

SCHOLARLY CONCENTRATION: ADVOCACY and CHILD HEALTH

Mission: Students in the Advocacy and Child Health concentration will participate in a combination of didactic sessions, clinical experience, and service-based learning opportunities that are designed to foster 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: Sandy McKay, MD

Administrative coordinators: Debbie Hernandez

Maximum number of students/year: 2-4

Student selection process: Students would be introduced to the concept of concentrations in the fall of their first year. The concentration application process will begin in January 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 by February 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) or other local child health organization
- 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
- Five hours of shadowing Child Health professionals (may include but not limited to nurse practitioners, nurses, therapists, Child Life, child care workers, and physicians)
- Attend two Pediatric, Obstetric, or other discipline's Grand Rounds relating to Child Health or Advocacy topics of student's choice (Grand Rounds are streamed, and may be synchronous or asynchronous)
- Read required articles as posted on Canvas
- Submit project proposal to concentration committee

- Participate in the UT Summer Research Program, OR a structured shadowing experience that includes four weeks of clinical experience. Other activities may be acceptable, but require prior approval.
 - Summer Program to include Windshield Survey activity, submitted to course director
- Begin working on project, identify funding needs

Year 2

- Continued participation in the Pediatric Student Association or other local child-focused organization
- Continued work on project
- Quarterly meeting with 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 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 a letter concerning a specific issue related to Child Health to the student's state or federal representative (reviewed by faculty mentor)
- 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)
- 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, letter writing campaigns, social media campaigns, 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 regional or national meeting related to Child Health, and participate in Student Section activities (as funding allows)
- Successful completion of a Pediatric APC (ward or Neo ICU) or RCC (PICU) rotation.
- 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

Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Student Section

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/Committees-Councils-Sections/Medical-Students/Pages/default.aspx>

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Medical_Students_and_Residents/Medical_Students/Home.aspx?hkey=c280dd86-6e53-41ae-8779-6d84b98fda7e

Scholarly Concentration Faculty

Faculty Name	Contribution(s) to Concentration
Mark Hormann (MS – Gen Peds)	Mentor
Jon Tyson (MS – Neo, Clinical Research)	Mentor
Laura Benjamins (MS – Adolescent)	Mentor
Michelle Barratt (MS – Adolescent)	Mentor
Christine Markham (SPH – Child Health)	Mentor
Melissa Peskin (SPH – Child Health)	Mentor
Essam Imseis (MS – GI)	Mentor
Susan Tortolero Emery (SPH – Child Health)	Mentor
Soledad Liliana Escobar-Chaves (SPH – Child Health)	Mentor

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

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