

## Communication skills workshop for residency training program

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We developed a 3-hour annual workshop for 12 subspecialty residents in Infectious Diseases, Medical Microbiology and Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This was to develop skills in the Communicator domain, particularly in presenting at rounds and academic half-days.

This was planned in 3 phases:

- Phase 1 involved an inquiry into residents' needs for skills development as well as faculty expectations of communication and presentations.
- Phase 2 involved observing presentations by residents, faculty and visiting professors.
- Phase 3 involved researching educational theories on the fundamentals of learning and teaching, which are relevant to needs and expectations for communicating clearly at rounds and academic half-days.

The workshop provides multidisciplinary awareness and learning on the subjects of residents communicating, presenting, teaching and learning. It involves small-group work, collaborative brainstorming, planning worksheets, practice time and coaching.

Feedback from residents in evaluation forms has been supportive, and positive effects have been observed in resident presentations. Residents have voiced an increase in comfort levels in communicating effectively as well as an appreciation for the options they have available and awareness they bring to the task. A second, mid-year workshop has been developed to provide additional coaching and feedback to residents.