Independent Study of Medical Spanish

Credit: Elective  Location: LAC+USC  Revised: 03/15/2010

Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st of Year III on a first-come, first-serve basis.

DIRECTOR:  PHONE #:
Raquel Arias, MD  (323) 442-2554

REPORT TO:  Charge Nurse at the ward of your choice in LAC+USC, and ask for Spanish speaking patients that you can talk to.

PREREQUISITES: None

DURATION: 4 weeks

DATES OFFERED: March through September
Rotations are scheduled: every Monday

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: Variable

VISITING STUDENTS: No

SUPERVISION:
Students function independently under the supervision of Dr. Arias.

DESCRIPTION:
Given the significant patient population of Los Angeles and Southern California that primarily speak Spanish, Medical Spanish is a valuable tool for health care providers and a skill needed by any provider who wishes to practice in such areas. Through this elective, students will practice their Spanish language skills as related specifically to medical interview. The focus of this elective would be on history taking, explanation of physical exams, assessment of problems, providing a health plan to patients in Spanish, as well as being able to educate patients on common diseases such as diabetes and asthma. Topics include the human body, hospital procedures, diagnostics, food, and essential doctor-patient phrases when dealing with Spanish-speaking patients. Students will function independently during this elective. They will spend each morning talking to stable Spanish-speaking patients on the wards, followed by reviewing their chart to assess their ability to gather medical information through their conversation. Afternoon hours are reserved for independent study of medical Spanish in addition to more patient encounters. The first week is focused on history taking skills, the second week is focused on physical exams, third week is focused on providing an assessment in Spanish, and the fourth week focuses on patient education. In addition, students will spend one day of the elective in a specialty clinic of their choice functioning as an interpreter.

Resources used during this elective include the medical Spanish textbooks such as “Spanish for Health Care Providers, by Frank Nuessel” or any other medical Spanish textbook available at USC medical book store. Other resources include Spanish podcast files that are available for download at http://www.medicalspanishpodcasts.com/medical_spanish website, as well as free online tutorial at www.studyspanish.com.

Students will be assessed at the beginning and end of the rotation by Dr. Arias or her designee to evaluate progress made during the elective.

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<td>8am-12pm</td>
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<td>12pm-1pm</td>
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<td>1pm-4pm</td>
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EVALUATION:
Students are expected to perform a minimum of 30 patient interviews and turn in a log sheet of their interviews at the end of the elective, as well as 2 H&Ps in Spanish which will be evaluated by Dr. Arias. In addition, they will be evaluated based on their ability to function as an interpreter by either a nurse or an interpreter at the specialty clinic.

*Selective Attendance and Illness Policy*
In order to insure adequate clinical exposure, no more than 3 days of excused absences (to include official Holidays) can be accepted during a selective. This policy does not imply that absences are guaranteed; absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty. Absence due to illness must be reported to the faculty or his/her designee as soon as possible. In case of extended absence (2 days or more), a note from a physician (who is not a relative) is required and the absence will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. A physician note may be requested for any absence, at the discretion of the faculty.

Students will generally be required to make up days before a passing grade can be assigned. All absences must be excused and any planned absence must be registered with the preceptor prior to the first day of the selective. Students should take vacation time if he/she anticipates a need for more than 3 absences during a selective. USMLE and BLS/ACLS will not be considered excused absences.