Internal Medicine Outpatient Elective

Credit: Selective B  Location: LAC+USC Medical Center & Affiliated Outside Clinics  Revised: 10/2010

Applications will be accepted beginning February 1st of year III & Beginning May 1st for non-USC Students. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis throughout the year.

DIRECTORS:    PHONE #:  COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Ron Ben-Ari, MD   323-226-2111  Students will be able to:
Email: rbenari@usc.edu  1. Experience being the “first contact” for adult ambulatory patients.
Eric Hsieh, MD  323-226-2111  2. Become familiar with the fundamental principles of practicing Internal Medicine in the ambulatory setting including diagnostic reasoning; evidence-based medicine; cost effective care; and self directed learning.
Email: ephsieh@usc.edu  3. Learn to recognize manifestations of disease and manage the course of common illnesses.
Sonya Earley, PA-C, MA CDE  323-226-2111  4. Develop skills that address care of the healthy adult male/female including preventive medicine; care of the patient with acute illness; and longitudinal care of the patient with chronic illness.
Email: earley@usc.edu  5. Interpret common laboratory and diagnostic tests.
  6. Use of medical literature, computer-based searching tools, and other informational resources to develop a detailed understanding of the internal medicine problems encountered.
  7. Apply your understanding of basic pathophysiology to the clinical data and develop comprehensive differential diagnosis.
  8. Perform concise, complete and well-organized verbal case presentations.
  9. Perform and chart appropriately, thorough and accurate histories and physical examinations.
  10. Develop and enhance communication skills through follow up of patient lab/tests by contacting the patient either by phone or letter in accordance with preceptor’s practice.
  11. Establish a mentoring relationship with assigned physician preceptor.

MSE:    PHONE #:
Sonya Earley, PA-C, MA CDE  323-226-2111
Email: earley@usc.edu

COORDINATOR:    PHONE #:
Sandra Gonzales  323-226-2111
Email: sandra.gonzales@usc.edu
Fax: 323-226-2116

REPORT TO:  Sonya Earley, PA-C, MA, CDE
IRD (Intern & Residents Dorm) Room 626

PREREQUISITE:  MSIV only. You must submit application 6 weeks prior to the start of the elective.

DURATION:  2-4 Weeks

DATES OFFERED:  All Year
Rotation Scheduled:  Exact Rotation Dates given by office.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS:  Variable depending on Clerkship availability. All students will receive 1 on 1 attention from elective preceptor.

VISITING STUDENTS:  Yes

INSTRUCTIONAL:
85% Supervised Patient Care
15% Independent Study

SUPERVISION:
100% Faculty

DESCRIPTION:
Senior Medical Students will work directly with an internist in a community-based office practice for a four-week experience. Students will participate in direct patient care and students will be an integral part of the office team. Preceptors will be instructed to involve each student in all aspects of their practices including office visits, inpatient rounds, and management meetings. The student experience will be approximately 90% ambulatory care activities. Each preceptor receives an office based education preceptor handbook.

EVALUATION:
Evaluation is based on clinical performance. A written evaluation is completed by the supervising internist/preceptor at the end of the rotation. Management of evaluations and grades will be handled by the Internal Medicine Clerkship Office.

*Elective 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 an elective. 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 required 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 elective. Students should take vacation time if he/she anticipates a need for more than 3 absences during an elective. USMLE and BLS/ACLS will not be considered excused absences.

**Interview Days**
Any student with any interview days greater than 3 per month please notify the designee/preceptor prior to the start of your rotation. If you are absent more than 5 days you will have to make up an extra credit week for credit.
PROCEDURES:
There are many office based procedures that you will have the opportunity to observe or participate in. The types of procedures performed will vary from practice to practice. Below are some of the procedures that you might be able to perform or observe.

- Pap smear and cervical cultures
- Fingerstick blood glucose test
- EKG
- Urinalysis and microscopy
- Cryotherapy
- Joint injection aspiration
- Cerumen removal
- Vaginal/cervical wet mount

IMPORTANT OUTPATIENT TOPICS:
There is a broad scope and depth to general internal medicine. The following list represents key topics that you should focus your reading on during this rotation.

1. Diagnoses
   a. Diabetes
   b. Hypertension
   c. Dyslipidemia
   d. Obstructive Lung Disease
   e. Coronary Heart Disease
   f. Congestive Heart Failure
   g. Osteoporosis
   h. Obesity
   i. Thyroid Disease
2. Preventive Care
   a. Screening Principles
   b. Alcohol Abuse
   c. Smoking Cessation
   d. Behavioral Changes
   e. Immunizations
   f. Cancer Screenings
3. Geriatric Care
   a. Dementia
   b. Falls
   c. Urinary Incontinence
   d. Functional Assessment
4. Pre-operative Care
5. Symptoms
   a. Musculoskeletal Complaints
   b. Anemia
   c. Shortness of Breath
   d. Chest Pain
   e. Fatigue
   f. Depression
   g. Headache
   h. Red Eye
   i. Rash
   j. Weight Loss
   k. Cough
   l. Insomnia
   m. Diarrhea
   n. Constipation
   o. Vaginal Discharge
   p. Dysuria
   q. Dizziness
   r. Abdominal Pain
6. Role Of Insurance and Medication Coverage For Healthcare Delivery