Clerkship Title: RHEUMATOLOGY

Location: LAC + USC Medical Center

Credit Level: Selective B or Elective

Course Director: Francisco Quismorio Jr., M.D.
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Signup Coordinator: Erick Bonilla
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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: Required core clerkship – Medicine I

Place and time to report on first day: GNH 14-600 or GNH 8019, 8:30 am

Textbooks/Availability:
   • McCarty, D.J., Arthritis and Related Conditions, 12th edition, 1993
   • Primer of Rheumatic Diseases (to be supplied)

Learning Objectives – At the conclusion of the clerkship the student should be able to:
1. To 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. To 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. To appreciate the role of the various medical and paramedical personnel, such as the physical therapist, occupational therapist, social worker and orthopaedist in the rehabilitation of a patient with rheumatic disorder.

Course Description:
Students are assigned to the ward (Ward 14-600) and will have direct patient responsibility under the supervision of the rheumatology fellow. Patients are admitted to the ward every day. On the average, each student will admit one to two patients a week. Ward rounds with the attending staff are done twice a week. Students are also assigned to evaluate and see patients in the outpatient’s clinics.

Students join the Attending Staff Rounds on the Consultation Service of the section on Mondays, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and Thursdays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. They may be assigned to see selected patients in the Consultation Service.

Conferences and Lectures:
Students are required to attend two section conferences – Rheumatology Grand Rounds on Mondays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, and Journal Club, Mondays, 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Patients under the care of the student may be chosen to be presented in these conferences.

Formal didactic lectures, demonstrations, slide and x-ray reviews in clinical rheumatology are given by the staff on Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Introductory lectures on clinical immunology subjects such as autoimmunity, evaluation of immunological function, and immune regulation are also presented.

Outpatient Clinics:
Students will be required to attend two outpatient clinics – Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The student will examine and evaluate selected patients under direct supervision of staff physician.

Evaluation:
Upon completion of rotation, the student’s performance will be evaluated by a committee comprised of faculty staff 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.