



PUERTO RICO'S PONCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES DEPLOYS E-LEARNING TOOL TO HELP ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEDICAL STUDENTS SERVE HISPANIC PATIENTS

Ponce, Puerto Rico – On August 29th, Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences (PSMHS) in Ponce, Puerto Rico announced a new four-week clinical rotation offered to visiting English-speaking medical students. The rotation, called “*The Practice of Medicine with Hispanic Patients*” is an intensive four-week elective clerkship, which incorporates Canopy[®] Medical Spanish by LanguageMate[®], an innovative e-learning program with diverse clinical experiences in a Hispanic community. The platform is designed to enable current and future medical professionals to communicate more effectively with Spanish-speaking patients. Research and development of the program was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

In medicine, clear and effective communication between patients and their providers is vital. PSMHS has been a leader in the formation well-rounded, culturally sensitive bilingual physician, responding to the national need for bilingual medical professionals serving a growing Hispanic population. To contribute to this need, PSMHS has designed this four-week elective clerkship with Canopy[®] targeted primarily to visiting English speaking medical students from national and international medical schools. Dean for Health Science and Academic Affairs Dr. Olga Rodriguez de Arzola, who pioneered this effort at PSMHS [said](#), “The importance of bi-lingual medical providers k will only grow as more and more healthcare facilities focus on quality of care for patients in the growing U.S. population of Spanish speaking patients” Therefore I am very pleased that PSMHS is offering this new elective with Canopy technology to any English speaking medical student who wishes to take it.

The course offers the full range educational activities of a clerkship, including classroom, on-line learning, and practical clinic and hospital experience, and it is designed to accommodate the typical schedules of medical students. The on-line learning portion, Canopy[®], is offered on-demand in bite-size chunks, and provides busy students with in-depth personalized feedback on their progress. LanguageMate[®] Director of Product Management, Brian Yarnell, highlights the core of the Canopy[®] platform, stating, “Unlike traditional language learning software, Canopy[®] has a laser-sharp focus on equipping medical professionals with the knowledge to communicate with LEP patients in a competent and culturally relevant manner. We’re very excited to work with forward-thinking institutions like



PSMHS to help equip medical professionals with the necessary skills to succeed in an increasingly multi-cultural world.”

About Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences

The Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences (PSMHS) is an LCME accredited medical school located in Ponce, Puerto Rico, the largest city in the southern area of Puerto Rico, with a year-long warm climate. Its citizens speak Spanish as their first language, but many are bilingual in Spanish and English. The city of Ponce has four universities and is known for its neoclassical architecture, the Ponce Museum of Art, its beautiful coastline on the Caribbean Sea, and gorgeous nearby beaches.

PSMHS’s mission is to provide high quality education, research and health services in medicine, biological sciences, clinical psychology, public health, and other healthcare fields, to the population it serves, through an innovative health sciences curriculum, while preparing students to be ethical practitioners and scientists. PSMHS’s goals include expanding and improving high quality medical, mental health, diagnostic and therapeutic services and to continue to prepare ethical professionals and scientists that contribute to society in general and to Puerto Rico in particular.

To find out more about enrolling in this clinical clerkship for English speaking medical students, please visit our website at www.psm.edu/spanishelective. For immediate assistance please contact Ms. Martha Rodríguez, Clinical Coordinator via email at mrodriguez@psm.edu or by calling 787-840-2575 extension 2271.

About LanguageMate®

LanguageMate® is a leading developer of communication solutions in the healthcare field. The company’s mission is to create tools that enable health care institutions to enhance quality of care and improve patient satisfaction. LanguageMate® has received more than a dozen Small Business Innovation Research grants from the NIH since 2004 to transform the delivery of health education and health services. For more information about Canopy®, please visit www.languagebate.com/products/canopy/ or call 212-274-1654 x33.