

ASPIRE RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN INSPIRATIONAL APPROACHES TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION IN A MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY SCHOOL

LETTER OF INTENT

- 1. Date of Application:** 18/11/2024
- 2. Title of Program:** Human Medicine
- 3. Name of school/institution:** Faculty of Health Sciences, Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista SAC.
- 4. Corresponding person name and title:** Dr. Leny Bravo Luna, Dean of the Faculty
- 5. Topic/area where this inspirational approach in education is being claimed:** Simulation/ Simulated Consultation for Breaking Bad News
- 6. Short description (maximum 500 words):**

Incorporating challenging scenarios within the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) enables medical students to confront undesirable situations, preparing them to strategically manage frustration while demonstrating resilience, empathy, and a humane approach in interactions with patients' families or caregivers. In an era increasingly dominated by technological advances, humanization remains the cornerstone of medical practice, ensuring quality care for patients' health and lives.

As part of the curriculum in the Human Medicine program, the course "Care for Oncology Patients" focuses on training students in breaking bad news effectively. This course equips students with essential skills for preventive diagnostics in the fight against cancer, particularly at the primary care level. Learning outcomes and performance objectives emphasize the incorporation of personalized strategies, fostering a unique, differentiating approach that students begin to develop during their clinical training. A key component of this training involves the SPIKES protocol, a structured and widely recognized framework for breaking bad news. SPIKES guides healthcare professionals through six steps: Setting up the interview (creating a private, supportive environment), assessing the patient's Perception (understanding their knowledge of their condition), obtaining an Invitation (clarifying how much information they want to receive), providing Knowledge (delivering information clearly and compassionately), addressing Emotions with Empathy (acknowledging and validating emotional responses), and concluding with a Summary and Strategy (outlining next steps and support). This framework serves as a foundational guide during simulation exercises, ensuring a consistent and compassionate approach to these difficult conversations.

The Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista SAC has advanced this methodology by designing a unique station within the OSCE framework. This station, dedicated to the simulated consultation for breaking bad news, allows students to incorporate their personal "differentiating touch" as an added value in the physician-patient interaction process. Beyond adherence to the SPIKES protocol, evaluators—standardized patients—assess students' performance based on additional recommended criteria, including assertive listening, patience, honesty, prioritization of the patient's emotions and reactions, and other personalized approaches introduced by the student. This evaluation forms part of a 360° assessment model, providing comprehensive feedback on student performance.

A novel feature of this methodology is the sequencing of the bad-news consultation station immediately after a high-stress, adrenaline-intensive scenario. This approach mirrors real-life medical conditions more accurately, allowing students to practice transitioning from high-pressure environments to emotionally sensitive consultations. Feedback provided after the simulation is tailored to the unique characteristics and idiosyncrasies of each student, enhancing their learning experience. The simulation includes four scenarios, with the fourth scenario being the most stressful, followed by the fifth scenario—the consultation for breaking bad news. Students are assessed using a rubric based on the SPIKES methodology, adapted to incorporate their personal differentiating strategies.

Given that a significant proportion of medical-legal disputes stem from communication failures or lack of assertiveness, this innovative initiative by Universidad Privada San Juan Bautista SAC presents a replicable model for medical education. By emphasizing the human dimension of medical practice within a technologically evolving world, this methodology not only addresses a critical area of training but also inspires similar models globally, fostering a deeper commitment to compassionate care in future physicians.