End of Life Care: MEDICAL, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL APPROACHES TO TERMINALLY ill PATIENTS

This course will explore issues related to major tasks of living and dying, concepts of palliative and hospice care, mechanisms for coping with death, cultural differences in encounters with death, and helping patients and families live with dying and death. Students will learn to be prepared for helping terminally ill patients and their family as well as develop self growth in search of the meaning of life.

Objectives: Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Describe the definitions of and differences between palliative care, hospice care, and end-of-life care;
- Explain legal and ethical issues involved in end-of-life care;
- Discuss various coping mechanisms adopted by dying patients and their families in the process of dying;
- Interpret cultural differences in the philosophy and rituals of death;
- Communicate skillfully with terminally ill patients and their families.

Course Chairs: Ming Lee, Ph.D., a trained educational psychologist with over twenty years of experience in program evaluation research and educational assessment tools development. She has personal interest in death and dying issues and their relationships to palliative and end-of-life care. She has been a volunteer for the Department of Spiritual Care at the Ronald Reagan Medical Center since 2012, the course chair for Living and Dying selective since 2004, and co-chair for the course with Dr. Robinson since 2014.

Alan G. Robinson, M.D., is an internist/endocrinologist with 24 years as a researcher, clinical specialist and Division Chief at University of Pittsburgh who served from 1995 to 2011 as Executive Associate Dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Robinson is the Responsible Executive Official for the UCLA Donated Body Program. With his interest and reading in end of life decisions he first joined Dr. Ming in this course as a “student” and now is a regular faculty member.

Additional faculty: Elizabeth Whiteman, M.D., Timothy Weiss, M.D.

Teaching Methods: Discussions, Problem-Based Learning, Clinical Experience (may be arranged), Video Demonstrations

Enrollment: Maximum of 12 students, minimum of 2 students

Sponsoring College: Academic Medicine College

Schedule: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Session A starting 9/12/2016

Location: LRC