

RESULTS: A Flexible, Longitudinal Experience

Structure:

- Activities graduated to student level
- Activities customized to field of interest

Rigor:

- Proposal reviewed by Curriculum Committee
- Oversight committee of expert faculty
- Annual review of activities and goals
- Semiannual reviews of student and faculty

Mentoring:

- One-on-one mentoring between student and faculty
- Faculty are experts in AOC field and extensively involved in program activities (journal club, etc.)
- Student-mentor contact formalized over four years
- Students may elect AOC project as fulfillment of mentored scholarly project requirement

Scholarly Experience:

Each AOC includes:

- Explicit goals and objectives tailored to field
- Ascending levels of scholarly activity
- Journal club participation
- Experiential component
- Log or journal of activities of AOC
- Hypothesis-driven project
- Formal communication of project (oral presentation and/or written report)

Recognition of AOC Students

- Recognition ceremony with peers and faculty
- Dean's letter recognition
- Certificate of completion
- Initial AOC student participants graduated in 2000

AOC Program Directors:

Disabilities Medicine

Betty Liu, M.D.

Geriatric Medicine

Stephanie Studenski, M.D., M.P.H.

Global Health and Underserved Populations

Peter Veldkamp, M.D., Diemthuy D. Bui, M.D., and Joan Harvey, M.D.

Integrative Medicine

Brad Dicianno, M.D., Ronald Glick, M.D., and Matthew Muldoon, M.D.

Medical Humanities

Lisa Parker, Ph.D. and Michael Yonas, Dr.P.H.

Neuroscience

Jason Rosenstock, M.D.

Public Health and Quality Improvement

Andrew Buchert, M.D.

Public Health

Ronald Voorhees, M.D., M.P.H.

Resuscitation

Ankur Doshi, M.D. and Sam Tisherman, M.D.

Women's Health

Melissa A. McNeil, M.D., M.P.H.



University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

AOC WEBSITE:

<http://www.omed.pitt.edu/curriculum/areas-of-concentration.php>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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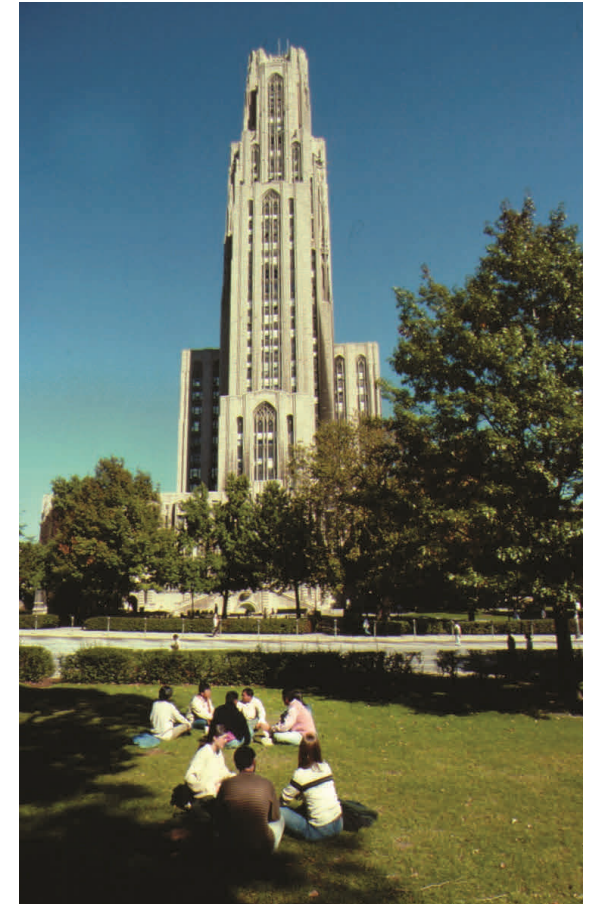
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University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



AREA OF CONCENTRATION PROGRAM:

*An Innovative, Theme-Based,
Longitudinal Experience for
Medical Students*



AREA OF CONCENTRATION PROGRAM: AN INNOVATIVE, THEME-BASED, LONGITUDINAL EXPERIENCE

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

To create a learning environment that enables students to develop in-depth expertise in a selected discipline.

Essential Elements

- Theme-based
- Longitudinal
- Academic
- Voluntary
- Experiential component
- Mentorship
- Application required

Origin

Faculty-student partnerships

Design

Faculty-student groups develop:

- Rationale
- Explicit goals
- Didactic material
- Experiential component
- One-on-one, faculty-student mentoring
- Project (hypothesis-driven w/ deliverable)
- Evaluation plan

Approval

- Approved by UPSOM Curriculum Committee
- Annual End of Year Report

Implementation

- Formal presentation of AOC program offerings to first year medical student class
- Publish 4-yr schedule of program on website

Disabilities Medicine: This program provides students with a first-hand appreciation of the assets and needs of a person with disabilities. The key element is the requirement to maintain regular contact over the four years of medical school with a “community mentor”: a person with disabilities or a family member of a disabled person.

Geriatric Medicine: The goal of Geriatrics AOC is to promote interest in the effects of advanced age on health and health care, and is relevant to students with a broad range of career plans. The four-year program of local and national activities are student led. We offer a welcoming and enthusiastic community with extensive peer and mentor involvement.

Global Health and Underserved Populations: This AOC is designed to provide a longitudinal enrichment program to students with a strong interest in developing in-depth expertise and experience in international health and/or health services for individuals who live in distressed communities, are homeless, or have special needs. Students will increase their understanding of differences in health and health care at the policy, economic, cultural, public health and direct health care delivery levels.

Integrative Health: The goals of this AOC are to provide an opportunity for students to gain knowledge in integrative approaches and to develop tools that improve one’s ability to counsel patients appropriately regarding self-care and complementary modalities. The program combines journal clubs, CAM-related events and activities, self-care and wellness activities, and a senior elective.

Medical Humanities: The Medical Humanities AOC is in collaboration with the Center for Bioethics and Health Law. Students gain an enriched appreciation of the social context in which bioscience interventions and debates take place. They explore how medicine and culture interact to shape provider and patient identities, healthcare practices, and health-care institutions.

Neuroscience: The Neuroscience AOC offers students a longitudinal educational experience centered on treating patients with neurological and behavioral disorders. Key components include individual clinical

experiences, a scholarly project, and monthly meetings and attendance at conferences, both locally and nationally. Most importantly, this program creates a “community of scholars” to allow students to network with peers, faculty, and individuals, here at other institutions.

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement: This AOC is designed for students with an interest in developing additional expertise in the context in which care is delivered and how that context affects the safety of our patients. Students who participate in the AOC in Patient Safety recognize that problems affecting their practice and their patients are often widespread and require commitment and engagement to further the patient’s best interests.

Public Health: The PH AOC offers a rich, integrated, longitudinal training program that enables students to develop more in-depth skills in Public Health. Students will apply these skills in practice and research settings, whether working with populations or more lab or computer-based innovative research projects. The AOC includes didactic and experimental components, mentorship with experts, and linkage to research and funding opportunities.

Resuscitation: This AOC covers a field that is complex and multidisciplinary. It encompasses activities performed by a variety of health-care providers, including aggressive treatment of critically-ill patients, rehabilitation of these patients to their pre-morbid condition, basic science, translational and clinical research into mechanisms of disease and treatment, ethics of care, etc.

Women’s Health: This AOC encourages students to develop expertise in the problems both uniquely affecting women and presenting differently in women. This program allows for a student-focused and faculty-guided study of women's health. A key didactic goal is to increase understanding about the impact of gender upon human physiology, pathophysiology and psychosocial issues.

There are *ten* Areas of Concentration active as of August 2013.