

EMERGENCY MEDICINE ELECTIVE CLERKSHIP

**Portsmouth Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth, Virginia**

Brief Overview: Rotating medical students may spend 4-6 weeks in our department as a subintern. Students evaluate patients autonomously and present them to emergency medicine senior residents or attending staff physicians. They participate in resuscitation of critically ill or injured patients, and perform necessary procedures when indicated. Didactically, students participate in weekly emergency medicine residency conferences, daily intern lectures, and patient rounds. Additionally, students benefit from a specialized medical student curriculum which covers key concepts in the field. They may also participate in the monthly procedure lab and are invited to attend monthly journal club sessions. Students also benefit from their interaction with interns and residents of varied levels of training and specialty interests. Unique features of our rotation are the exposure to emergencies presenting primarily in the military setting, experience with emergency ultrasound, our observation unit, and our pediatric ED.

Requirements: All 4th year medical students who have written permission from their respective schools or universities are eligible. Additionally, 3rd year students who have completed all of their “core” rotations will be considered eligible. They must also obtain written approval from their respective institutions. Students must seek approval from the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, Office of Academic Affairs.

Goals and Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the student to participating in the specialty of emergency medicine.
- 2) To assist the student in developing a thorough, systematic approach to the rapid recognition, evaluation, treatment, and disposition of the critically ill or injured patient. Additionally, to refine student skills in case presentation.
- 3) To teach the student how to prioritize patient care in terms of risk to life and limb, as well as to introduce the student to management of multiple patients in a busy emergency department.
- 4) To set forth and teach a defined body of knowledge and skills which constitute the cornerstone of the specialty of emergency medicine.
- 5) To define acceptable standards of treatment for frequently encountered problems in the emergency department setting.
- 6) To involve the student in the regularly scheduled residency curriculum.
- 7) To introduce the student to the fields of pre-hospital care, toxicology, disaster management, and environmental medicine-areas which fall into the special expertise of the emergency physician.
- 8) To involve the student in special procedures such as suturing, slit lamp examination, lumbar puncture, gastric lavage, Foley catheter placement, fracture identification and immobilization techniques, acute resuscitation procedures, venous access and CVP line placement, arterial puncture, airway management procedures, and many others.

- 9) To maintain sufficient flexibility to meet the personal needs of the trainee, to afford time for reading and individualized study, and to provide the necessary time for rest and relaxation.
- 10) Ultimately, to allow the student to function as a team-member in our department, improving the quality of care to our patients.

Hospital and Emergency Department Profile:

The Navy's newest medical center opened at Portsmouth in the spring of 1999. Situated at the confluence of the Elizabeth River, the hospital complex offers stunning technological advancements and the latest comforts for both patients and staff. Some examples include digital radiography, hyperbaric oxygen, a laser center, a pediatric intensive care unit, digitally-linked conference rooms, high-resolution telemedicine, food courts, a pediatric emergency department, and an ED observation unit. Its high ceilings, skylights, fashionable artistry, and wide corridors have the feel of an upscale shopping mall. The birthing rooms not only have cable television, hidden medical panels and recliners, but also beds for the fathers. There are 26 elevators, 67 pneumatic tube stations, and electronic patient information kiosks in the hallways. The new hospital will be the centerpiece of Navy medicine now and into the next century.

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is a large 322-bed teaching hospital, which has 14 specialty residencies. The annual patient census in the emergency department exceeds 80,000 visits. Pediatric patients account for approximately 30% of our visits. The admission rate from the emergency department is approximately 10%-15%. The ratio of medical/surgical presenting complaints is roughly 3/2. This high volume provides a rich environment for exposure to the entities commonly encountered in emergency medicine.

The emergency department has 34 beds including 18 monitored beds, 2 resuscitation beds, and 3 observation unit beds. All Naval physicians staffing the department are residency-trained and board-certified or board-eligible in Emergency Medicine. All shifts are covered with up to 5 EM residents and staff physicians to facilitate clinical bedside teaching.

Rotation Specifics / Student Responsibilities: All students check-in to the hospital and department on the first day of the rotation, and receive a complete orientation packet and schedule. They rotate on 3 separate 8-hour shifts. The shifts covered are from 7 a.m.—3 p.m.; 3p.m.-11p.m.; or 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Students attend all didactic residency curricula. Students also complete assigned readings and participate in the specialized student curriculum. A brief 50-question examination is administered at the end of the rotation and is based on the assigned readings.

The test is designed to be primarily educational. Evaluations are based on input from each staff physician familiar with the performance of the student. Plenty of time off is scheduled to allow the student to complete the assignments comfortably. Additional participation in journal club activities is optional.

Why Emergency Medicine in Hampton Roads? Our location at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in the Tidewater area places us in a prime vacation area on the Atlantic coast. During any season, recreational activities abound in the area. Opportunities for enjoying the local beaches, museums, parks, sporting events, and festivals are endless. Virginia Beach, Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Jamestown provide nearby destinations for travel and leisure. History buffs will find the rich historical past difficult to match. Busch Gardens Williamsburg, less than an hour away, is one of the most popular theme parks in the US.

Interested? We Welcome You!!! If you would like more information regarding the clerkship or if you have any unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Similarly, please call or write if you are interested in training with us.

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