LONGITUDINAL PRECEPTORSHIP

In this 3rd year program students explore clinical specialties in greater depth with an emphasis on building clinical skills and understanding the practice rewards and demands of different specialties.

1. The Preceptorship begins mid-July and continues throughout the 3rd year. Students attend a total of 16 sessions that correspond with the Systems Based Health Care (SBHC) schedule. SBHC takes place in the mornings and Preceptorship in the afternoon. They are held on the same day for the entire year.

2. At mid-point of the 3rd year, students may change Preceptors to explore another practice or specialty. Students in primary care specialties have the option of staying with the same Preceptor throughout the year. Students in unusual or high-demand specialties and students in a specialty or doing research that does not involve conducting comprehensive histories and physical exams that span several organ systems, will be required to switch mid-year. (e.g. Dermatology, Radiology, Pathology and Ophthalmology).

3. Students may pursue clinically relevant research with a preceptor for one semester if they choose. Ideally, this research will involve some patient interaction. The same time commitment and number of sessions is required. This option is subject to approval by the Program Director.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Improve history-taking, physical examination skills, assessment and approach to the management of common clinical problems encountered in the practice setting or field:
   - Accuracy in collecting the pertinent history
   - Proficiency with the physical examination
   - Ability to conduct a focused work-up
   - Ability to present findings and assessment for discussion

2. Become familiar with the practical elements involved in clinical practice:
   - Qualities of clinical decision-making process
   - Skills needed for successful patient care
   - Rewards and demand of practice
   - Breadth and diversity of professional opportunities within a given specialty

3. Career exploration and development:
   - Potential to explore up to two different areas of interest
   - Opportunity to engage in mentored clinical research and improve skills as a physician-scholar
   - Opportunity for in-depth one on one mentorship within academic medicine
   - Option to continue research projects initiated during the first two years of medical school or to initiate research that may be carried into the 4th year.

Course Chair: Tahlia Spector, MD
tspector@ucla.edu

Coordinator: Jill Richardson
(310) 825-7863
jkrichardson@mednet.ucla.edu