RADIATION ONCOLOGY

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

DIRECTOR:
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SIGNUP COORDINATOR:
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REPORT TO: Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology Department, Ground Floor, at 8:00 a.m.

DURATION: 4 weeks

DATES OFFERED: Beginning any Monday

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 2

VISITING STUDENTS: Yes

PREREQUISITES: None

SUPERVISION:
80% Faculty
20% Residents

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students will be able to:
1. Describe standard work-up and diagnostic tests used in the evaluation of new patients and in follow-up clinic
2. Discuss staging of the disease and its relationship to development of a treatment plan.
3. Use evidence-based decision making to explain indications for delivering radiation therapy.
4. Discuss the process leading up to and including formulation of a treatment plan.
5. Describe integration of other standard therapeutic modalities (surgery and chemotherapy) in cancer management.
6. Identify acute and late effects associated with radiation therapy treatments and explain management techniques.
7. Understand a radiation prescription.
8. Understand the basics of simulation, treatment planning and treatment delivery by working with radiation therapists, dosimetrists and physicists.
9. Understand the basic concepts of radiation biology.

DESCRIPTION:
Students are given a schedule that provides experience working with each attending, divided into half-day blocks. This schedule also includes chart rounds, tumor boards and conferences throughout the week. Students will work with the resident to prepare for and examine new patients, present new patients to the attending, and develop a treatment plan for these patients. Students will also observe and participate in treatment planning including dosimetry, simulation, set-up, etc and will be given the opportunity to observe brachytherapy and other procedures as scheduled in the clinic. The student is also required to do a 45-minute power point presentation for the residents and attending during his/her last week of rotation.

EVALUATION:
Students will be informed of expectations and methods of evaluation on the first day of their rotation, and given and attending to work with for each half-day in the radiation oncology clinic. Students’ performance will be evaluated by Dr. Rashtian upon completion of the rotation. Students will receive feedback on their performance during their scheduled clinic time with each attending as well.

*Selective Attendance and Illness Policy
In order to ensure adequate clinical exposure, no more than 3 days of excused absences (to include official holidays) can be allowed 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.