may be a secret ballot. All members of the WCC have the right and opportunity to express an opinion and to vote. To ensure this, prior to a vote there will be a period of 15 working days (3 weeks) for discussion. The same time window is used when asking for voting or expressing an opinion. In order to structure decision-making, items on the agenda are prepared and described in such a way that it is clear on what aspect a decision is needed. A proposal is formulated, which the committee members can accept or amend. Documents can be included to underpin a discussion or conclusion. Essential arguments and proposals are described in the agenda.

While most decisions in the WCC are made on behalf of member networks and hence require information to be taken back and discussed first with relevant network members, for some practical aspects decisions can be made by WCC-members without wider consultation.