Course Objective
Musculoskeletal conditions are becoming an increasingly prevalent and important problem in clinical practice as the population ages. Acquiring knowledge and training in this area is an essential part of the medical education curriculum. The objectives of this rotation are:
1) Obtain medical knowledge on rheumatic diseases and the assessment of the functional anatomy of the musculoskeletal system
2) Obtain knowledge and gain an understanding of the importance & subtleties of the medical history in the evaluation of rheumatic diseases
3) Gain knowledge in the interpretation of autoantibody, immunologic, radiologic and pathologic findings of rheumatic diseases
4) Provide training in the skills necessary to function as an effective medical subspecialty consultant to other services

Material Covered:
Clinical/radiologic/laboratory manifestations and clinical management of musculoskeletal/autoimmune connective tissue disease.

Skills Acquired:
History and physical examination related to joints and features of rheumatic diseases; assessment of laboratory values and radiographic findings related to rheumatic diseases; and differential diagnosis of rheumatic diseases.

Activities Of Elective

Number Of New Patients/Student/Week: 3-4 new, 6-8 follow ups

Responsibilities Of Student For Assigned Patients:
- Does history/physical: Yes
- Who critiques: Faculty
- Follows patients, with appropriate notes as needed: Yes
- Who supervises: Faculty and fellow
- Does student see ambulatory patients: Yes – 4 half days (1 at LBJ, 2 at UT Professional Bldg., 1 at Thomas St.)

Procedures

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Observe</th>
<th>Perform</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspiration of joints</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Injection of joints/soft tissues</td>
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Scheduled Duties of Student:
- Frequency of rounds on patients: Daily
- Presents patients to preceptor or attending physician: Yes
- Weekly schedule of required teaching sessions: Wednesday morning conference (weekly); Thursday evening Core Curriculum lectures (weekly) and Friday morning conference (weekly)

Describe Optional Rounds And Activities, If Any:
Journal Club/research conference (weekly)

Other Required Activities:
- Reading/review of current literature: Yes
- Writing or Presenting a paper: No

How Is Student Evaluated:
Accuracy of H&P; assessment based on H&P differential diagnosis derived from assessment of laboratory and imaging; breadth and depth of medical knowledge, clinical reasoning skills, professionalism, interpersonal and communication skills.

Who Evaluates Students:
Rheumatology Faculty

Unique Features Of This Elective:
Large and diverse population of patients to evaluate (new and established) in both the inpatient and outpatient settings in the university clinic and public hospitals. Both adult and pediatric patients are seen on the service. Improve student’s clinical skills through bedside teaching, rounds and conferences. Refinement of musculoskeletal and rheumatologic history & physical exam skills. Gain knowledge in the interpretation of
laboratory findings, imaging studies and other clinical findings as it pertains to rheumatic diseases or rheumatic manifestations of other diseases (cancer, infections, metabolic syndromes, etc).