



Emine Ercikan Abali, PhD

Emine Ercikan Abali came to United States with a Fulbright Scholarship for her undergraduate degree. She received her PhD in Pharmacology from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. Later, She conducted postdoctoral research at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and at the Columbia University. Before joining the faculty at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, she spent two years at Bilkent University as Visiting Assistant Professor. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Her research in basic sciences involves drug resistance and targeting folate metabolism for cancer treatment.

Dr. Ercikan Abali is the biochemistry content expert in the pre-clinical curriculum. She teaches biochemistry and pharmacology to medical students, graduate students and physician assistant students. She is the co-course director for the M1 Biomedical Sciences course and the course director for the Digestive Systems, Nutrition and Metabolism. She is also the Co-course director of the Culinary Medicine elective in which medical sciences meet cooking. She has served as a member of several committees, which spearheaded the curricular changes at the RWJMS.

Dr. Ercikan Abali's passion is helping students understand, appreciate and integrate the basic sciences to remain as inquisitive physicians during their lifelong medical practice. She believes in engaging students in their own learning and developed many collaborative learning sessions known as Jigsaws and also introduced Flipped Classroom to RWJMS. Her medical education research is geared towards these goals. She is currently working on the importance of reflection in development of appreciation of basic sciences. Her additional research has been on the use of deliberate practice in improving student achievement.

Dr. Ercikan Abali received Excellence in Teaching Awards from the NJ Health Foundation in recognition of her contributions to graduate education in 2015, and the Most Caring Teacher Award from the graduating class of 2016 of medical school. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the Association of Biochemistry Course Directors.