

Neurology Elective for Internal Medicine Residents

Department Chairman:	Jeremy Shefner, MD, Ph.D.
Course Director:	Deborah Bradshaw, MD
Duration:	4 weeks
Hours of Participation:	Full time, night call if desired.
# Residents per rotation:	1
Location:	University Hospital
Time of the Year Available:	Year-round
Prerequisites:	One or two years of Internal Medicine

This rotation is offered to senior residents as part of the Department of Neurology's effort to provide neurological training to physicians in fields where neurological problems are frequently encountered. The rotation offers the resident an opportunity to refine her/his neurological history-taking and examination skills under the direct supervision of an attending neurologist. In addition, it offers clinical experience with neurological disorders commonly encountered on the consult service, including delirium, seizures, anoxic brain injury, movement disorders and neurological complications of medical illness. The resident is exposed to the basics of electroencephalography and its application in the diagnosis of seizures and confusional states. Experience is also provided with interpretation of neuroradiological studies of brain and spinal cord disorders.

Patient Care:

- Evaluate new consults as assigned by senior neurology resident.
- Write or dictate consultation note.
- Attend consult team work and attending rounds.
- Present consults to the neurology consult attending.
- Monitor daily test results of assigned patients, including laboratory tests, EEGs and neuroradiologic studies.
- Notify neurology resident and attending of significant test results and changes in clinical status.
- Write daily progress notes.
- Assist primary team with arranging appropriate post-discharge neurology follow-up care.

Medical knowledge:

- Refine neurological history-taking and examination skills
- Refine mental status examination skills

- Refine coma examination skills
- Become familiar with the diagnosis, etiology and management of delirium.
- Learn the prognostic indicators in post-arrest anoxic encephalopathy
- Develop knowledge of diagnosis, classification and treatment of seizure disorders
- Learn basics of brain and spine CT and MRI interpretation
 - Recognize acute and chronic cerebral infarctions, intracranial hemorrhage, tumors, multiple sclerosis, meningeal inflammation & spinal stenosis.
- Become familiar with the basics of EEG including
 - Elements of the normal EEG, including the standard nomenclature for electrode naming, the alpha rhythm, the significance of slowing, spikes, sharp waves and triphasic waves.

Practice-based Learning

- Seek and utilize practice parameters and other evidence-based medicine guidelines for patient care.
- Use information technology to locate, review, critique and apply results of scientific studies to care of patients on service.
- Share knowledge with other team members, including other residents and medical students, through teaching and role modeling positive behaviors.
- Remain open to suggestions for improvement by consulting services, by nursing staff, allied health professionals and other team members, including medical students, junior residents and faculty.

Interpersonal and communication skills

- Present histories and physicals in succinct & articulate manner.
- Respond to pages promptly and courteously
- Write consultation notes that are legible, accurate and timely
- Use effective listening skills in interactions with patients, junior residents, and health care team members
- Communicate with consulting physicians and all health care team members in a prompt and courteous manner.
- Display courtesy & empathy while interacting with patients and family; be available to answer patient and family questions.

Professionalism

- Model professionalism for medical students on the service, always demonstrating respect, compassion and integrity in interactions with patients, family, staff and team members.
- Place the interest of the patient above self- interest at all times.
- Demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of care, confidentiality, and informed consent. Seek knowledge about these principles when necessary.
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities.

Systems-Based Practice

- Advocate for patient access to hospital and community based support services
- Seek information about and advocate for cost-effective patient care practices
- Work closely with primary team in discharge planning and arrange for appropriate neurological follow-up.
- Identify ways in which the consult service can improve patient safety and care and communicate these to the neurology senior or consult attending.

Revised: March 2009