

## **Clinical Applications Course 06-07 Prospectus for a Revised Format**

### **Goal:**

The goal of the Clinical Applications Course (CAC) is to use patient centered case stories to illustrate how addressing clinical problems entails the simultaneous application of basic biological science, clinical science, social and behavioral science, epidemiology, and patient care skills to devise, with the patient, the best course of action.

### **Format:**

- Three fictitious people will appear repeatedly as patients throughout the year, Justin Williams, Alex Rodriguez and Brenda Dobrowski. Two of these three will appear in each of the four blocks.
- The CAC activities will generally be on Tuesday afternoons. The clinical stories will be on-line along with several readings and a list of 6-8 questions that the students will be expected to work on ahead of time and during the small group time together.
- The questions will span the biologic to epidemiologic dimensions of the clinical problem with the goal that individual questions incorporate more than one of these dimensions.
- The readings will provide background and be closely linked to (or draw directly from) the block, ICM or Medicine and Society readings and syllabi. The answers to the questions will usually not be found directly in the assigned reading and will require some further research on the part of the students. As the year progresses, the expectation for doing independent research will increase.
- A 3-5 question MCQ “quiz” will also be on-line for students to complete before 8AM on the morning of the discussion.
- The block syllabus will ideally refer to the case in the days preceding the CAC discussion and will focus attention on the issues that will be raised in the case.
- On the day of the CAC case discussion, the students will be expected to:
  1. Read the case, questions and assigned readings the night before
  2. Complete the quiz before 8AM.
  3. Convene in assigned groups (ICM Groups) to review the case, readings and answers to the questions. The groups will each further research the questions and draft the answers.
  4. Attend the larger group panel during which all the questions will be addressed and answers derived through large group discussion.
  5. Complete an assessment of each of the other students in their group.
- A post-test will be given as a portion of the next block exam and will include several questions directly derived from the CAC discussions.

**Student Assessment:** Student engagement and success will be assessed in three ways.

1. Completion of the “quizlette” due before 8 AM – this demonstrates that the student has read the assignment and at least some of the readings the night before and understands a few basic concepts.
2. Peer assessment by other small group members – each student will assess the participation of the other members of the small group. Much of patient care decision making is done by groups of consulting physicians pooling their knowledge to arrive at the best possible plan. Working in small groups,

doing your part and sharing your knowledge is an important set of skills to be learned and practiced. Also, as a profession, medicine monitors the work of each of our colleagues to assure the highest standards are being met.

3. The Block exam following the case will include 5 questions that derive from the case discussions. These questions will be clinically oriented and draw from all the discussions, not just from the 6-8 questions given at the beginning.

Grades will be Pass and Fail. Students who are not participating adequately will be contacted to discuss this before they are given a failing grade.

**Schedule:** Tuesday afternoons, usually, from 1-4:30 with some variability through the year.

Tuesday, August 15: Justin Williams –

1-2:30 – Small Group Discussion – 14 rooms for groups of 10-14 students with wireless  
2:45-4:00 – Large Group Panel Discussion – 160 students (Clinic Auditorium)

Tuesday, September 26: Alex Rodriguez –

1-2:30 – Small Group Discussion – 14 rooms for groups of 10-14 students with wireless  
2:45-4:00 – Large Group Panel Discussion – 160 students (Clinic Auditorium)

Tuesday, October 24: Brenda Dobrowski –

2-3:15 – Small Group Discussion – 14 rooms for groups of 10-14 students with wireless  
3:30-5 – Large Group Panel Discussion – 160 students (Clinical Auditorium)  
(Dr. Meyer and patient will appear 4:30-5 or on Thursday, October 26)

Thursday, November 16: Justin Williams –

2-3:15 – Small Group Discussion – 14 rooms for groups of 10-14 students with wireless  
3:30-5 – Large Group Panel Discussion – 160 students (Clinical Auditorium)