

Course Description: HUMANISM IN MEDICINE ENRH-142

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Molly Camp

Department: Psychiatry

Student Liaison: Anjali Nambiar (anjali.nambiar@utsouthwestern.edu)

Requirements:

- Minimum participants for course to be conducted: 5
- Maximum number of students per course (if applicable): unlimited

Rationale

Medicine is both an art and a science. Medical school curriculums cover scientific principles in detail. However, as William Osler once said, “It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease than what sort of a disease a patient has.”

The hope for this elective is to provide skills to strengthen the patient-physician relationship. Hearing a patient’s perspective regarding healthcare and possible barriers to care can help future physicians understand the importance of patient input in developing realistic treatment plans. Furthermore, with the assistance of physicians and non-physician experts, we will discuss addiction and chronic pain, homelessness, intimate partner violence, end-of-life care, and barriers to health care, specifically addressing how these can impact our patients and their overall health. Cases with ethical dilemmas from clinical rotations and/or volunteer clinics will also be discussed. Lastly, time will be spent discussing how to promote one’s own health in a demanding profession.

Objectives

The goal of this elective is to complement the medical school curriculum and focus on developing skills needed to become a well-rounded physician who is informed about both the social, ethical, and medical issues that affect our patients.

Format: lectures, discussions, and active learning

Student Evaluation:

Grades will be pass / fail. Attendance and active participation are required to receive credit for the course.

Course Evaluation

Grading will be pass/fail. To receive transcript acknowledgment, students must:

- attend at least 10 participant hours
- complete the online course evaluation form

Schedule (All lectures in D1.102 unless otherwise specified)

I. Patient-Centered Care I (1hr)

Dr. Pravin Khemani, Neurology; Guest Patient

August 31st 2017, D1.102

In a typical medical school curriculum, physicians learn the basics of diagnosis and treatment of degenerative diseases. However, the opportunity to see examples of how these diseases effect patients' lives and families is limited. Sometimes, in order to treat a whole patient, physicians must look to more than the the visible symptoms and corresponding pharmacotherapy. This lecture will feature a patient and a movement disorder specialist, who will discuss the impact of a diagnosis of neurodegenerative disease and of providing quality, patient-centered care.

II. Physician as an Advocate (1hr)

Dr. Chet Wells, Obstetrics and Gynecology

September 7th 2017, D1.102

Patient advocacy is known to be a core value of the medical profession. The AMA Declaration of Professional Responsibility calls physicians to "advocate for social, economic, educational, and political changes that ameliorate suffering and contribute to human well-being." But despite the general acceptance of the importance of advocacy, the definition and practical application of advocacy in physician training and practice is much less understood. This lecture will investigate what it means for physicians to advocate for patients in a clinical setting versus patient advocacy on community, societal, and policy levels.

III. Human Trafficking (1hr)

Bill Bernstein, Mosaic Family Services

September 14th 2017, D1.200

Human trafficking is a major public health problem, both domestically and internationally; the U.S. Department of State estimates that 14,500 to 17,500 persons are brought into the United States each year for labor or sexual exploitation. The purpose of this lecture is to expose medical students to definitions, statistics, and common health care problems of trafficking victims. A representative from Mosaic Family Services, a Dallas nonprofit dedicated to providing services to refugees and immigrants in crisis, will lead this presentation.

IV. Medical Student Reflection Rounds (1hr)

GHHS Committee Members

September 21st 2017, Location TBD

In addition to coping with the normal stressors of everyday life, medical students must deal with stressors specific to medical school, which include information and input overload, lack of leisure time, difficult experiences with patients and in the hospital. In this session, we will discuss challenges specific to the medical student experience and provide perspectives and strategies from 4th year medical students.

V. Barriers to Care I: Cultural and Language Differences (1hr)

Dr. Adrian Salazar, Internal Medicine

October 5th 2017, D1.102

At this session, we will address the intricacies of practicing medicine in a diverse society. We will focus specifically on how patients' unique cultural and religious backgrounds can affect their treatment preferences and perceptions of healthcare.

VI. Physician Wellness (1hr)

Dr. Molly Camp, Psychiatry

Oct 12 2017, D1.102

The medical education and training process has been viewed as demanding and dehumanizing; furthermore, compassion fatigue and loss of empathy appear to be growing problems in the field. This session will focus on how to maintain compassion and manage emotional stressors in a difficult profession.

VII. Barriers to Care I: Social Determinants (1hr)

Dr. Oanh Nguyen, Internal Medicine

October 19th 2017, D1.102

Psychosocial issues often impact the health of our patients. When treating patients, the social history is often overlooked or simplified to whether the patient smokes, drinks, or uses recreational drugs. However, this simplified approach has many pitfalls as patients' living situations may affect their ability to successfully manage their health conditions after discharge. As the importance of social determinants on health becomes more and more recognized, there is an ever-growing need for multidisciplinary medical teams to fully address a patient's needs. Discussion will center on what future physicians need to know to best collaborate with other members of the team to efficiently prepare an appropriate disposition plan.

VIII. End of Life Care: Physician Panel (1 hr)

Dr. Evans, Pediatric Neurology; Dr. Abdelfattah, Trauma/Critical-Care;

Dr. Dalton, Geriatrics

October 26th 2017, D1.102

Physicians are trained to maintain health and fight illness, but typically receive little guidance on how to communicate with dying patients and their families. Poor communication can result in suboptimal care, and patients and their families may be subjected to undue mental or physical anguish. In addition, different clinical settings may present unique challenges when it comes to discussing this topic. This lecture features a panel of physicians who often deal with end-of-life situations. Case-based presentations will be used to illustrate the nature of end-of-life care and communication in different specialties.

IX. Intimate Partner Violence (1 hr)

Debra Mitchell-Ibe, The Family Place

November 2th 2017, D1.102

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a common health-care issue and known to be underreported and poorly recognized in healthcare settings. IPV can include physical, emotional, sexual, and financial abuse. Although caring for patients in abusive relationships may be challenging, knowledge of the challenges these patients face can improve outcomes. This session will educate students on IPV and will be led by a representative from The Family Place, a Dallas organization that provides free services to families affected by domestic violence.

X. Palliative Care (1 hr)

Dr. Tamara McGregor, Palliative Care

November 9th 2017, D1.102

This session is designed to dispel myths regarding palliative care. An emphasis will be placed on providing care that enhances quality of life over quantity of life in appropriate clinical scenarios. Additionally, an expert physician will discuss how to compassionately approach discussions with patients and their families regarding goals of care/end-of-life care.

XI. Patient-Centered Care II (1 hr)

Dr. Dan Sepdham, Family Medicine

November 16 2017, D1.102

A physician who is recognized for his patient-centered care and compassionate demeanor will talk about how he maintains empathy on a daily basis. The physician will also discuss how he addresses challenging situations such as the stresses associated with managing chronic illnesses and the fear of a surgery or hospitalization.

XII. Addiction (1hr)

Dr. Sidarth Wakhlu, Psychiatry; Guest Patient

November 30th 2017, D1.102

The goal of this session is to increase awareness and understanding regarding the challenging topic of addiction. In all medical disciplines, students will encounter patients and colleagues that have had to battle an addiction, whether that be alcohol, drugs, or another behavior. This lecture will explore the approach to patients with various addictions, while also giving students the chance to listen to a patient's perspective in overcoming their addiction and how the medical community may have helped or hindered them in the journey.

XIII. Homelessness (2 hrs)

Trip to The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center

TBA

This session will focus on attaining a better understanding of patients' social situations and how this impacts their ability to receive care and obtain medications. This session will involve a tour of a local homeless shelter.