Psychiatry Clerkship

Dartmouth Medical School
Clerkship Description

- 7 week rotation
- Three sites
  - DHMC, Lebanon
  - Veterans Administration Medical Center, WRJ
  - New Hampshire State Hospital
    - Only state psychiatric hospital
    - Dartmouth Dept. of Psychiatry staff
- Split clerkship: Philbrook 3.5 wks (children’s building, NHH) & DHMC consult or NHH
- Concord 3.5 wks
  - Up to 2 students per rotation
DHMC, Lebanon

- **Inpatient assignment:**
  - 6 weeks inpatient
  - 1 week consultation service

- **Consult service assignment:**
  - 5 weeks consults
  - 2 weeks inpatient team

- **Outpatient:** 2 afternoons / rotation: West Central Services, Lebanon, NH
VAH, WRJ

- 5 weeks inpatient
- 2 weeks consultation service
- Outpatient: 2 afternoons / rotation: West Central Services, Claremont NH
NHH, Concord

- Inpatient unit
- Community Mental Health Center, outpatient experience: 2 afternoons / rotation OR 1 afternoon/week
  - Manchester Community Mental Health
Additional Experience

- All students
  - CRASH: VT state impaired drivers assessment program
    - Substance abuse
  - ECT session @ DHMC
  - Didactic sessions one afternoon/week
- 1/3 students: gero-psychiatrist @ state psychiatric nursing home
Student Evaluations, 2005 - 2006

- Five point scale
  - 1 Poor
  - 2 Fair
  - 3 Good
  - 4 Very good
  - 5 Excellent

- Mean response: excludes responses of "Don’t know" or "N/A"
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Overall quality of clerkship: 4.02 (4.07)
- Clarity of schedule/educ goals: 3.6 (3.32)
- Value as intro to field: 4.02 (4.13)
- Preparation: yr 1 & 2: 3.93 (3.98)
- Patient volume: 3.84 (3.71)
- Diversity of diagnoses: 3.24 (3.27)
- Diversity of patients: 2.20 (2.63)
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Ongoing feedback: 40 / 54 yes
- Midpoint feedback: 53 / 55 yes
- Final feedback: 53 / 55 yes
- Usefulness of feedback: 3.80 (3.69)
- Clarity of grading policy: 3.76 (3.41)
- Formal Didactics:
  - Too much 7, Too little 8, Just right 40
  - Prior year: 10/14/35
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Quality/effectiveness didactics: 3.36 (3.27)
- Availability alternative learning tools: 2.32 (2.9)
  - Computer-based instruction, self-learning modules
- Quality/effectiveness syllabus/manual: 3.07 (2.95)
- Value of night call: 3.47 (3.16)
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Quality attending teaching: 4.02 (4.0)
- Quality resident teaching: 4.04 (4.2)
- Enthusiasm
  - Attending: 4.02 (3.98)
  - Residents: 4.14 (4.16)
- Opportunities to practice hands-on skills: 3.78 (3.81)
- Availability of faculty (personal learning needs, issues, career questions, etc): 4.08 (3.98)
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Observed history/PE, attending or resident:
  - 53/55 (55/59)
    - DHMC: 100%
    - WRJ VA: 100%
    - NHH: 80%
    - Split: 100%
Student Evaluations (n=55)

- Clerkship director (Dr. West): 4.29 (4.27)
- Clerkship coordinator (Patrice Lobacz): 3.79 (3.69)
- Overall support/assistance site staff: 3.96 (3.9)
Student Evaluations (n=55)
I had direct responsibility for . . .

- **Inpatient:**
  - Adequate volume: 50/53
  - Excellent diversity of dx: 46/53
  - Diverse backgrounds: 21/53 yes, 32/53 no

- **Outpatient**
  - Volume/diversity: 27/35
  - On call valuable experience: 22/26
Student Evaluations (n=23)

- Student hours guidelines: were you satisfied with the manner in which these were followed?
  - Good 2; Very Good 3; Excellent 18

- DHMC 4.67
- WRJ VA 4.63
- NHH 5.0
Narrative Comments:
Greatest Strengths

- **DHMC:**
  - Committed to teaching; devoted attendings & residents
  - Didactics very good / critical thinking
  - Mix of consult / inpatient very good

- **WRJ VA:**
  - Attendings/residents great; among best in any clerkship
  - Didactics excellent / critical thinking
  - Great feedback
Narrative Comments: Greatest Strengths

- Concord/NHH
  - Housing GREAT
  - Wide variety patients, diagnoses, background
  - Very “real life” and shocking

- Split clerkship
  - Diversity of settings: geriatric / child psych, outpatient, consult, inpatient
  - Great didactics / critical thinking
Narrative Comments: Weaknesses

- **DHMC**
  - Needs more education/didactics
  - Binder confusing
  - Too much call

- **WRJ VA**
  - Poor didactics
  - Needs child psych
  - Low diversity
Narrative Comments: Weaknesses

- NHH Concord
  - Didactics should be all one day for ease of travel
  - Needs more child psych

- Split clerkship
  - Changing locations difficult
  - Didactics better if all one day
Narrative Comments

- Computer access: good, except for rare comments about access at NHH Concord
Summary

- Excellent rotation, well liked, good diversity of site / patient diagnoses.
- Outstanding comments re: attendings and residents
- Good didactics; students wish they could be coordinated to one day/week