

## Clinical Specialists Pathway

### *Overview*

One of the strengths of the KSOM is the clinical experience that is provided to students. This pathway is for students who will primarily enter medical practice and who are interested in a career in clinical medicine. This pathway is designed to expose students to the majority of medical specialties and assist students with the exploration of all career options. The components of the program will be dispersed throughout the four year curriculum and will include some self-assessment and career-exploration sessions. Students enrolled in this program will have the opportunity to flourish in the clinical setting, interact with experts in various medical specialties, and explore available options to ensure the greatest chance for satisfaction and success in their professional lives.

### *Goals of the program*

- To help students explore their career options and choose a specialty
- To help students develop self-assessment techniques
- Provide exposure to the majority of specialty areas
- Encourage students to work in fields that match their interests, values, and personality
- Stimulate discussion of new findings in the basic, social, and clinical sciences relevant to the future practice of medicine.

### *Objectives*

At the end of the program the student will be able to:

- Recognize the influence of focused and diversified experiences in making future career plans
- Demonstrate appropriate self-assessment and coping strategies, including seeking assistance when needed
- Critically evaluate career choices and medical specialties
- Identify the personal factors they feel will have the most influence on their specialty choice and on satisfaction in their careers.
- Perform a focused search on 3-4 specialties, including informational interviews

### *Components of the Program:*

#### **Mentored Project (Year II RSP)**

Each student will perform a project in an area of interest. At the beginning of Year II students will select a project sponsor and topic. This project will serve as the Year II Required Student Project. The student will be required to update his or her sponsor by providing quarterly updates.

Students will be required to present their project in the form of a poster presentation on Medical Student Research Day (generally in May).

### **Seminars**

Students will be required to attend four seminars preparing them for specialty selection during Years I and II (2/year). The seminars will come from the Careers in Medicine AAMC program. Seminar speakers will include some of the clinical experts at USC.

### **Shadowing Opportunities**

Students have the option to shadow physicians in their specialty of interest. A list of shadowing opportunities will be distributed to the class prior to Year II.

### **Clerkship/Electives**

Students will take a minimum of eight weeks as an elective in their specialty of interest.

## ***Achievement Timeline***

### Year I

- Declare clinical specialists pathway (Jan).
- Attend two seminars in Careers in Medicine designated as part of the Clinical Specialist Pathway.
- Shadow physicians in their office or clinic (optional)
- Begin to develop concept of Year II RSP.

### Year II

- Select project sponsor and topic.
- Required student project in an area of interest.
- Attend two seminars in Careers in Medicine designated as part of the Clinical Specialist Pathway.
- Present Year II RSP on Medical Student Research Day.

### Year III

- No formal requirements.

### Year IV

- Take a minimum of eight weeks of elective in area of specialty choice.

### \*Advanced degree option

- Pursue an advanced degree in an area of interest.

### **Student Evaluation**

- Project sponsors will complete a mid-year and an end-of-year evaluation summary for each student.
- RSP summary paper will be evaluated by the project sponsor and PPM mentor.
- In order to get recognition on their Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE), students must meet all requirements of the clinical specialist pathway.
- Students who miss a mandatory seminar will be required to turn in a make-up assignment to the Curriculum Office.

### **Program Evaluation**

- Students will formally evaluate sponsors on an annual basis. Supplemental questions may be included to evaluate the quality of the advisement. Opportunities to discuss the quality of the experience will be available and discussed with the sponsors.
- Students will annually complete a standardized, confidential pathway evaluation form.
- All participating students, the pathway director, and the steering committee will meet annually to discuss and evaluate the success of the program.
- The pathway director and steering committee will annually review the program and all course materials.