

KINDNESS CURRICULUM

OVERALL PURPOSE: The Human Kindness Curriculum, a component of the Clinical Foundations sequence, is a program unique to UC Irvine. The curriculum intends to create a space in which students can actively CONSIDER the role of kindness in clinical interaction; and to show STUDENTS different facets of kindness through examining the construct through a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The Kindness curriculum sessions are both informative and interactive with the express purpose of encouraging insights into the importance of introducing human kindness into the healing process. It is the goal of the faculty to provide students with both an understanding as well as the tools essential to empathy and kindness that are vital to becoming a truly outstanding physician.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES KINDNESS CURRICULUM

YEAR 1

Students will be able to:

1. Describe the history of kindness in medicine
2. Compare and contrast the construct of kindness as situated within various ethical traditions
3. Specify key components of the neurobiology of empathy and kindness
4. Demonstrate specific performative and narrative techniques that communicate kindness to others

YEAR 2

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and demonstrate specific communicative skills relevant to breaking bad news
2. Identify and demonstrate specific interactional approaches relevant to working with patient in difficult encounters
3. Demonstrate knowledge of nonverbal (facial expressions) and verbal (specific language construction) ways of conveying empathy, including ability to reference specific research
4. Analyze how breaking bad news and challenging clinical situations are addressed and resolved in actual clinical encounters with patients.
5. Indicate how end of life issues affect patients, families, and physicians