

Physicians & Social Responsibility 2 (CBHX2410)

2 credits Concurrent Elective (August – February)

Elective Director: K. Faber-Langendoen, MD faberlak@upstate.edu

Maximum number of students: 12

The responsibility of a physician is not only to deliver excellent care, but also to work to change systems when they conspire to make it difficult to do the right thing. This elective, a follow-up to the introductory Physicians and Social Responsibility (PSR) 1, gives medical students tools to identify areas within health care that need change and to work effectively to make that change happen. PSR2 builds on students' experiences to equip them to identify and address the policies, systems, and assumptions underlying the health care system's inadequacies and injustices. PSR2 includes 1) a seminar on levels of systems change and advocacy skills for physicians and 2) a mentored project to effect change in health care. The seminar portion is presented as an eight 2-hour sessions on Wednesday afternoons. The project requires 40 hours outside of class. The project may be based on a service-learning site but need not be. Projects are focused on a specific advocacy effort, and may include clinical service in settings providing care for the marginalized or policy work for professional organizations, advocacy groups, or health care institutions.

Open to students who completed PSR1.