

# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## OVERVIEW

The NUMC Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Training Division welcomes medical students to their 6-week psychiatry core clerkships. The Clerkship Director and faculty liaison for AUC is Dr. St. Victor; the Site Director for medical students from SUNY-SB and is Robert Barris, MD and the Site Director for NYCOM medical students is Mark Lerman, MD. The entire rotation is organized by the Vice Chair for Education and Training Jacob Sperber, MD, ably assisted by the senior Chief Resident who makes the didactic schedules and assists Drs. Sperber and St. Victor with documentation and correspondence for the rotation.

## OBJECTIVES

**Rotations:** Each medical student will rotate for three weeks to a treatment team on one of the adult inpatient units (three weeks to the Consult-Liaison service or Child inpatient, and Psychiatry ER for one 5hr shift per week). On each inpatient treatment team, each student will be assigned to a PGY2, or PGY1 resident, under the supervision of that resident's attending psychiatrist. Each student will carry two or three appropriately selected patients at a time, following and participating in every aspect of the resident's workup of each patient, and the supervision by the attending.

An essential part of the experience is the time the student spends talking with her/his patients every day, and reviewing these conversations with her/his resident and attending supervisors. This time spent relating to assigned patients is often a very important part of their therapeutic experience, and the students' reflections and concerns about these contacts with their assigned patients are a regular part of the supervision they receive.

## STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Students will be present in the hospital from 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. (depending on service) to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, plus assigned on-call and evening clinic shifts. Students must obtain permission in advance from the rotation director for any variation from this schedule, and must also keep their resident and attending mentors informed of their whereabouts at all times during working hours.

**Clinical:** Students are expected to consult the separate unit schedules for their required activities when assigned to the Inpatient Adult & Child Units, and to check with their Team attending for changes in these schedules.

Students assigned to the Consult-Liaison Service will report to the attendings or residents on that service at 8:00 a.m. every day, in the 12th floor Department of Psychiatry C-L Office.

Students will also take evening ER call with an assigned resident, until 9.00 p.m. on the week-nights, one shift in a week.

## BOUNDARY AND CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES

Maintaining professionalism and the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship is important in all specialties of medicine. In psychiatry, it is particularly essential that the mental health provider is mindful of boundary issues as a patient's mental state or disorder may compromise his/her level of impulse control or affect judgment. Students should keep interactions with patients purely professional and approach patients in a respectful manner. There should be no fraternization between students and patients neither on the unit, nor after the patient is discharged from the unit.

Physical examinations necessary to provide appropriate patient care should not be done without appropriate supervision. If a student is not certain how to handle an uncomfortable situation with a patient, the student should excuse himself/herself from the patient and seek out supervision from a senior team member. Students are discouraged from sharing personal data with their patients. Likewise, students should respect the confidentiality of patient information.

Students should not discuss their patients in areas where people other than the treatment team may overhear the conversation. Write-ups, notes, etc. that contain patient information should not be removed from the premises and ideally should stay in the office or designated work area on the unit.

## CONFERENCES/ROUNDS/LECTURES

The didactic curriculum will consist of two residents and one attending lecture per week. The didactic lecture series is given by PGY 3 and PGY4 residents indirectly supervised by attendings. Clinical supervision is provided by service attending psychiatrists, assisted by psychiatric residents assigned to the services where students rotate.

Medical Students will attend the Inpatient Case Conference, Psychiatry Grand Rounds on Wednesday afternoons, Journal Club every other Tuesday noon, and all case conferences scheduled on their assigned clinical service. (To receive the Journal Club reprint in advance, email your request and your email address to [jsperber@numc.edu](mailto:jsperber@numc.edu), with the dates you will be on clerkship.)

Students are responsible for attending all assigned classes, rotation activities, Consult-Liaison and Psychiatry Emergency Department activities, and on-call shifts. No one will remind you about your required activities.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

**Clinical work:** 50% of your grade is determined by evaluations submitted by the attendings and residents with whom you worked. Your clinical knowledge, skills, and judgment will be assessed as well as your professionalism, attitude towards work, participation in team meetings and interpersonal skills.

25% of the grade will be based on the Observed Clinical Exam.

25% of your grade will be based on a Multiple Choice Question test that you will have at the end of the rotation.

The Course Director and the Chief Resident will assess each student's performance using the appropriate evaluation form and school requirement. Grades should be available within four weeks from the end of rotation.

## REQUIRED READING

The medical student daily lecture schedule will be emailed to the students. A list of the required readings will be provided to students.

Kaplan & Sadock Concise Textbook 2nd ed. 2002. (For those students who prefer the more extensive Kaplan & Sadock Synopsis of Psychiatry 9th ed. 2003, the comparable readings are also listed for this text.)

Students may use either text.

Please discuss with the Chief Resident any questions on the Reading material.

Classes meet in the 14th floor classroom, unless otherwise posted. If you already own either text, please bring it. Otherwise, there is a copy of each for reserve use in the hospital's library.