

April 23, 2009

Dear Interested Preceptor,

I'm excited to review our clinical education program with you in order for you to better understand what it would be like to work with our medical students. We have partnered with the National Association of Community Health Centers to train a new cadre of physicians who, we hope, will become imbedded in your local community and return to provide care in needed specialties following their residency.

Working with medical students does not need to take a lot of additional time from your busy practice. The medical school will handle the didactic education of the students using our community campus faculty members and the latest in distance education technology. In essence, what we are asking of community preceptors (Adjunct Faculty) is to involve the students in the evaluation and management of your patients in whatever setting you normally operate in. This includes your office, hospital(s), surgi-centers, nursing homes, etc. You are free to teach towards anything that "comes through your door". My personal approach, having been involved in teaching medical students, residents, and other health professionals for over 30 years, is to initially allow the student to follow me as I evaluate several patients in order to get the feel of how our clinic operates. I then send the student in to obtain a history and perform a focused physical exam on a selected (often straight-forward) patient. Using the feedback obtained when they report their initial patient findings to me I can rapidly assess their clinical skills. Based on their performance, and your comfort levels, individual students may be assigned more responsibilities.

We are using the latest medical education curricular model, the Clinical Presentation Curriculum. This approach reviews all of medicine by covering approximately 125 general presentations (major symptoms, signs, lab abnormalities, etc.). The schemes (resembling clinical algorithms) have been covered during the first two years and are again assigned to specific rotations. Our required rotations are as follows:

MS-3 Rotations

Family Practice – 8 weeks
Internal Medicine – 8 weeks
Pediatrics – 4 weeks
OB/GYN – 4 weeks
Maternal/Child Health – 4 weeks
General Surgery – 4 weeks
Psychiatry – 4 weeks
Elective – 6 weeks
Primary Care Selective – 4 weeks

MS-4 Rotations

Critical Care – 4 weeks
Cardiology – 4 weeks
Emergency Medicine – 4 weeks
Neurology – 2 weeks
Selectives – 16 weeks

Pediatrics based – 4 weeks
Surgery based – 4 weeks
Medicine based – 8 weeks
Electives – 12 weeks

CURRICULUM SCOPE

As you may already know, the MS III rotation clerkships will take place at eleven different campuses. Students will access course materials including an online clinical presentation curriculum through *Medical Learning Online*. This will allow consistent didactic presentation to a geographically separate student population. The MS-3 course content will build upon the first two years clinical presentation training. Clinical training will emphasize diagnosis and management.

• Didactics

Using the "Clinical Presentation Model," didactic activities will be delivered via SOMA's web-based learning center called "Medical Learning Online." Students will be directed to review materials for a set of clinical presentation topics appropriate for each core rotation. Learning objectives will be linked to a given clinical presentation worksheet. If you prefer, students may also be given assignments specifically related to your practice and rotation. We need to be cautious to avoid overwhelming the students with materials in addition to their assigned coursework, but such activities can certainly improve learning. Our community

• Evaluations

Following completion of each of the core rotations the students will be assessed using a NBME subject exam. Their successful completion of their rotation would depend upon receiving an acceptable score on the subject exam as well as a passing clinical evaluation from you.

Thank you for your interest. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.



Sincerely,
Thomas McWilliams, D.O., FACOFP
Associate Dean of Clinical Campuses