

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

## **SUB-INTERNSHIP IN EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRY ELECTIVE**

**Course Director: Damir Huremovic, MD**

**Duration: 4 Weeks**

### **GOALS**

The purpose of this elective is to provide experience in the acute management of psychiatric illnesses and emergencies. The medical student collaborates with the emergency department to triage patients with psychiatric concerns and participates in the emergency assessment and crisis intervention of these patients.

The Psychiatric Emergency Service elective is taken as a four-week elective. The Psychiatric Emergency Service is a twenty-four (24) hour psychiatric emergency faculty, which provides the following clinical functions: emergency psychiatric assessment and stabilization, diagnostic evaluation, and crisis therapy, psychiatric admission, or referral. The student will join the ER team, functioning as Acting Intern and receive one-to-one supervision and case-based learning during each shift from both attending and residents.

The elective will build on the MS-III experience by placing the student in an increasingly responsible role with respect to providing both diagnostic and therapeutic interviewing, crisis stabilization, and treatment planning. The student will work toward functioning as team member, working alongside core ER staff and graduate-level trainees, and seeing patients on flexibly scheduled shifts. The course will emphasize experiential learning over didactic, but students will be expected to participate in case conferences.

### **OBJECTIVES**

Medical students will be able to:

- Identify common disorders and presentations of psychiatric emergencies
- Demonstrate knowledge of the necessary steps in evaluating a psychiatric emergency
- Apply effective psychotherapeutic approaches most often utilized in these circumstances
- Demonstrate knowledge of relevant ethical issues, including an understanding of involuntary hospitalization procedures and patient confidentiality

### **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

- Identify and understand major psychiatric syndromes while developing an expertise in the use of the DSM IV classifications
- Learn a variety of basic and advanced interviewing techniques useful in a variety of related settings including family practice, internal medicine, emergency medicine, and psychiatry
- Describe the key bio-psychosocial aspects of the patient's condition and its context
- Determine the most appropriate treatment modality and programs which can best provide that treatment
- Identify the most appropriate social or community resources available to meet patients' needs
- Conduct a psychiatric interview effectively, thoughtfully, and efficiently under emergency room conditions

- Conduct psychiatric interviews with patients with varied forms and levels of disturbance
- Conduct a thorough lethality assessment for both suicidal and homicidal ideation
- Identify subtle indications of underlying psychotic process
- Recognize delirium and dementia and other syndromes suggesting the need for immediate medical evaluation
- Organize the clinical information and emergency psychiatric treatment under faculty supervision
- Determine under supervision the most appropriate clinical disposition for a given patient

### **EVALUATION METHOD**

The course director and the chief resident will assess each student's performance using the appropriate evaluation form and school requirement. For more information about your evaluation, please visit your school web page or the student catalogue.

### **DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE**

In addition to caring for a selected caseload under close attending supervision, the student will also participate in morning outpatient clinic intake, core lectures, case conferences, and weekly grand rounds.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

If you are interested in applying, please call 516-572-5399 or visit us at [www.numc.edu](http://www.numc.edu)