



Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Science

The goals of the Psychiatry Electives are to provide every medical student at Nassau University Medical Center the necessary understanding of human emotional and cognitive development, adult and child psychopathology, and bio-psychosocial treatment modalities to assure the proper care of their patients suffering from mental illness. Whether you plan to go into family medicine, pediatrics, surgery, or any other clinical specialty, an elective in psychiatry will help integrate your knowledge about the human body, brain, and health-related behavior. The department is very flexible in designing an elective to meet individual student interests. We offer electives in the following sub-specialties:

- Sub-internship in Acute, Inpatient Adult Psychiatry
- Consult-Liaison and Outpatient Psychiatry
- Sub-internship in Inpatient Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Sub-Internship in Emergency Psychiatry

Students must document good academic standing at an affiliated, or other licensed, medical school. Satisfactory completion of the medical school's core rotation in psychiatry is a prerequisite for enrolling in any of the electives. The electives are at least four weeks in length and must be requested well in advance from the Undergraduate Medical Education Office.

Please recognize that your elective is enhanced by your planning and preparation.

SUB-INTERNSHIP IN ACUTE, INPATIENT ADULT PSYCHIATRY

Course Director: Robert Barris, MD

Duration: 4 Weeks

GOALS

To build on core interviewing skills such as initiating the interview, establishing rapport, and managing the interview. Students will be able to recognize the psychiatric disorders frequently encountered in medical/surgical settings, such as anxiety, depression, delirium, dementia, and substance abuse.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for this elective are:

- To learn more about the general field of adult psychiatry;
- To understand how psychiatric/ psychological issues may present on an acute adult psychiatric inpatient unit;
- To understand the work-up for the differential diagnoses of the major presentations of acute psychiatric admissions;

- To understand how care on an adult inpatient unit is managed;
- To know the diagnostic criteria for mood disorders, psychotic disorders, severe personality disorders, acute stress and post-traumatic disorders, and substance abuse disorders;
- To understand the psychopharmacology, including dosing, side effects, and mechanism of actions of first-line medications, with regards to above diagnoses;
- To develop basic assessing and counseling families of acutely, psychiatrically disturbed adults.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Students will be able to elicit a complete psychiatric history and develop comfort with screening for sensitive issues. Student will develop proficiency in performing the mental status examination and communicating their findings in written and oral formats. They will also understand the circumstances when a focused physical or neurological exam is warranted.

DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE

In addition to caring for a selected caseload under close attending supervision, the student will also assist the ER resident in the Psych ER two evening per week from 4 – 8 PM. The student will also attend third year student core lectures at NUMC, PGY1&2 classes, case conferences, and weekly Grand Rounds.

EVALUATION METHODS

The faculty supervisor will evaluate the student's theoretical knowledge, clinical competence and professional conduct on the basis of their performance during the clinical elective. For more information about your evaluation, please visit your school web page.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying, please call 516-572-5399 or visit us at www.numc.edu

CONSULT-LIAISON AND OUTPATIENT ELECTIVE

Course Director: Damir Huremov, MD

Duration: 4 Weeks

GOALS

The outpatient psychiatry elective introduces the medical students to psychiatric consultation and following care to patients at NUMC. Medical students gain exposure to the clinical skills and knowledge relevant to the treatment of a wide variety of psychiatry disorders in the outpatient setting. The training provides the med-

ical student with the opportunity to develop clinical skills and sensitivity to cultural diversity and professional principles.

OBJECTIVES

This four-week elective focuses on psychiatric problems in medical and surgical patients. Under the supervision of faculty, the student responds to requests from physicians for psychiatric evaluation of patients on inpatient units throughout the medical center. The multidisciplinary team on the service attempts to integrate the biological with the psychosocial perspective to achieve a comprehensive view of patient care.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

To learn to conduct the clinical evaluation, investigate any ward management difficulties, assess the role of the patient's family in the clinical problem, make treatment recommendations, and provide appropriate follow-up during the patient's hospital stay.

- To diagnose and treat psychiatric disorders in patients with diverse types of mental illness.
- To verbalize the complex interplay between the physical and psychosocial aspects of health and illness in patients being followed.
- To state the impact of hospital, family, and social systems on patients being followed.
- To present common psychiatric conditions in hospitalized medical patients to the Consult/ liaison team.

DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE

In addition to caring for a selected caseload under close attending supervision, the student will also participate in Thursday morning outpatient clinic intake, with PGY3 residents and Dr. Sperber. The student will also attend third-year student core lectures at NUMC, PGY1&2 classes, case conferences, and weekly grand rounds.

EVALUATION METHODS

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.

SUB-INTERNSHIP IN EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRY ELECTIVE

Course Director: Jagjeet Singh, 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 emergency department to triage patients with psychiatric concern and participate in the emergency assess 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 attendings 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.

SUB-INTERNSHIP IN INPATIENT CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY ELECTIVE

Course Director: M. Ramani, MD
Duration: 4 Weeks

GOALS

It is proposed as an opportunity for students to have extra time to explore child development, developmental pediatrics, child psychiatry and family psychiatry as possible career choices.

OBJECTIVES

This elective will provide the student interested in child and adolescent psychiatry an introductory experience in the evaluation and treatment of emotional and behavioral problems of children within the context of their biological, family, and psychosocial environment.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

In this elective, the student will have an opportunity to experience the outpatient practice of child and adolescent psychiatry. Students will rotate through a variety of different clinical sites. During this elective, students will work closely with general psychiatry residents, child and adolescent psychiatry fellows, and staff psychiatrists to learn about the diagnosis and treatment of the wide range of psychopathology seen in children and adolescents. The successful student will be able to:

- Learn more about the general field of child psychiatry.
- Understand how psychiatric/psychological issues may present on an acute child & adolescent psychiatric inpatient unit.
- Understand the work-up for the differential diagnoses of the major presentations of acute psychiatric admissions of children and adolescents.

- Understand how care on a child and adolescent inpatient unit is managed.
- Understand basic developmental milestones for each age group of children and adolescents, so as to be able to document exceptions in an inpatient admission.
- Know the diagnostic criteria for Attention Deficit Disorder, major depression, psychotic disorders, pervasive developmental disorders, disruptive behavior disorders, and substance abuse in children and adolescents.
- Be able to understand how children may present with these difficulties differently from adults;
- Understand the psychopharmacology, including dosing, side effects, and mechanism of actions of first-line medications, with regards to above diagnoses.
- Develop basic skills in behavioral interventions for parents to help with severe behavioral problems of psychopathologic behavior problems of children and adolescents.
- Learn basic methods of assessing the medical and psychosocial functioning of children and adolescents.
- Utilize techniques of interviewing children, adolescents and families.

In addition to caring for a selected caseload under close attending supervision, the student will also assist the ER resident in the Psych ER two evening per week from 4 to 8 p.m.

DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE

The student will also attend third- year student core lectures at NUMC, PGY1&2 classes, case conferences, and weekly grand rounds.

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students must have completed their M3 Core course in Psychiatry.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying, please call 516-572-5399 or visit us at www.numc.edu.