INTERNAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability
--Sir William Osler

GOALS:
The Department of Internal Medicine will provide an educational experience for clinical clerks offering graduated supervised responsibility for patient care in the area of general internal medicine. During the clerkship each student will gain an awareness of the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that internists strive to acquire and maintain throughout their professional lives. Students will have graduated supervised responsibility for patient care, learning to integrate clinical knowledge with practical experience.

During the course of the clerkship, the students will gain competencies in the following six domains:

- Medical Knowledge
- Patient Care
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- Professionalism
- Practice Based Learning and Improvement
- Systems-Based Practice.

OBJECTIVES:
At the end of the clerkship, the student should be able to:

Medical Knowledge:
- Acquire a basic knowledge of internal medicine, and a greater knowledge of those areas relevant to patients assigned to the individual student
- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic sciences and patho-physiologic principles behind the manifestations of the disease conditions
- Integrate the knowledge of bio-medical, ethical, and epi-social-behavioral sciences with the clinical presentation of the disease in his/her patient
- Demonstrate knowledge of the indications, contraindications and benefits of the common procedures such as: arterial blood gas, thoracentesis, paracentesis, lumbar puncture, and joint aspiration.

Patient Care:
- Obtain an accurate, pertinent history from all appropriate available sources and record it in a complete and concise manner.
- Perform and record a thorough physical examination, and review the physical findings with the faculty.
- Develop an appropriate differential diagnosis based on history and physical examination findings, laboratory and diagnostic tests results.
- Develop a prioritized and detailed problem list for each patient
- Utilize clinical reasoning and form hypotheses to assess the patient’s presenting problems based on gathered information.
- Formulate a diagnostic and therapeutic plan for his/her patient based on gathered clinical information and laboratory data
Interpersonal and Communication Skills:
- Develop skills in oral case presentation.
- Demonstrate good communication skills when dealing with patients and their families.
- Demonstrate respect when communicating with all members of the health care team.
- Participate in obtaining informed consent prior to performing an invasive procedure in his/her patient.
- Demonstrate ability to educate patients, families and other members of the health care team.

Professionalism:
- Develop an understanding of the psychosocial, educational, economic and religious backgrounds of patients that underlie their diverse belief systems, and demonstrate this understanding in the approach to the management of individual patients.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to, and an understanding of, the ethical dimensions of patient care, and demonstrate this in the approach to the management of individual patients.
- Develop a professional relationship with patients, peers and other health care professionals while conducting themselves professionally at all times.
- Demonstrate ability to work hard, accept patient responsibility and respond appropriately to feedback provided.
- Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity, and honesty at all times.

Practice Based Learning and Improvement:
- Utilize the library and its resources to research clinical questions that arise during patient care and management.
- Demonstrate critical reading skills in selected journal articles, and identify characteristics of effective medical articles.
- Demonstrate independent learning as evidenced by researching issues related to patient care.

System Based Practice:
- Recognize the importance of and demonstrate commitment to the utilization of other health care professionals in diagnostic decision making.
- Participate, whenever possible, in coordination of care and in the provision of continuity of care.