Clerkship Title: GERIATRICS

Location: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center

Credit Level: Selective B or Elective

Director: Dr. Jocelyn Sumkad
Office Address: JPI Room 3123 B
Telephone: 562-401-7115
Fax: 562-401-6247
E-mail address: n/a

Signup Coordinator: Christine Donald
Office Address: JPI Room 3123 B
Phone number: 562-401-7115
Fax number: 562-401-6247
E-mail address: cdonald@ladhs.org

Length of time: 4 or 6 weeks
Dates offered: All Year
Number of students: 2
Visiting students from other US medical schools? n/a
Prerequisites: Medicine I clerkship (6 weeks)

Place and time to report on first day: Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Older Adult Health Center, 8:00 am

Textbooks/Availability:

Learning Goals
1. To increase knowledge about special considerations in the care of geriatric patients in both ambulatory and inpatient settings.
2. To provide students with the opportunity to participate in a geriatric rehabilitation program.
3. To foster positive attitudes about the elderly in general and about health promotion and disease management in the elderly.
4. To promote better use of (or collaboration with) other health care professionals to provide comprehensive care.

Learning Objectives – At the conclusion of the clerkship the student should be able to:
1. The student will demonstrate skill in obtaining an accurate medical history, including the patient’s functional status (activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living) and psychosocial status (motivation, morale, family and social interaction).
2. The student will show skill in completing a physical examination of the older adult with special attention to:
   a. Normal changes of aging
   b. Functional assessment
   c. Cognitive assessment
3. The student will show evidence of being able to distinguish normal from pathologic aging with respect to cognitive function, psychomotor performance, sexuality, personality adjustment and response to illness.
4. The student will apply knowledge of clinical pharmacology in managing elderly patient with special attention given to drug interactions and side effects of drugs.
5. The student will apply knowledge of rehabilitation medicine in managing problems of elderly patients.
6. The student will identify available social resources and programs such as financial, health and social support systems.
7. The student will provide humanistic care to the elderly including personalized and empathetic care to the patients and their families.

Course Description:
The Clinical Gerontology Service at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center provides care for approximately 700 geriatric patients. These patients have an average of four chronic medical problems and many of them are disabled. Although many of these patients fit the profile of the type of patient often admitted to a nursing home, only 5% have been so admitted. This reflects the service’s commitment to provide health maintenance and rehabilitation to allow for independent living. The staff is comprised of a family physician, internist, psychologists, adult nurse practitioner, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, social workers and administrative staff. Part-time faculty include podiatrists, dentists, gero-psychiatrists and a neurologist specializing in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. The service operates two clinics at Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center and conducts comprehensive functional evaluations of referred patients. The service also operates a 15-bed Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit where patients are care for using an interdisciplinary team approach. There are 3 weekly lectures in pharmacy, medicine, and behavioral science (see weekly time schedule attached).

Evaluation of student:
On the last day of the clerkship both an oral and written evaluation will be reviewed with the medical student.