

**Course: Introduction to Surgical-Subspecialties (SUR 1623)**

Departments: Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurological Surgery, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Urology.

Faculty Coordinator: Sergio Huerta, MD

Hospital: PHHS, St. Paul Medical Center

Periods offered: 2-12 Length: 4 weeks Maximum number of students: 8

First Day Contact: Sandra Molina

First Day Time: 8:00 am First Day Place: E7.110

Pre-requisites: third year surgery clerkship

**I. Course Description:**

The course is designed to allow students to sample several sub-specialties to assist with selection of a surgical sub-specialty career and/or to broaden knowledge of surgical sub-specialties for future primary care practitioners. Students may rotate through 2-4 of the above sub-specialties in one-two week blocks. Students may choose 4-one week blocks, 2 one-week blocks and 1 two-week block or 2 two-week blocks. The specific setting may be hospital and clinic-based. Students will participate in all clinical activities of the service, including observing and participating in procedures in the clinic and operating room.

**Objectives:**

The overall objective of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental clinical aspects of the practice of several sub-specialties including the culture and work environment. Students should learn how to handle common sub-specialty complaints. Students who are interested in a specific sub-specialty are encouraged to spend a sub-internship in that area. Specific broad goals of the subspecialty experiences are listed below.

Observe and practice a detailed subspecialty system-specific exam

Correlate the patients system-specific findings and symptoms with the ordering and interpretation of diagnostic tests

Assist in the management of sub-specialty patients in the in-patient and out-patient setting

Observe and assist and participate in the emergency room care of sub-specialty patients

Observe and assist in the operative management of sub-specialty patients

Attend and participate in sub-specialty conferences in a level-appropriate manner

**Methods of instruction:**

A) Didactic (schedule, topic, faculty) Students will attend departmental conferences for the specific service to which they are assigned during their block rotations

B) Clinical (schedule, faculty teaching, housestaff teaching) Students will be assigned to a clinical service and be expected to participate in all the clinical activities of that service.

C) Student responsibilities (and to whom accountable) Students should participate in a clinically active role, similar to a sub-internship experience. Each rotation will submit an evaluation. Coordinating faculty for each service are listed below. Grades will be collated in the Department of Surgery, Education Office and submitted to the registrar's office by Dr. Bergen

**Method of evaluation of students:**

Grades will be assigned on a Pass/Fail basis. Data for assigning the final grade will include: observation of daily rounds, reports from residents working with the student, personal faculty observation during one-to-one discussions and participation in conferences.