MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction to Clinical Medicine

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana includes a second semester M-2 curriculum designed to assist students in the transition from the academic environment of preclinical training to the clinical medicine arena. The semester has been designated as the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM). The semester consists of seven courses, including History and Physical Diagnosis, Fundamental Clinical Problems, Clinical Tutorials, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Clinical Microbiology, Medical Imaging and Psychiatry. The major purpose of ICM is to prepare students to begin and to participate successfully in the clinical clerkships. This is accomplished by requiring students to utilize their cumulative prior knowledge and experience, and by also introducing them to new skills and knowledge of the medical profession. The semester is both a bridge and a transition to the clinical clerkship for the successful second year student.

ICM includes a survey of specific and important major medical and surgical problems. The depth and breadth of learning is focused specifically upon the level required by an entry level third year student. Knowledge is acquired through a problem-oriented interactive and cumulative educational process. ICM will serve to provide a bridge to allow a medical student who has learned basic medical science to function in a clinical environment.

An array of skills is learned by students throughout the semester. Acquisition of these skills complement and extend the acquired knowledge base. Among the skills to be learned by the students include: history and physical examination skills, interpersonal and communication skills, small group interaction ability, interpretative skills, clinical problem solving, appropriate utilization of resources and a limited set of basic clinical-care skills.

The cumulative experience offered in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine will also allow the student to acquire attitudes appropriate for their work in clinical medicine. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the concept of a professional and the process of professionalization. Students will develop an attitude of learning where they assume the responsibility for overall learning. A positive and productive approach to the learning experience will be engendered.