Consultation-Liaison/Emergency Psychiatry

Length: Two to eight weeks

Objectives:
1. Perform psychiatric consultation for general hospital patients and patients presenting to the emergency room by assessing the psychologic, biologic and social factors that can contribute to the course of a patient's illness, and communicating these findings to the staff caring for the patient.
2. Recognize the variety of ways that illness (and medications) can affect patient's mental status.
3. Make competency determinations regarding a patient's ability to decide his/her financial, medical or self-care issues.

Experience: The student will be an active member of the Consult Service in a medical center that cares for active-duty and retired military personnel, as well as their dependents. The team consists of an attending psychiatrist, a 4th year psychiatry resident, a psychology intern, and 1-2 rotation interns. Rounds are made daily on the patients being followed, or patients may be followed individually. The student will also participate in the teaching sessions that occur on a weekly basis.

Supervision is provided at all levels of experience.

Texts & Readings: Articles that pertain to C-L/ER will be given out to the student on the first day of, as well as throughout, the rotation.

A suggested (not required) text is: Handbook of General Hospital Psychiatry, Third Edition (1991), by Ned Cassem, M.D.