

## **INTEGRATING COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING COMMUNICATION SKILLS: ONE SIDE OF THE COIN**

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Obviously, in medical school much attention goes to medical knowledge. This culminates in emphasis on: *what* to ask to the patient. In contrast, communication skills training is mostly focused on: *how* to ask your questions. But does this mean that communication skills can be taught irrespective of the medical content? In other words, is communication a skills-domain in itself, or is it just a tool to convey information, comfort and understanding? If we choose for full integration of knowledge and communication skills we find that students' (and often teachers') preference is on the medical content, outweighing the quality of communication.

In this workshop we will address ways in which we can serve the dual purpose of integrating medical knowledge and communication skills while guaranteeing that students see the value of communication per se.

The workshop will use interactive formats with small group assignments and discussions and a presentation of current issues in communication skills training. The workshop will end with an opportunity for participants to translate the findings to the contexts of their home institutions.