

Pediatric Mood Disorders Clinic: Medical student curriculum

The following activities are the anchor around which students gain experience in working with and understanding children with mood disorders. They are expected to stay with us from 12 noon to 5 or 6 pm, each Tuesday for 6 weeks. This will be equivalent to 3 working days in total.

1. Visit our PMDC web site: www.psych.uic.edu/pmdc/chicago

This will give an overview of the structure, purpose and goals of our clinic. This site will link to several related sites on the pediatric mood disorders.

2. You will participate in the multi-disciplinary team clinical and academic staffing rounds from 12:00 to 1:30pm each Tuesday. You will actively participate in the diagnostic discussion and treatment planning. At times, we staff the follow up treatment techniques on follow up, and progress.
3. You are expected to present a topic for 15 minutes, at our rounds on an issue that interests you in mood disorders. This could be a topic that arises in clinical discussion in the prior week. This involves reading related scientific journal articles. The summary of the topic with the references will be posted in our educational site on our PMDC web site. On average, each student gets to do two topics. Examples of such presentations are available on this site.
4. You get to observe diagnostic interviews each week at 1:30 pm, and you get to write the notes.
5. You will have an opportunity to do an interview yourself. Either faculty member or fellow will sit in and take the notes, and assist you during the interview. You will receive a multidisciplinary feedback at the end.
6. Group therapy experience: One of you will have an opportunity to participate as co-therapist in group therapy called 'hidden treasures group' for depressed children. This will run between 4.30 to 6 pm on Tuesday evenings. This is a protocol-based group that uses several cognitive behavioral and family therapy techniques.
7. Reading material: We have a package that will be given in the first week that covers the overview (DSM IV diagnoses, assessment form, and treatment). You can look at the slides in this web site. Based on these, you are encouraged to ask questions, and learn more.
8. Experience in the follow up clinic: You will have opportunity to sit in the follow up clinics observing medication management and integrated therapy for children and families from 3 pm to 5 pm. There are simultaneously at least 4 clinicians running the follow up clinic. You need to actively seek out to pair up with a clinician. If the

fellow assigned to has not scheduled a child or if they do not turn up, you look for another clinician.

Note: Any time where families are directly involved, they will be asked for consent before we invite you, to respect the privacy of our families. However, we recognize the need for teaching as this is a speciality clinic in a tertiary teaching/university hospital. Educating you will help in early recognition of these disorders in the future.