Description

The purpose of this advanced psychosomatic psychiatry elective rotation is to enhance the student’s skills in psychiatric diagnosis, and mental status exam. A strong effort is made to integrate medicine and psychiatry in order to provide comprehensive patient care. The student will gain further understanding of the role of the psychiatrist in the setting of the hospital while enhancing their knowledge of the relationship between medical and psychiatric diagnoses. Emphasis will be placed also on the development of interviewing techniques, differential diagnoses and the development of brief treatment strategies. The student will be exposed to a wide range of adult psychopathology. The student participates as part of the multidisciplinary team in the evaluation and treatment of medically hospitalized patients of all ages and their families. This elective is designed to provide advanced training in the psychiatric care of medically and surgically ill patients in a suburban community hospital. The elective is intended for those students interested in pursuing a career in psychiatry. The rotation is also appropriate for those students who are interested in pursuing other fields, but would like advanced training in the diagnosis and management of psychiatric and behavioral problems in the hospital setting.

Key Objectives

- Students must demonstrate knowledge regarding clinical, and cognitive (epidemiologic and social/behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge in the direct patient care of those with psychiatric and cognitive disturbances.
- To increase knowledge of the psychiatric contributors to medical and surgical patient presentations
- To increase acuity in clinical judgment.
- To understand the difference in psychiatric symptomatology among patients of all ages.
- To understand how patient cognitive difficulties impact patient’s presentations and medical care.
- To understand evaluation and management of agitation and behavioral problems; capacity eval; guardianship/probate issues; mood and psychotic disorders
- To become proficient at safety (suicidal and homicidal) risk evaluation and the appropriate psychiatric dispositions in management of these issues.
- To become well versed in being the liaison between intraprofessionals (RNs, case managers, crisis team, specialty medical providers) to increase understanding of psychiatric and psychosocial contributors of patients’ illnesses and promote understanding.
- To become proficient in the evaluation and mental status examination of the medically and surgically hospitalized patient
- To develop proficiency in brief medication and psychotherapeutic treatment strategies.
• Students will be involved in the direct care of the medical and surgical patients of the psychiatric consultation and liaison team.
• Understand the contribution and impact of biopsychosocial contributors of the patients’ presentations
• Understand and describe the classifications of psychotropic medications and appropriate uses in medically and surgically hospitalized patients appropriate to the patients’ diagnoses.
• Understand non-pharmacologic and behavioral modification approaches that can be used in the hospital setting, such as crisis intervention, verbal de-escalation, and brief cognitive behavioral, motivational and insight oriented psychotherapies.

Assessment Method
College of Medicine standard elective assessment will be completed by supervising faculty at conclusion of elective clerkship.

Scheduling Information
Interested students should contact CMU College of Medicine Department of Distributed Clinical Education at CMEDDCE@cmich.edu.