Clerkship Title: CARDIOLOGY

Location: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center
Credit Level: Selective B or Elective

Course Director: Yaga Szlachcic, M.D
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Medical Science Bldg Room 21
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Length of time: 4 or 6 weeks
Dates offered: all year
Number of students: 6
Visiting students from other US medical schools? n/a
Prerequisites: Medicine I required core clerkship (6 weeks)

Place and time to report on first day: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center
Medical Science Bldg., Room 21 at 9 am

Textbooks/Availability:
- Marriott’s, Practical Electrocardiography
- Cardiology for the House Officer, published by Williams & Wilkins

Learning Objectives – At the conclusion of the clerkship the student should be able to:
- Students should be competent in understanding and managing the common cardiovascular problems and learn how to apply the diagnostic tests properly. Students should know how to perform a satisfactory cardiac history and physical examination; understand the routine test like EKG, Echocardiograms, stress tests, cardiac catheterization, and cardiac surgical procedures; understand the appropriate use of clinical laboratory tests; finally understand the appropriate use of cardiovascular drugs.

Course Description:
- Cardiology elective clerkship is mostly hands on experience for the students where they participate in the direct care of cardiac patients; this is done both on in-patients as well as in ambulatory clinics. Students get to consult on other
services for cardiac complications. The lectures provide core knowledge and understanding of the diagnostic tests available and how the management strategies are to be developed.

- The students may also get skills in cardiac auscultation, interpretation of test results to come to a diagnosis and to access the progress of patients.

- The hospital is a 750 bed capacity with a 12 bed Medical Intensive Care Unit. The other services are Medicine, Pulmonary, Arthritis, Diabetes, Stroke and Liver, Gerontology and Spinal Injury. Cardiology provides consultations on all these services and has 12 telemetry beds on unity 503; patients mainly come from Rancho, LAC + USC Medical Center and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Lectures:
One hour lectures by attending staff 3 days/week. Topics include:

- Basic electrocardiography
- Evaluation & treatment of arrhythmias
- Cardia diagnostic tests
- Evaluation of patients with chest pain/ hemodynamic evaluation of myocardial infarction
- Evaluation and therapy congestive heart failure/cardiomyopathies
- Evaluation and therapy of patients with hypertension
- Pre-op evaluation of patients
- Management of valvular heart disease and endocarditis
- Management of prosthetic heart calves, pacemakers
- Cardiovascular pharmacology and anticoagulation
- Management of cardia patients with diabetes, thyroid and lipid disorders
- Management of patients with pericarditis/effusion

Cardiology Clinics:
- During the clinics students review the charts, complete history and physical and discuss each case with an attending physician. Students will get experience in cardiac auscultation and examination of patients with various types of heart diseases. At Rancho, we have a good number of patients with coronary artery disease, hypertension, valvular heart disease, congestive heart failure, prosthetic valves, pacemakers, and heart disease secondary to connective tissue disease, pulmonary disease, diabetes and endocrine problems.

Cardiology Consultations:
- Students see consults in rotation and discuss the cases with an attending. The consult service is light and the students will get adequate time to read relevant subject matter in the library. All consults are also followed by students until the problem is resolved/patient is discharged. Once a week all interesting consults will be reviewed and discussed by the attending staff.
Inpatient Care:

- Students participate in the primary care of the patients on the cardiology service. On weekends, students who wish to make rounds with the attendings may do so by prior arrangement.

Journal Review:

- On the first and third Friday, students are expected to prepare and discuss journal articles. One attending is in charge of helping the students in selecting the articles, etc.

Evaluation:

- No formal written or oral tests given. Student’s performance is assessed by the faculty who work with them as for their effort, proficiency and behavior. All the staff will evaluate the individual student and the preceptor will summarize the overall performance in the student evaluation form. Students who have problems will be counseled as needed.