MEDICAL SPANISH – INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

With the sizeable and growing Spanish-speaking population in California and nationally, comfort with Spanish is becoming a necessity for medical practitioners. This course will combine an online, independent study curriculum complemented by in-classroom instruction by an attending physician and hospital-based patient encounters. In-class activities will be in large (approx. 20 students) and small groups (approx. 4-5 students) that focus on oral communication. The course will be combined with the Medical Spanish course for UCLA residents, giving students the chance to interact with those more advanced in their training. Students must have previous Spanish experience, equivalent to 2 years of high school-level or one year of college-level Spanish.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, students will develop the language skills to take a basic medical and social history from Spanish-speaking patients in a culturally sensitive manner. They will know how to recognize their limitations and when an official Spanish translator is appropriate. The students will understand some basic Hispanic cultural values and beliefs that could affect history-taking or clinical decision-making.

Course Chairs:
Colin Robinson, M.D., M.P.H., Clinical Instructor, UCLA Internal Medicine-Pediatrics, and
Kristen Kipps, M.D. Hospitalist, UCLA Internal Medicine

Course Instructor: Michelle Aguilar, M.D. an attending physician at the St. John’s Well Child and Family Center in Los Angeles. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California, where she double majored in Spanish and Biological Sciences. She received her M.D. from UCLA, where she also completed her residency in Pediatrics in 2013 and served as Chief Resident in Pediatrics from 2013-2014. She is a native Spanish speaker and is dedicated to providing excellent clinical care to medically underserved patient populations where her fluency in Spanish is often needed.

Student Requirements: Enthusiasm for learning Spanish. Active participation in both independent study (which will be monitored) and in Spanish language-based classroom activities (e.g. patient cases/interviews, role-playing, etc.). It will be expected that students will have completed the assigned independent study activities prior to classroom meetings (approximately 4-6 hours between each monthly class meeting). Students must have previous Spanish experience, equivalent to 2 years of high school-level or one year of college-level Spanish. There will be a pre and post assessment of Medical Spanish ability at the beginning and end of the course.

Teaching Methods: Online independent study using Canopy (approximately 4-6 hours per month), classroom activities focused on oral communication in a medical encounter, medical interviewing with hospitalized patients.

Enrollment: Maximum of 20 students.

Sponsoring College: Urban Underserved College

Schedule: Meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings, generally 2 meetings per month, but there will be exceptions as schedule dictates (final schedule to be distributed at first meeting). The students will be divided into two smaller groups that will be assigned to one of the two meetings; attendance is only required at one meeting per month. Group assignments will be made based on performance on a written pre-test. Performance on pre-and post-tests will not affect evaluations, but will be used to place students into appropriate groups and to evaluate quality of the course. Students will be required to attend 9 sessions between September and April. ** Please note that this course runs past the end of Year 2 DGSOM coursework, but if you sign up as an MS2, you are expected to fulfill the requirements of the course through April 2017.

Location: Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center