COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR PSYCHIATRY CLERKSHIP

Appreciate the epidemiology and course of the major psychiatric disorders.

Appreciate the personal, family and public health impact of psychiatric disorders alone and when comorbid with other medical conditions.

Appreciate the role of a focused physical exam, particularly in emergency department and inpatient settings and for outpatient consultation, as part of comprehensive assessment of psychiatric presentations for which underlying neurological or other non-psychiatric disorders may be responsible (e.g., mass lesions, endocrinopathies, CNS infection).

Appreciate the role of psychiatrists and psychiatric treatment in the health care system.

Be able to develop relationships with patients that are empathic and well-bounded, informed by knowledge of a patient's illness and experiences, and guided by the best interests of the patient.

Be attuned to the impact of cultural background on psychiatric symptom presentation and on treatment adherence.

Be aware of major hypotheses concerning pathophysiology of and risk factors for mood and anxiety disorders, psychosis and addictions.

Be aware of obstacles to access to mental health treatment.

Be aware of the empirical bases for the major psychotherapeutic treatments used in psychiatry.

Be familiar with putative mechanisms of action and empirical basis for use of the major psychopharmacological treatments.

Be familiar with the role of different levels and systems of care relevant to psychiatric disorders including outpatient, inpatient, partial hospital, and residential treatment programs, community mental health centers, and self-help/support groups.

Conduct a systematic and focused psychiatric diagnostic interview including a recent and past psychiatric history and general medical history (including a substance abuse history), family history of psychiatric and general medical illness, as well as a social and developmental history (cultural factors, educational and occupational background, social and intimate relationships and supports, and legal problems).
Demonstrate directed commitment to self-learning and team-learning through reading, active participation in didactic sessions and case conferences, seeking out informative clinical encounters, and soliciting and utilizing feedback for self-improvement.

Demonstrate integrity, reliability, responsibility and collegiality in psychiatric care settings.

Identify and evaluate personal beliefs and attitudes toward patients with psychiatric disorders.

Interact with patients with psychiatric disorders, family members, and members of multidisciplinary teams respectfully, empathically and effectively.

Perform a comprehensive mental status exam including assessment of appearance, behavior, motor activity, speech, mood, affect, thought processes, thought content (including paranoia, suicidality, homicidality), perceptions (including hallucinations), cognitive exam (orientation, fund of knowledge, attention, memory, abstraction), insight and judgment.

Present a psychiatric case concisely with an emphasis on pertinent positives and negatives needed for a comprehensive differential diagnosis, risk assessment and treatment plan.

Understand the problem of stigma associated with mental illness and its impact in health care settings and in the community.

Write up a thorough psychiatric evaluation including all aspects of the diagnostic interview and mental status exam as well as a differential diagnosis with supporting evidence as well as a provisional DSM-IV 5 Axis diagnosis, biopsychosocial formulation and treatment plan.