

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

COMMUNITY MEDICINE ELECTIVE

Course Director: Christine Brown, MD

Duration: 4 Weeks

GOAL

To provide students with practice-oriented and/or service-oriented learning opportunities related to community medicine. Students will learn about the types and functions of the formal and informal medical, public health, and social support programs involved in community health care.

OBJECTIVES

1. Focus on health promotion and disease prevention in the community-based setting and as applied to populations of patients.
2. Demonstrate the importance of the physical environment, the social environment, and access to care in determining the health of populations.
3. Enhance students' understanding of the relationship between culture and health, and improve their skills in delivering culturally sensitive health care services.
4. Expose students to the social, financial, and ethical aspects of limiting and promoting access to health care for vulnerable populations.
5. Students should demonstrate an ability to evaluate and manage common acute and chronic ambulatory illnesses in a well-reasoned manner.
6. Students will be able to develop a patient-centered approach to the evaluation and management of patients commonly seen in ambulatory care setting.
7. Students will be able to develop and refine the basic clinical skills of interviewing patients and performing an accurate physical exam.
8. Students will be able to apply the principles of longitudinal and comprehensive health care, including consideration of familial, community, and cultural influences on health behavior.
9. Students will be able to apply the principles of preventive medicine in a primary care setting.
10. Students will develop professional values and attitudes, and apply ethical principles to the physician patient relationship.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The medical team comprises of two medical students, which will be "mentored" by a faculty member in the Department of Community Medicine. Each team is assigned at each of the four [satellite] Community Health Centers, and one at Nassau University Medical Center's Center for Hypertension, Diabetes and Vascular Medicine. It is located within the Medical Center, but actively involved in community outreach and to our community health centers and private practitioners. The students will be exposed to and understand the concepts of "primary" and "specialty" care outpatient services, "medical homes," referral patterns, follow-up issues and a host of other items including the challenges of cultural and ethnic disparities in health care.

DIDACTIC EXPERIENCE

The medical student will be expected to participate in all departmental lectures and conferences.

SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL:

Community-Oriented Primary Care: Health Care for the 21st Century, Edited by Robert Rhyne, MD American Public Health Association

EVALUATION METHOD

Throughout the rotation, there will be clinical observation and feedback by the mentor as well as other faculty members. At the rotation's end, based upon a patient seen during the month, a brief (10-15 minutes) case presentation, didactic discussion and Q&A will be presented to the student's colleagues and Faculty.

HOW TO APPLY

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