

RHEUMATOLOGY

Credit: Selective B or Elective

Location: LAC + USC Medical Center

Revised: 1/7/2009

Applications will be accepted anytime on a first-come, first serve basis

DIRECTOR:

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REPORT TO: GNH 8019 at 8:30 a.m.

PREREQUISITE: Medicine I Clerkship

DURATION: 4 or 6 weeks

DATES OFFERED: All Year

Rotation scheduled: to begin any Monday

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 4

VISITING STUDENTS: Yes

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to:

1. Develop and advance training in internal medicine through the evaluation, care and management of selected patients with rheumatic disorders under the direct supervision of fellows and staff of the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology.
2. Develop skills in the evaluation of a patient presenting with rheumatic complaints through:
 - a. Proper history taking and complete physical examination.
 - b. Judicious use and interpretation of various laboratory test, procedures and x-rays.
 - c. Learning the techniques of arthrocentesis and synovial fluid analysis.
3. Discuss the roles of various medical and paramedical personnel, such as the physical therapist, occupational therapist, social worker and orthopedist in the rehabilitation of a patient with rheumatic disorder.

SUPERVISION:

50% Faculty

40% Fellows

10% Residents

DESCRIPTION:

Students are assigned to the Rheumatology Clinical service and will have direct patient responsibility under the supervision of the rheumatology fellow and a Full time attending Faculty Staff. Students are assigned to evaluate patients in in-patient consultation service and at the Rheumatology out-patient clinics (Twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday mornings). Teaching rounds in the consultation service are held daily by Full time Faculty Staff. There are regularly scheduled teaching conferences on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

EVALUATION:

Upon completion of rotation, the student's performance will be evaluated by a committee comprised of faculty and fellows who supervised him/her during the rotation. The student is evaluated on the following: fund of knowledge, ability to obtain and record case history, ability to do physical examination, diagnostic problem solving, quality of patient follow up and progress notes, interpretation of lab data, communication skills, reliability, initiative, judgment and relationships with patients, instructors and other personnel.

***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.