Practical Medical Conversations in Spanish Professional Enrichment Course
Spring 2022

Course Dates:	Jan 20, Feb 3, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10 (6:30 to 8:30PM)
Maximum Students:	14
Class Year:	MS1
Prerequisite:	Basic Spanish language verbal skills at the Advanced beginner or early intermediate level. Participate in a pre-course conversation with the course directors to assess skill level. (This conversation will be held after initial registration is conducted.)
Course Directors:	Alison Daniel
Contact Information:	Alison Daniel—profeali2020@gmail.com
Registration:	Amp Up - Denise Downs ddowns@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:
The principle underlying this elective is that students will most effectively improve their conversational skills by practicing speaking Spanish. This 6 session mini-elective is designed to help build on an existing introductory-level background in Spanish language skills. The sessions in this course will use those basic skills and apply them while improving your conversation skills. The focus of the elective will be on conducting a problem-focused medical interview with a Spanish-speaking patient. Students will learn how to interview patients (in Spanish) about common medical conditions by practicing these conversations with native speakers. Beyond learning the vocabulary and sentence structure of these conversations, students will also learn and practice strategies to communicate with patients when the two parties cannot quite understand each other – a common problem for novices in any language.

Format:
The first two classroom sessions will provide a refresher on basic material, and bring participants to a common starting point. The next four sessions are designed so that each student will spend a substantial portion of each session actively speaking with and listening to patient conversations in Spanish. The preparation for each session will include practicing the key questions about the topic or chief complaint of the session and reviewing the vocabulary that a patient would most likely use to answer those questions. Concise preparatory materials will be provided ahead of time to keep preparation time to a minimum, but students should be aware that this preparation is absolutely essential for success in the conversation sessions. Students will work in pairs to interview a patient. These patients, many of whom are native-Spanish-speakers, will provide high-fidelity practice and practical feedback that will accelerate learning. This approach will help students become more comfortable with attempting to speak in Spanish with patients.

Course Director:
Course director Alison Daniel, is an experienced language educator. The curriculum for this elective was developed by the course director to build upon the existing PittMed clinical skills and basic Spanish curricula.

Course Objectives:

- To practice basic conversation skills in Spanish, with a focus on common

medical interviewing topics.
- To improve fluency in medical and general vocabulary in Spanish.

<u>Requirements</u>:
- Participate in all 6 sessions.
- Complete out of class preparation, approximately 1 hour before each session. (Students who antici-pate that they will not do this preparation should not enroll in this mini-elective.)
- Participate in a brief conversation in Spanish with the instructors before the elective begins. This con-versation will permit the instructors to understand students' existing language abilities, both to assess individual readiness for this course, and to help tailor the course details to meet students' needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

Practical Medical Conversations in Spanish

Course Dates
Jan 20, Feb 3, 17, 24, Mar 3, 10 (6:30 to 8:30PM)

Course Requirements and Logistics:
- Participate in all 6 sessions.
- Complete out of class preparation, approximately 1 hour before each session. (Students who antici-pate that they will not do this preparation should not enroll in this mini-elective.)

The brevity and rapid pace of the course are tailored to the schedule and learning style of second year students. This elective is not recommended for students who cannot commit to attending all 6 sessions or investing the out of class preparation effort. Like other mini-electives, this is a non-transcript elective, with no formal grade or transcript entry. Students who complete the elective will receive a certificate of completion. Course materials will be provided to participants at the first session.

Location:
Scaife Hall (TBA)

Course Outline:
Sessions 1 and 2
Fundamentals Review, including: Naming and Describing; Sentence Basics; Expressing Actions; Asking Questions; Giving Instructions; Numbers and Time; and Past vs. Present.

Sessions 3 through 6
The sessions are designed so that each student will spend a substantial portion of each session actively speaking with and listening to patient conversations in Spanish. Each session will begin with a brief demonstration of how a model problem-focused interview would be conducted. Pairs of students will then practice that same interview with a Spanish-speaking patient. The student side of the interview will be based on a set of "scripted", problem-focused questions provided by the instructor. Students will need to practice these questions before the classroom session. The patient's replies will be based on a limited vo-cabulary that students will also review in advance. Beyond simply memorizing the questions and an-swers, students will need to work with the patient to overcome any difficulties in understanding each oth-er (in either direction). The patients and instructor will provide students with immediate feedback and opportunities for repeated practice.

Interview topics include scripted cases that will practice the following: Chief Complaint, History of Present Illness, Past Medical History, Social History, interviewing for Depression and Alcoholism, and wrapping up with a Progress Note and Complete History.