Preventive Medicine and Public Health

Chair: Edward Ellerbeck, M.D., M.P.H

The multidisciplinary Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health uses epidemiological methods to solve individual and population health problems. We are dedicated to the development of education, research, and service that emphasizes health promotion, disease prevention, health services, and public health science to improve health. We place special emphasis on a population health perspective that encompasses the ability to assess the health needs of a specific population; implements and evaluates interventions to improve the health of that population; and provides care for individual patients in the context of the culture, health status, and health needs of the population of which that patient is a member. Through required and elective courses, the department emphasizes the following content areas: evidence-based medicine; social and behavioral determinants of health (at an individual and population level); ethics; organization and financing of U.S. health care; the principles, practice, and financing of preventive care; cost-analytic approaches and information in prioritizing the use of resources; and describing population demographics.

PMED 910. Special Topics in Community Health. 4 Hours.
Independent study of community health issues and their implications for or impact on the health of society. Examples include infectious disease control, immunization programs, nutrition, air pollution, over-population, wellness, health promotion and life-style change programs, cancer epidemiology, care of disabled persons, mental health programs, the terminally ill or the elderly, poverty, sports, physical fitness programs, etc. Specific content will be defined primarily by interest, background, and wishes of the student. Emphasis will be placed on the methodology used in gaining information and the means by which a health professional can translate and channel such information effectively into educational processes of the community. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. IND.

PMED 922. Advanced Selected Topics. 4 Hours.
Special studies tailored to the interests of students wishing to further their training in one or more areas concerning clinical medicine, environmental health or delivery of health care. Epidemiologic evaluation of a disease or health related problem is encouraged. This sequence will include readings, clinical studies, and field work when appropriate, guided by frequent conferences with an advisor. The objectives of the individual student will be dissected and declared at the initiation of the sequence and the attainment measured through a terminal seminar for elective credit or brief paper designed to fulfill the communication requirement. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. IND.

PMED 925. Public Health Experience--Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department. 4-8 Hours.
Opportunities will be presented for students to work with a state or local health department either in studying public health problems in the community (e.g. teenage pregnancy, VC, lead poisoning) or through participation to health services under the supervision of the staff. Specific assignments will be developed individually for each student, who will meet with the instructor once per week and present a seminar at the conclusion of this experience. IND.

PMED 950. International Health Experience. 4-8 Hours.
Within this elective are presented opportunities for the student to gain clinical and community health experiences in an international setting. The country selected is to be prearranged by the student with the assistance of faculty. Two modules are recommended for this elective. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. LEC.

PMED 956. Special Experiences--Environmental/Occupational Health. 4 Hours.
Placements will be made to provide clinical or field experiences to study the health effects of both air and water pollution and environmental hazards as these relate to occupation. Arrangements will be made with local, state, or federal agencies (e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration), private clinics, hospitals, industries, unions, or other organizations. Specific assignments will be developed individually for each student, who will meet with the instructor once per week and present a seminar at the conclusion of this experience. Offered in modules I-XII. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. LEC.

PMED 970. Principles of Epidemiology. 2 Hours.
Basic concepts of epidemiology and methods for identification of factors influencing health and disease in human populations. Considerations are centered on physical, biological, psychosocial and cultural factors in relation to infectious and non-infectious diseases; interactions between agent, host, and environmental factors as determinants of health and disease; application of the epidemiologic approach to health services; retrospective and prospective analysis of morbidity and mortality data. LEC.