

Infusing interdisciplinary engagement in pre-professional undergraduate research: Outcomes from a Maternal and Child Health *Pipeline Training Program*



Victoria A. Moerchen, PT, PhD¹, Kathleen J. Sawin, PhD, CPNP-PC, FAAN² Riko Sano, BSN, RN, PHN²
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, ¹College of Health Sciences and ²College of Nursing



Introduction to the MCH Pipeline Training Initiative

The purpose of the Maternal and Child Health – Pipeline Training Program (MCH-PTP) is to:

Promote the development of a culturally diverse and representative health care workforce by recruiting, training, and retaining undergraduate (UG) students from under-represented minorities into maternal and child public health professions.

UWM MCH Pipeline Training Program

3 Levels of Interdisciplinary Training to support and enhance undergraduate student development and competitiveness for graduate school:

1. **Early training** (freshman-sophomore yrs) (on-line courses and community engagement)
2. **Research Training** (junior yr; first yr in major) (hybrid seminar + funded research mentoring)
3. **Intensive Training** (senior yr; final year of UG) (seminars in leadership, family, and policy)

Research competencies in MCH training

Research-relevant MCH Leadership Competencies

1. Give and receive constructive feedback.
2. Identify ethical issues in human subjects research.
3. Formulate a research question.
4. Translate research findings to meet the needs of different audiences.
5. Share thoughts and ideas effectively in discussion and presentations with diverse individuals or groups.
6. Write clearly and effectively to express information about issues and services that affect MCH population groups.
7. Refine active listening skills to understand and evaluate the information shared by others.
8. Demonstrate an ability to communicate clearly thru effective presentation and written scholarship about MCH populations or issues.
9. Identify team members appropriate to a given task.

UWM Model for Interdisciplinary Research Training

Program overview

Students from 7 disciplines (OT, PT, Speech-Language, Social Welfare, Psychology, Nursing, Nutrition).

Collaborative training: MCH students (100% diverse) + students from a UG research program (22% diverse).

Research mentor matching

Funding thru the UWM Office of Undergraduate Research.

Interdisciplinary seminar (fall and spring) to infuse interdisciplinary engagement.

Program Deliverables

Interdisciplinary engagement

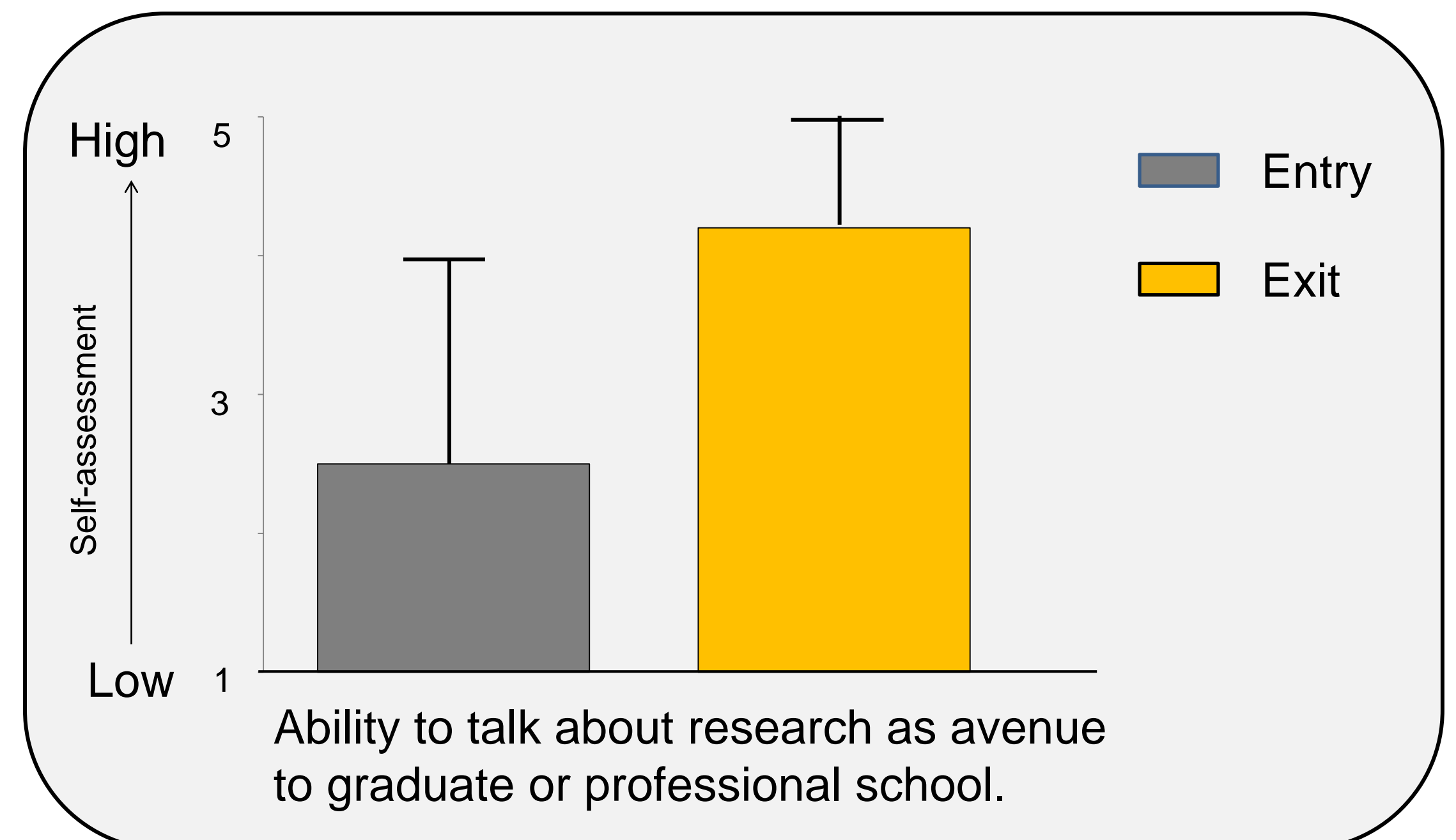
Activities
Reflections
Discussions
Peer-review

Abstract
Peer-review
Submission

Poster
Peer-review
Campus presentation

(MCH students: Submission for a professional conference)

MCH Pipeline Initiative Outcomes



75% of MCH students (2011-2013) have presented their undergraduate research at regional / national professional conferences; several have won awards.

Conclusions

Research training anchored by an interdisciplinary seminar:

- Engages students in interprofessional communication.
- Enhances the academic preparation and competitiveness of students from under-represented groups.
- Achieves the research competencies of MCH Leadership training

Acknowledgements

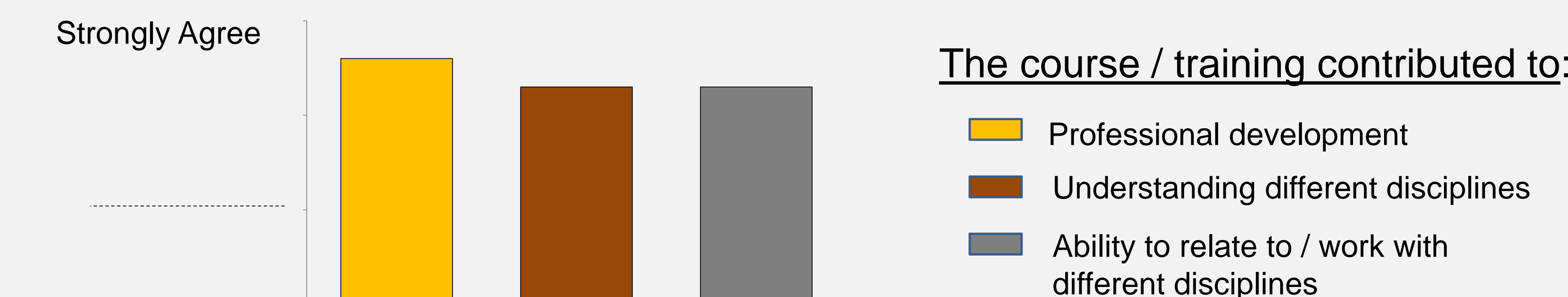
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Interdisciplinary Research Outcomes (2nd year of grant funding, N=15)

Interdisciplinary outcomes (exit assessment)



Research outcomes (entry and exit assessment)

