



Advanced  
Communication  
Training



## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**Mission:** The UAB Advanced Communication Training (ACT) Program will establish a cohort of interprofessional communication skills trainers (ACT Scholars) who will teach communication courses for clinical providers across our health system. This program will be limited initially to 12 facilitators from across the health system, intentionally representing a range of disciplines and specialties. We believe that this program will help cultivate patient-centered, empathic communication, which will help us care even better for patients, families, and each other.

### **Roles & Responsibilities:**

- *Facilitator Training*—ACT Scholars are expected to participate in two facilitator training sessions in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, aimed at improving their own communication and at acquiring the skills required to teach others. Participants must be protected from *all* clinical, administrative, research, and/or teaching responsibilities during these training sessions. The course will be a mix of theory and practice with peer observation and feedback, so that participants develop familiarity and comfort with the use of role play methods within educational programs. Prior to the training sessions, participants are expected to review background materials and complete introductory modules on fundamental communication skills.
- *Teaching*—participants are expected to co-teach two-day communication skills courses for other clinicians a minimum of twice a year after completing the facilitator training.
- *Curriculum Development*—participants are expected to contribute their expertise to ongoing case development as the communication curriculum is expanded to new disciplines and specialties.

**Qualifications:** Clinicians (limited to physicians & advanced practice providers at this time) from across the health system are invited to apply. Providers with significant patient/family contact are preferred. Prior experience and demonstrated excellence in teaching and communication skills is desirable. Junior clinicians with interest in teaching and communication skills should also apply as we strive to assemble a group that is diverse in terms of rank, experience, and expertise.

**Terms of Support:** There will be no cost to you to participate in the course, however this represents a significant investment by the health system in you (>\$5000 per person). Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided on course days. Participation requires a 2-year commitment, beginning October 1, 2017. Terms will be renewable based on satisfactory performance.

**Submission of Applications:** Please submit the completed application form as well as a copy of your updated curriculum vitae to Claire Sharp (cosharp@uabmc.edu) by June 15, 2017. Qualified applicants will be notified and asked to complete an in-person interview. A letter of support from the applicant's immediate supervisor or Division Director is required for the application to be considered complete. This letter should speak to the communication skills, professional interactions, and teaching experience of the applicant as well as the supervisor's commitment to protect the applicant during the required training and teaching sessions as mentioned above. Additional letters of support from colleagues familiar with the applicant's communication skills and teaching are welcomed but remain optional. For additional information about the program, please contact Michael Barnett (mbarnett@peds.uab.edu).