

## Guide to the Major Clinical Year 2007-2008

### Class of 2009

#### I). Dates

- June 18, 2007 to June 22, 2007 is Transition Week which marks the official beginning of the third year. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory.
- June 22, 2007 is the Steven Z. Miller Student Clinician Ceremony. Family members and guests are welcome to attend.
- The Major Clinical Year clerkships begin June 25, 2007 and end June 20, 2008.

#### II). Holidays and Vacations

All holidays in the third year are listed below. Please keep in mind that some clerkships may require coverage by students during these times. Course directors and site directors will dictate these needs to you. When in doubt, consult them about attendance during the holiday.

- Holidays
  - Wednesday, July 4, 2007.
  - Monday, September 3, 2007, Labor Day.
  - Thursday, November 22, 2007, Thanksgiving Day is a holiday. Friday, November 23, 2007 is a regular day and you are expected to attend.
  - Monday, January 21, 2008, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday.
  - Monday, February 18, 2008, President's day.
  - Monday, May 22, 2008, Memorial Day.
- Vacations
  - Saturday, December 15, 2007 to Sunday, January 1, 2008\*\* .  
\*\* The University calendar for 2007-2008 has not been publicized. January 2, 2008 is the first working day as of now.
  - One week vacation during Subspecialties I (SUB I), determined at the time of scheduling.
  - One week of vacation during Subspecialties II( SUB II), determined at the time of scheduling.

#### II). Rotations and Sites

- Students will rotate through 7 core clerkships. All core clerkships are 5 weeks long, with the exception of Medicine, which is 10 weeks long. Core clerkships include:
  - **Medicine:** Students are assigned to 5 weeks at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and 5 weeks at one of the affiliated sites (Allen Pavilion, Harlem, Roosevelt, St. Luke's, or Stamford Hospitals).
  - **Neurology:** Students are assigned to Harlem or New York Presbyterian Hospitals.

- **OB/GYN:** Students are assigned to New York Presbyterian, St. Luke's-Roosevelt, or Stamford Hospitals.
- **Pediatrics:** Students are assigned to Harlem or New York Presbyterian Hospitals.
- **Primary Care:** Students are assigned to Bassett HealthCare, Concord Hospital, Harlem Hospital, Indian Health Services sites (Shiprock, Whiteriver, Zuni), Presbyterian/ACNC, Presbyterian/Adolescent Clinic, Presbyterian/Family Medicine, Roosevelt Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Stamford Hospital, Tully Family Practice, or the VA Medical Center. **All primary care site assignments are determined by a special lottery held in the Spring by the Primary Care office. Stephanie Maher (x 59585, slm1@columbia.edu ) will coordinate all aspects of Primary Care assignments.**
- **Psychiatry:** Students are assigned to Creedmoor, New York Presbyterian, Roosevelt, St. Luke's, or Stamford. All didactic courses are taught at New York Presbyterian.
- **Surgery:** Students are assigned to Allen Pavilion, Bassett, New York Presbyterian, St. Luke's (some lectures and ER at Roosevelt), or Stamford Hospitals.
- Students will rotate through two 5 week blocks and be exposed to surgical subspecialties:
  - **Subspecialties I** are one week long experiences, all at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and they include:
    - Anesthesiology
    - Neurosurgery
    - Ophthalmology
    - Otolaryngology
    - Vacation week
  - **Subspecialties II** are two week long experiences.
    - Orthopedic Surgery: Students are assigned to New York Presbyterian or St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospitals.
    - Urology: Students are assigned to New York Presbyterian Hospital.
    - Vacation week.
- Students at Stamford and Bassett are given housing accommodations. Bassett students must have a valid driver's license. Students at Creedmoor are provided a car parked at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and maintained by Creedmoor; students coordinate travel and driving amongst themselves.

### III). Lottery Sign Up and Scheduling

- Students sign up for one of 10 groups; groups differ in the order of rotation. Each group is approximately 15 in size.
- The groups go through the same rotations at the same time, having a shared experience, but the sites they are assigned to may not be the same.
- Sign ups will occur by lottery, at a class meeting held in March or April. You may enter the lottery alone or in a group with no more than 4 people (yourself

included). If you cannot attend the lottery or the sign up, you may send someone as a proxy. Please inform Brian Paquette ([bp29@columbia.edu](mailto:bp29@columbia.edu)) who your proxy is. Not all group members have to be present to enter. **If anyone shows up on more than one group assignment, all groups will be disbanded and you will be forced to sign up as individuals.**

- The lottery number you are assigned to determines the order you pick your rotation schedule. Lower numbers pick first.
- Sign ups for rotation schedules occurs one or two days after the lottery draw.
- You will receive a preliminary schedule in early May. You may make two changes of hospital assignments with someone in your group. Both parties need to email Brian Paquette ([bp29@columbia.edu](mailto:bp29@columbia.edu)) before the change is accepted. All requests for changes to the schedule must be made within 5 business days receipt of the preliminary schedule.
- After the two weeks of changes are complete, schedules are final. A final schedule with a packet of information will be sent to your P&S boxes.

#### **IV). Additional Rules**

- Students must rotate through three hospitals other than NYPH during the Major Clinical Year. Primary care sites away do count as an away site.
- Students with children will rotate in New York City only.
- Vacations during SUB I or SUB II cannot be swapped.
- If a student is ill or unable to attend a clerkship because of a family emergency, he/she must notify the clerkship director and the Office of Student Affairs (x 5-3806) promptly.

## **Helpful Tips from Dean Mellman**

The following information about planning the MCY and succeeding in it is based on questions from members of previous classes:

### **Planning 3rd Year**

- The order in which you complete your rotations will not impact your chances of getting into a specialty for residency. However if you know you are especially interested in a specialty, placing it just after the December break will allow you to be well rested for the rotation and already somewhat experienced about 3rd year.
- Although students often try to be in a group for MCY with their friends, they may actually see one another infrequently in the hospital as students are spread out over different hospitals and different floors.
- Students who commit to a specialty late in 3rd year because they were exposed to that field late may readjust their 4th year elective schedule to meet their new career goals.

### **Evaluations in 3rd Year**

- Do not dismiss or neglect other rotations once you believe you have selected your specialty for residency. Students often change their minds about specialty during 3rd year. All evaluations and grades count when program directors are looking at your application for residency. It will be destructive to you if you slacked off.
- Evaluation forms for P&S faculty and housestaff to evaluate 3rd year students have recently been standardized across rotations. This allows for consistent evaluation and grading. Clerkship directors should tell you what your evaluation will be based on at the beginning of the rotation and you should receive midpoint feedback.
- Six of the longer clerkships give a standardized “shelf” exam from the National Boards. The clerkship director will tell you how much it counts in your final grade. The shelf exam assesses your fund of knowledge and allows those who are quieter on rounds to demonstrate their knowledge. It balances the perception that students who do scut and talk on rounds get better grades than those who are more restrained.
- Learning in 3rd year includes doing, not just reading. Students who do not get intensely involved in patient care learn less. On the other hand you need to balance your life with an occasional dinner, movie, visit with family or friends, etc.
- Remember that you are doing the MCY because you haven’t done it before. Each specialty has a different culture and will help you decide whether to consider it for your future, or cross it off your list. Each rotation gives you more skills and expertise regarding how to be a 3rd year student. You are not expected to master 3rd year until the end.

### **Boards**

- Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills must be taken by October 31 of the year you complete 3rd year. The deadline is the same even if you are taking 4th year off for research, dual degree, etc. Sign up in July to get the dates and location you want. Otherwise you might be stuck traveling to a distant location at an inconvenient time. Step 2 CK and CS deadline for MD/PhD students is February 21 of the year of intended graduation.
- USMLE Step 1 Mean P&S Score has ranged from 229-231 recently (National 215).
- USMLE Step 2 CK Mean P&S Score has ranged from 222-223 recently (National 212).
- You will spend one day at the Morchand Center with simulated cases in the spring of 3rd year, and your patient care will be videotaped and scored. It is highly recommended that you review the video with your assigned preceptor before you take Step 2.

### **Other tips**

- Always keep a stethoscope, note pad or PDA and pen with you so you can examine patients and keep track of information. You may need to keep other equipment with you depending on the specialty.
- If you have questions, always go “up the ladder”. This means asking your question first to a 4th year student, then intern, resident, chief resident, before asking the attending or course director. However, the course director is always in charge. If there is an interpersonal conflict you should always go directly to the course director.
- Try to see and learn as much as possible. It will be your only opportunity in some specialties.