Rehabilitation Medicine

Chair: Raj Mitra, M.D.

Rehabilitation medicine is concerned with the evaluation and treatment of physical impairment and disability. It is an interdisciplinary field where the physiatrist (rehabilitation physician specialist) works with a team of health professionals (rehabilitation psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists) to develop and manage individualized treatment plans to maximize the functional recovery of the disabled individual following a catastrophic illness or injury. Rehabilitation embodies the concept of adding quality to longevity, and emphasizes a holistic approach to the patient with respect to psychological, social, vocational, and avocational adaptation to disability. Students interested in experiencing first hand the interdisciplinary approach learn which patients can benefit from rehabilitation and have the opportunity to participate in patient evaluation and team management of appropriate inpatients and outpatients on a regular basis. Students who desire this type of experience find the skills and knowledge thus gained useful in many aspects of medical practice. First-year students may participate in patient evaluation and clinical discussions of patients in this department as part of the clinical process.

REHB 910. Clerkship in Rehabilitation Medicine. 4 Hours.

The student will have the opportunity to participate in the traditional evaluation and management of disease and disability as well as being oriented toward the impaired performance of function as a result of these conditions. The student will obtain histories from and perform physical examinations on inpatients with particular emphasis on evaluation of function, e.g., neurologic, kinesiologic and self-care function. He/she will be involved in the analysis and management of musculoskeletal disorders common to many situations encountered in internal medicine, family practice, neurology, psychiatry, orthopedic surgery, and neurosurgery. In addition, the student will demonstrate an understanding of methods for function restoration. Evaluation in the course will be based upon at least five (5) case work ups in which the student will present his/her evaluation of function and make recommendations regarding restoration of function. The team approach to the management of these cases will be emphasized. Offered in modules I-XII. Prerequisite: Medical Basic Sciences; 1 required clinical clerkship. FLD.