OBJECTIVES

Third Year Surgical Clerkship

The third year Surgery Clerkship is designed to give the medical student an in-depth introduction to the discipline of surgery. The unique aspects of the care of patients with surgical problems to include: history and physical examination, diagnostic procedures, preoperative management, intraoperative care and postoperative management will be emphasized. In addition, the general principles common to all medical disciplines will be reinforced. Upon completion of the clerkship, students will be able to demonstrate the following, both in discussions with faculty and peers and in their interactions with patients and other health care professionals:

Upon completion of the Surgical Clerkship, students will be able to:

ALTRUISM

- Demonstrate compassionate treatment of patients, and respect for their privacy and dignity.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in all interactions with patients, their families, colleagues and others with whom physicians must interact in their professional lives.
- Demonstrate willingness to provide appropriate surgical care to patients regardless of the patient’s contribution to their own illness, potential risk to the surgeon or other social or cultural issues.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the critical contributions made by other health care professionals in the care of surgical patients, to include: anesthesiologists, interventional radiologists, intensivists, nursing, etc.
- Demonstrate an ability to work with these other personnel in a cooperative manner, while remaining the primary decision-maker in the care of the surgical patient.
- Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, including: a) preparation for lectures and small groups by reading about the topic prior to the meeting, b) preparation for patient rounds, c) punctuality, and d) dependability in accomplishing assigned tasks.

KNOWLEDGE

- Demonstrate knowledge of the principles of sterile technique.
- Understanding of the fluid and electrolyte disturbances and nutritional requirements in patients with surgical diseases and the appropriate management of these derangements.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of wound healing and conditions, which can inhibit this process.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the evaluation of patients with acute abdominal pain to include history and physical findings, the appropriate use diagnostic procedures and the process, which leads to making a clinical decision to operate or observe.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the systematic evaluation and treatment of the acutely injured patient.
- Demonstrate knowledge of common surgical illnesses such as appendicitis, hernias, pancreatic diseases, diseases of the liver and gall bladder, disorders of the small and large intestines, breast diseases, anorectal diseases, and gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of peripheral vascular diseases, their evaluation and management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of common pediatric surgical conditions and those aspects of surgical management, which are unique to the pediatric patient.
- Demonstrate knowledge of risk factors for cardiac vascular disease and indications for surgical management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of disorder of the lungs requiring surgical intervention.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of transplant immunology and transplant surgery.
- Demonstrate knowledge of common surgical infections and their management.
- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of gross anatomy as it applies to the chest and abdomen as it applies to surgical procedures.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of urologic diseases, their evaluation and management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of orthopedic diseases, their evaluation and management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of neurosurgical diseases, their evaluation and management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the etiology of head, neck and otolaryngeal diseases, their evaluation and management.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the delivery and management of anesthesia.

**SKILLS**

- Demonstrate the ability to perform a history and physical examination of patients with surgical illness, focusing on signs and symptoms related to the surgical illness.
- Demonstrate the ability to recognize pre and postoperative pain and understand the importance of pain control in the postoperative patient.
- Demonstrate the ability to effectively present a patient to a colleague in a professional manner.
- Demonstrate the ability to scrub for an operation, gown and glove correctly and be able to move about in the operating room and assist without compromising sterile.
- Develop the skills to reason and deduce the presence of a surgical emergency and know when to refer emergently to a surgeon.
- Demonstrate an ability to assist in surgical procedures by providing exposure; cutting suture and tying knots.
Demonstrate the ability to perform minor procedures such as suturing lacerations, inserting Foley catheters, performing minor wound debridements and dressing changes, staple or suture removal, phlebotomy and placing intravenous catheters.

Demonstrate the ability to assess the surgical incision for evidence of infection, necrosis or dehiscence.

**DUTIFUL**

- Demonstrate the ability to review the appropriate anatomy, pathophysiology, surgical procedure and complications for elective operations in which they will be participating.
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuing education.
- Demonstrate the ability to retrieve (from electronic databases and other resources), manage, and utilize biomedical information for solving problems and making decisions that are relevant to the care of patients.