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Evolving librarian participation in a specialized primary care medical education program

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Background

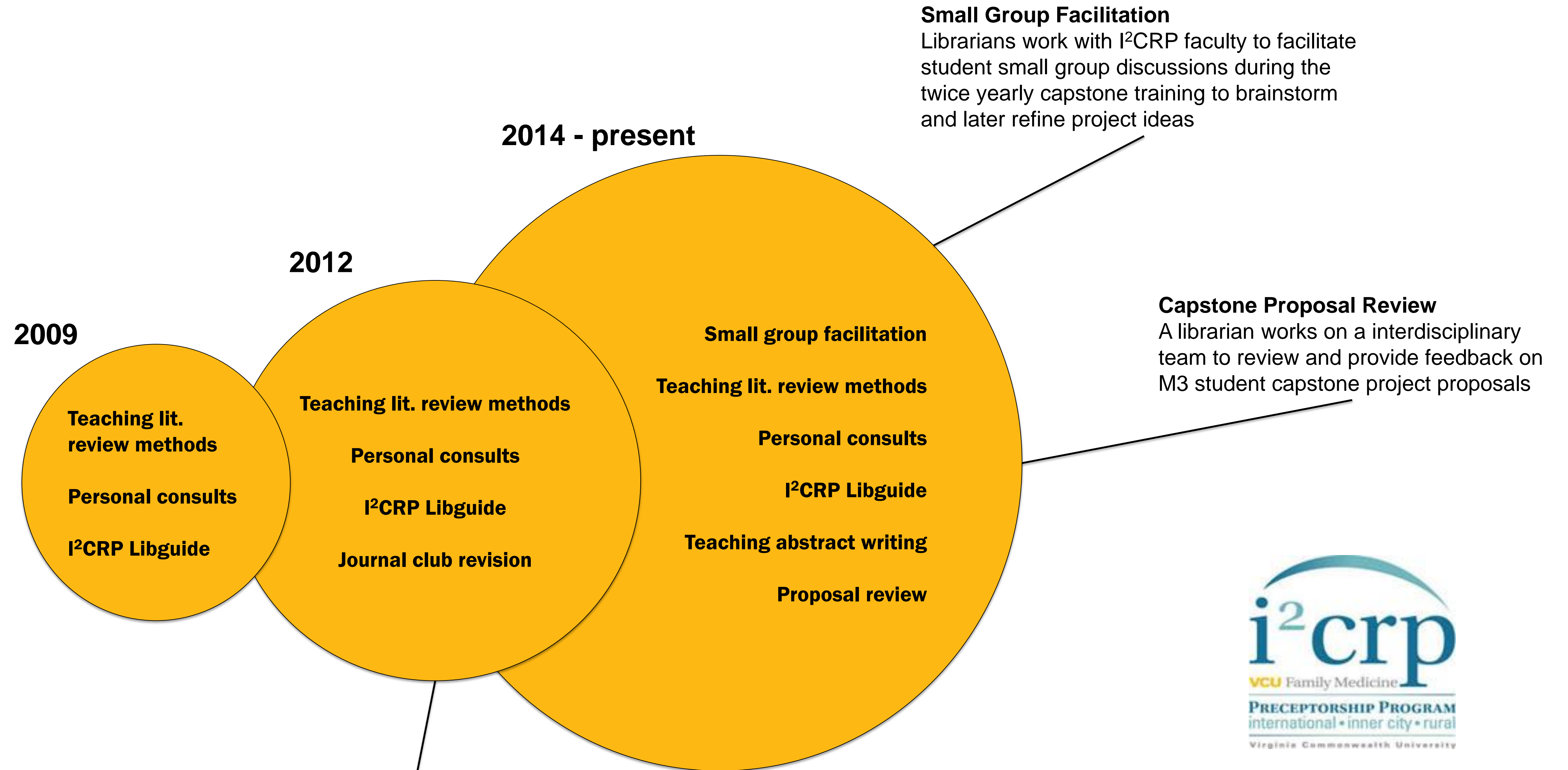
Librarians at the Tompkins-McCaw Library (TML) have worked with a primary care honors track program within the MD program at the VCU School of Medicine for several years. TML primarily serves schools and programs on the health sciences campus. For more than two decades, librarians at TML have served users through a liaison model wherein each librarian is assigned to one of the five health sciences schools: Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy. Currently, librarians at TML serve their users by: serving on curriculum and search committees, serving on re-accreditation teams, teaching and co-teaching with the curriculum, offering one-on-one and small group consultations, holding office hours within assigned schools, and co-authoring publications with school faculty.

International / Inner City Rural Preceptorship Program

I²CRP immerses students in academic and clinical primary care experiences focused on global health and underserved populations. The program includes students on two campuses: Richmond, VA and Fairfax, VA. Students commit to additional work outside the MD curriculum, such as extra primary care rotations, didactics, journal club, and a capstone project.

I²CRP graduated its first cohort in the year 2000, and it currently has approximately 20 students in each of the M2-M4 years of which approximately 80% will continue into primary care residency positions.

The capstone project, completed during the M4 year, requires students to craft a proposal, implement the project, and interpret and disseminate the results. As many of the projects are conducted in global, rural, and underserved settings where the students do their rotations, they have a chance to gain community-based research experience first hand.



Journal Club Revision

A librarian assisted I²CRP faculty in revamping journal club for M1/2 students to include critical appraisal of research. A librarian also co-led the initial sessions to pilot the format.

Conclusions

Our continued involvement and increasingly complex roles in the I²CRP program fostered close relationships with the medical faculty as well as significant contact with the students. Librarians use this relationship to pursue unique opportunities within the program and amplify their work within the school at large.

