SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION:
CHILD HEALTH AND ADVOCACY

Mission: Students in the Child Health concentration will participate in a combination of didactic small group sessions, clinical experience, and service-based learning opportunities that are designed to engender an understanding and appreciation of the critical determinants of “health” in the pediatric population. Graduates of the program will be effective advocates for the unique needs of children.

Director: Mark Hormann

Administrative coordinators: Debbie Hernandez and Maria Davila

Maximum number of students/year: 3

Student selection process: Students would be introduced to the concept of concentrations in the fall of their first year. The application process will begin in December with a reflective essay on an experience or observation related to child health. The concentration committee will review the essays, and selected students will be asked to interview. Students selected for participation in the concentration will be notified in January of their first year.

Timeline for student completion of concentration requirements: 3½ years

Concentration requirements (didactic and experiential):

Year 1

- Application and acceptance into the program
- Participation in the Pediatric Student Association (PSA)
- Membership in the student section of a state or national organization focused on child health (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc.)
- Assign a faculty mentor
- Ten hours of shadowing Child Health professionals (may include but not limited to nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, Child Life, child care workers, and physicians)
- Attend PSA Blue Book Lecture Series (80%)
- Attend four Pediatric, Obstetric, or other discipline’s Grand Rounds relating to Child Health topics of student’s choice (Grand Rounds are streamed, and may be synchronous or asynchronous)
- Write one “Letter to the Editor” on a children’s health topic of the student’s choice (reviewed by faculty mentor, and may be sent to either the Houston Chronicle or the student’s hometown newspaper; publication not required)
- Submit project proposal to concentration committee
Participant in the Texas Pediatric Society Preceptorship Program (students will be encouraged but not required to select rural clinical sites; this is separate from the shadowing experience), OR the UT Summer Research Program, OR a structured shadowing experience that includes four weeks of clinical experience.

- Begin working on project, identify funding needs

**Year 2**

- Continued participation in the Pediatric Student Association
- Attend PSA Blue Book Lecture Series (80%)
- Twenty hours of shadowing Child Health professionals (may include but not limited to nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, Child Life, child care workers, and physicians)
- Attend eight Pediatric, Obstetric, or other discipline’s Grand Rounds relating to Child Health topics of student’s choice (Grand Rounds are streamed, and may be synchronous or asynchronous)
- Continued work on project
- Quarterly meeting with faculty mentor
- Write a letter concerning a specific issue related to Child Health to the student’s state representative (reviewed by faculty mentor)
- Develop, organize, and lead an advocacy project for local children and/or families (can include local public education campaign; food, clothing, or book drive; organizing volunteers for a specific need on the pediatric wards at CMHH, MDA or LBJ, etc). Student must include others in this project; it cannot be a solo effort.

**Year 3**

- Continued work on project, as time permits
- Meet twice with faculty mentor
- Successful completion of Pediatric Clerkship
- Reflective essay (≥ 1000 words) describing an encounter with a family or pediatric patient and how the child’s environment contributed to his or her overall health and well-being (or lack thereof).

**Year 4**

- Attend national meeting related to Child Health, and participate in Student Section activities
- Successful completion of Pediatric APC (ward or Neo ICU) or RCC (PICU) rotation.
- (Participation in the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence Based Medicine Clinical Research Curriculum, select courses based on student and mentor discussion and availability)
- Completion of project by December of fourth year
- Presentation of project with other Child Health Concentration senior students at Pediatrics Grand Rounds in spring of fourth year
- Submission of written description of project to Concentration Committee
Scholarly projects*

Students will have a certain amount of flexibility in the selection of their project. Potential project categories include clinical research, translational research, curriculum development and deployment, and public health education campaign development and deployment.

Scholarly projects will first be developed by the student with mentor guidance. The student’s final proposal will be reviewed by the faculty mentor and submitted to the Concentration Committee, which will provide suggestions and final approval.

Oversight of project completion will be the responsibility of the faculty mentor.

If the project is research based, a manuscript should be prepared for submission to a journal; this manuscript will serve as the final project submission to the Concentration Committee. If the project does not include a manuscript for journal submission, the student must write a detailed description of their project, including outcomes, and submit to the Concentration Committee.

At a minimum, all senior students in the concentration will present their project during a Pediatric Grand Rounds session to the assembled students, residents, and faculty in the spring of their fourth year. In addition, students will be encouraged to submit their project as an abstract or poster (as appropriate, with guidance from their faculty mentor) to local or state professional meetings.

*a traditional student-authored manuscript describing his/her project and its outcome is required
Scholarly Concentration Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Contribution(s) to Concentration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark Hormann (MS – Gen Peds)</td>
<td>Director, Concentration Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Greeley (MS – Gen Peds, Clinical Research)</td>
<td>Mentor, Concentration Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon Tyson (MS – Neo, Clinical Research)</td>
<td>Mentor, Concentration Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will Risser (MS – Adolescent)</td>
<td>Mentor, Concentration Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Kennedy (MS – Neo)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Benjamins (MS – Adolescent)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Barratt (MS – Adolescent)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Markham (SPH – Child Health)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Peskin (SPH – Child Health)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essam Imseis (MS – GI)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashsh DebRoy (MS – GI)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Tortolero (SPH – Child Health)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soledad Liliana Escobar-Chaves (SPH – Child Health)</td>
<td>Mentor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If students have specific research interests, they will be matched to appropriate faculty in the department; this list is not exclusive.

Notes

Students must remain in good standing throughout the four years of medical school to continue in the concentration. If a student is considered to be not in good standing by Student Affairs, they will be dropped from the concentration program.

Special recognition on the diploma, transcript, and in the graduation program is dependant on completion of all requirements. Failing to complete one or more requirements of the concentration will result in no special distinction being provided.

Contact: Mark Hormann
mark.d.hormann@uth.tmc.edu