

CPS PRE-LICENSURE PAIN CURRICULA SURVEY: Vets top the list!

J. Watt-Watson RN PhD, M. McGillion RN PhD, J. Hunter BSc (PT) PhD

M. Choiniere PhD, J. Clark MD FRCPC, A. Dewar RN PhD, C. Johnston RN PhD, M. Lynch MD FRCPC, P. Morley-Forster MD FRCPC, D. Moulin MD FRCPC, N. Thie DDS MSc, CL von Baeyer PhD RPsych, K. Webber RN MN



METHOD

Inclusion Criteria:

- University-based sites that included pre-licensure programs (minimum: Medicine & Nursing, N=10).
- Also included Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and/or Occupational Therapy if present.
- Veterinary Colleges were included for comparison

PURPOSE

- An exploratory, descriptive study
- To survey the designated time for *mandatory* formal pain content being taught in curricula of major Canadian universities for students in Health Science and Veterinary Programs prior to being licensed.

DATA COLLECTION

- Ethical approval U of T
- RA collected data at each site
- Pain Education Survey (PES)
 - adapted from previous research (Graffam, 1990; Watt-Watson & Watson, 1989)
 - included 8 items used to evaluate the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain Curriculum

Responses by Faculty/Department

Faculty Discipline	Site Responses	Response Rate
Dentistry	5/8	63%
Medicine	9/10	90%
Nursing	9/10	90%
Occupational Therapy	3/6	50%
Pharmacy	5/7	71%
Physical Therapy	7/8	88%
Veterinary Medicine	4/4	100%

Designated Pain Content Hours

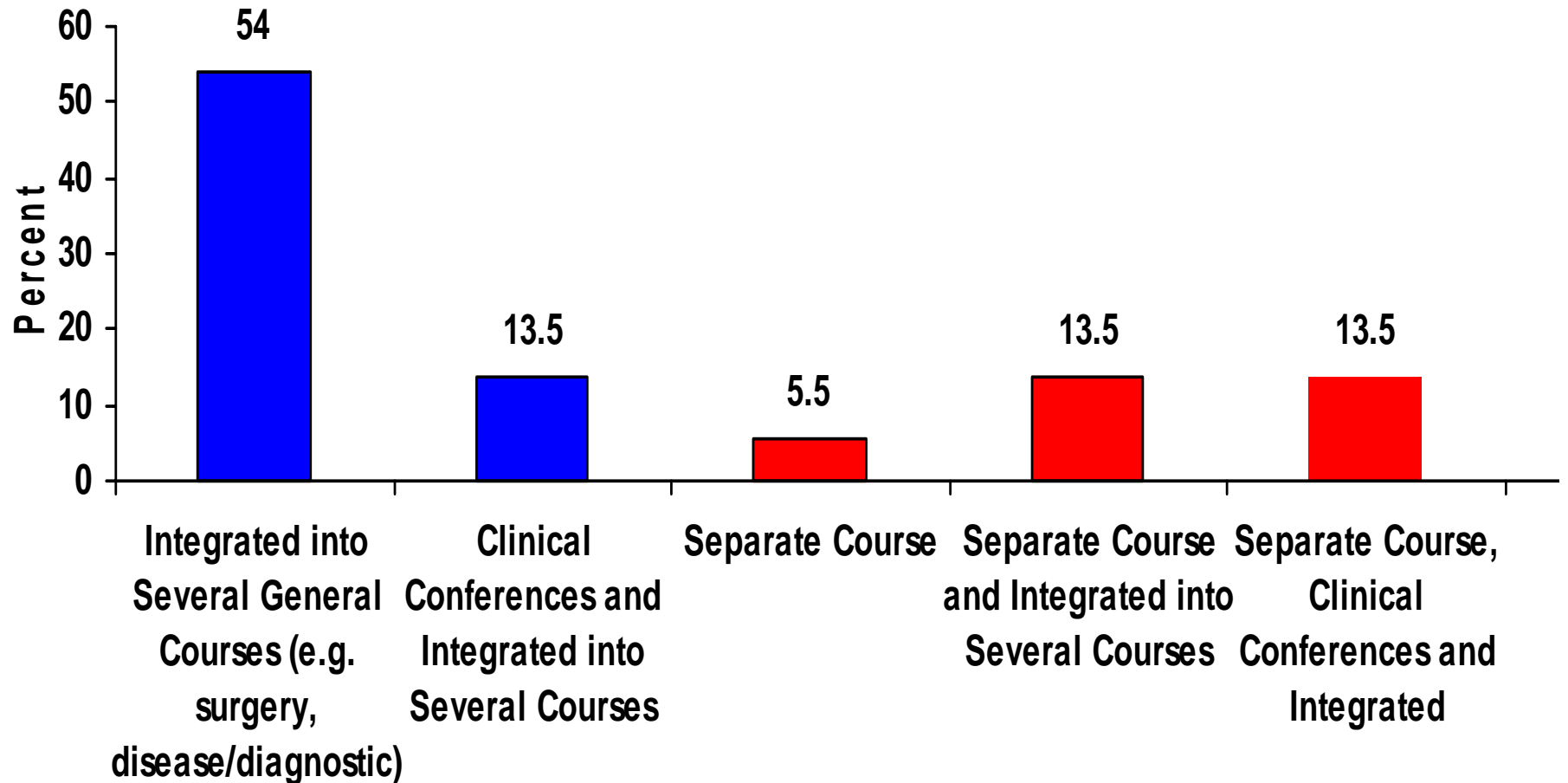
- **Health Science Faculties**

- 67.5% had no designated hours; integrated in several courses and/or clinical conferences
- 32.5% included identifiable content along with integration in others including clinical
- 34% some IPE but 55% no specific hours

- **Veterinary Medicine**

- 100% had designated hours both course & clinical

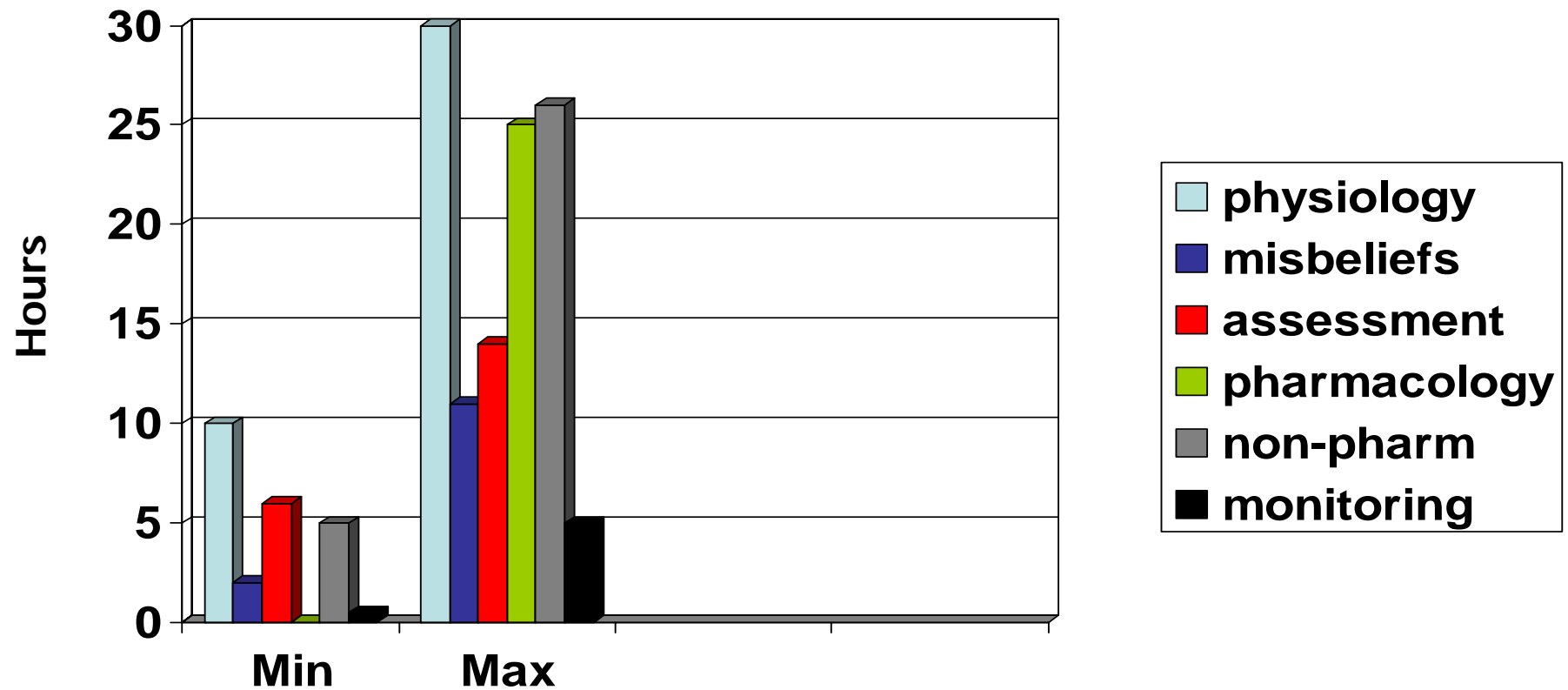
Presentation Methods of Pain Content



Designated Hours by Discipline

Discipline	Total Hrs Mean \pm SD	Range Min-Max	Student Mean No.
Dentistry	15 \pm 10	0-24	47
Medicine	16 \pm 11	0-38	133
Nursing	31 \pm 42	0-109	133
Occupational Therapy	28 \pm 25	0-48	47
Pharmacy	13 \pm 13	22-33	123
Physical Therapy	41 \pm 16	18-69	55
Veterinary Medicine	87 \pm 98	27-200	66

Focus of Designated Hours



Additional Comments

- **Health Science**

- students' exposure to pain content dependent on clinical placement
- Pain mentioned in many courses as diagnostic indicator of etiology and need for investigation
- Most had faculty members with pain expertise

- **Veterinary Medicine**

- specific hours allotted for pain in clinical placements
- taught by knowledgeable faculty

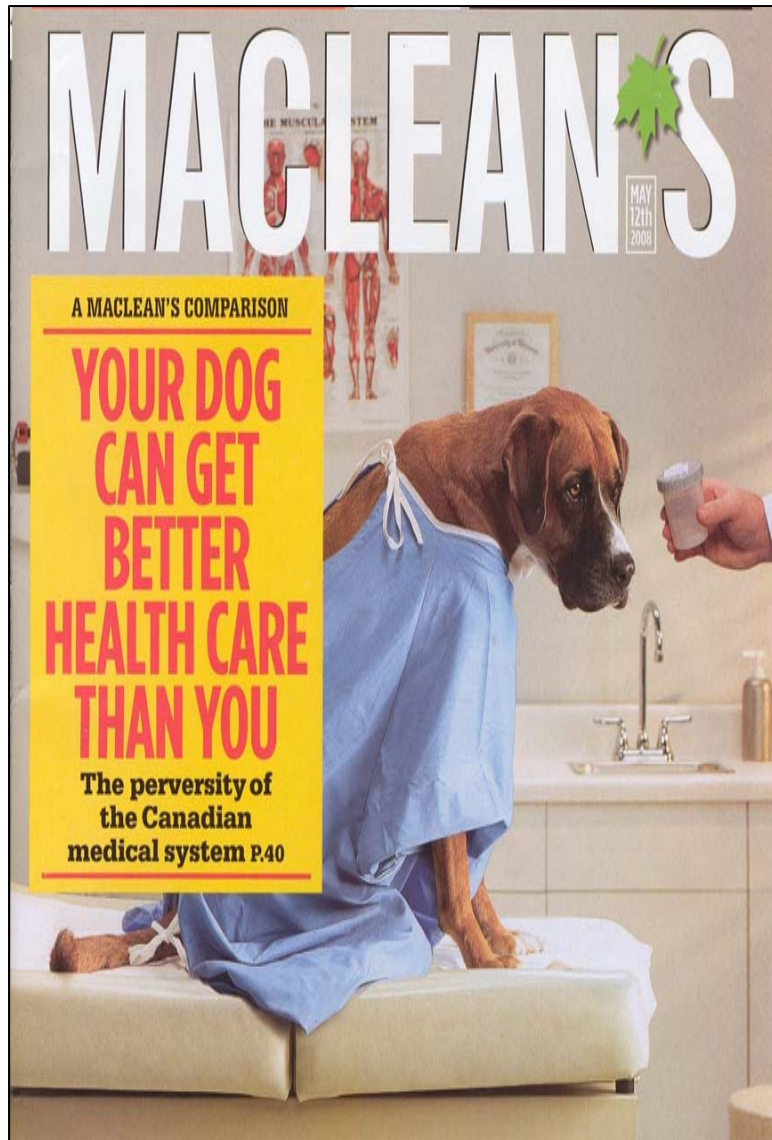
SUGGESTIONS

- Need resources:
 - National data banks of cases
 - Modules
 - Presentation materials
 - Roster of people with education experience

LIMITATIONS

- Not all disciplines were included
- Several sites indicated they were undergoing curriculum review
- Person completing the questionnaire may not have been the most knowledgeable

SUMMARY



- Only 1/3 could identify designated pain content hours in health sciences
- **Focus of pain content least for pain assessment, misbeliefs and monitoring**
- Veterinary Medicine had 3X more designated pain content hours on average.