

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE PROGRAM LEADING TO THE MD DEGREE

PATIENT CARE

Graduates obtain appropriate histories and perform skillful, comprehensive and accurate patient examinations. They develop appropriate differential diagnoses and patient care management plans. They recognize and understand the principles for managing life-threatening situations. They select, perform and accurately interpret the results of laboratory tests and clinical procedures in making patient care decisions, and use appropriate diagnostic and treatment technologies in providing patient care.

Graduates will be able to:

1. Obtain an accurate medical history that covers all essential aspects of the history.
2. Perform both a complete and an organ-system specific examination.
3. Perform commonly used diagnostic procedures and interpret the results
4. Reason deductively in solving clinical problems. Construct appropriate management strategies (both diagnostic and therapeutic) for patients with common conditions, both acute and chronic, and those requiring short- and long-term rehabilitation.
5. Provide care that is appropriate to the patient's age, sex, socio-economic status, ethnicity and culture.
6. Recognize patients with immediate life threatening conditions and institute appropriate initial therapy.
7. Effectively work with health care professionals, including those from other disciplines, to provide patient-focused care.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Graduates apply problem solving and critical thinking skills to problems in basic science and clinical medicine. They demonstrate knowledge about (1) established and evolving core of basic sciences, (2) application of sciences to patient care, and (3) investigatory and analytical thinking approaches.

Graduates will demonstrate their knowledge in these specific domains:

1. Core of Basic Sciences
 - Normal structure and function of the body as a whole and of each of the major organ systems
 - Molecular, cellular and biochemical mechanisms in understanding homeostasis
 - Cognitive, affective and social growth and development
2. Application to Patient Care
 - Altered structure and function (pathology & pathophysiology) of the body/organs in disease
 - Foundations of therapeutic intervention, including concepts of outcomes, treatments, prevention, chronicity and rehabilitation, and their relationships to specific disease processes
 - Information on the organization, financing and distribution of health care
 - Influences of the patient's age, sex, socio-economic conditions, culture, race and ethnicity on the perception of illness and its treatment
 - Legal, ethical issues and controversies associated with medical practice

3. Critical Thinking

- Strategies for clinical decision making (e.g., logic of differential diagnoses)
- Scientific method in establishing the cause of disease and efficacy of treatment
- Principles of epidemiology and statistics
- Use of computer-based techniques to acquire new information and resources for learning

PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Graduates are prepared to practice medicine within the context of society and its expectations. They use evidence-based approaches, demonstrating proficiency with information retrieval and critical appraisal of the medical literature to interpret and evaluate experimental and patient care information. They understand the limits of their own personal knowledge, remediate inadequacies to remain current, and integrate increased self-knowledge into their daily activities.

At the time of graduation, students have not yet established a practice but nonetheless should demonstrate an awareness of and an understanding of these general principles:

1. Evaluation of his/her own patient care practices, using systematic methodology
 - Compare own patient outcomes to larger studies of similar patient populations
 - Use information technology to learn of new, most current practices on national and international levels
 - Use of quality assurance practices
2. Pursuit of continuing education to remediate or improve practice
 - Strategies to access educational materials and activities, including attendance of conferences and seminars, participation in institutionally-based care review activities, and reading the medical literature
 - Use of on-line resources for the most current information and education
3. Use of an evidence-based approach to interpret and evaluate experimental and patient care information.
 - Ability to understand and critically assess articles in professional journals
 - Understand basic requirements and steps for approval of new medicines and techniques

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Graduates must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, patients' families, and professional associates. They promote health behaviors through counseling of individual patients and their families, and through public education and action.

Graduates will demonstrate:

1. The ability to create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients and their families
2. Effective listening skills and the ability to elicit and provide information using effective nonverbal, explanatory, questioning and writing skills
3. Ability to document and present patient data and clinical information in an organized, accurate, legible and/or verbally clear manner
4. The ability to encourage patients' health and wellness through appropriate patient education

PROFESSIONALISM

Graduates are committed to carrying out professional responsibilities, adhering to ethical principles, and demonstrating sensitivity to diverse patient populations. They are altruistic and compassionate in caring for patients and at all times act with integrity, honesty, and respect for patients' privacy and for the dignity

of patients as persons. Graduates are advocates for improving access to care for everyone. They are committed to working collaboratively with the health care team, and acknowledge and respect the roles of other health professionals. Graduates recognize their limitations and seek improvements in their knowledge and skills.

Graduates will demonstrate:

1. Compassionate treatment of patients.
2. Respect for patients' privacy, dignity and diversity of culture, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation
3. Integrity, reliability, dependability, truthfulness in all interactions with patients, their families and professional colleagues
4. A responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supercedes self-interest.
5. The skills to advocate for improvements in the access of care for everyone, especially those traditionally underserved
6. A commitment to excellence and on-going learning, recognizing their limitations of knowledge, and the skills to effectively address their learning needs
7. Knowledge of and a commitment to uphold ethical principles in such areas as the provision of care, maintaining confidentiality, and gaining informed consent.
8. An understanding of and respect for the contributions of other health care disciplines and professionals, and appropriate participation, initiative and cooperation as a member of the health care team.

SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE AND POPULATION HEALTH

Graduates demonstrate awareness of and responsiveness to the large context and system of health care. They are able to effectively call on system resources to provide optimal care. Graduates are able to work with patients both as individuals and as members of communities and take this into account when performing risk assessments, diagnosing illnesses, making treatment plans and considering the public health implications of their work.

Graduates are expected to:

1. Understand how patient care and professional practices affect health care professionals, the health care organization, and the larger society and how these elements of the system affect their own practice.
2. Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ, including methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resources
3. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
4. Advocate for quality patient care and access for all people, including the underserved, and assist patients in dealing with system complexities
5. Partner with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate and improve health care and understand the impact of these activities on system performance.
6. Understand the physician's role and responsibilities in promoting the health of the community and the underlying principles of preventive medicine and population-based health care delivery.
7. Acquire relevant information about the health of populations or communities and use this information to provide appropriate services.
8. Understand and appropriately mobilize community-based resources and services in planning and providing patient care.