**Principles of Clinical Medicine (PCM)**

**Fall orientation to M4 courses: PCM 30410 and 30420**

**Course Director: Beth Choby, MD FAAFP**

M4s,

We are so glad you will be coming back to work with us in PCM during your M4 year. I wanted to provide this brief document detailing some important information about the course. Please review it and provide the needed information to Michael Holliday ([mhollid4@uthsc.edu](mailto:mhollid4@uthsc.edu)) by **December 15, 2019**.

**Important information needed:**

1. Approximate date (month) you plan to take USMLE STEP 2 Clinical skills
2. Where you plan to spend the majority of your rotations in your M4 year (Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Nashville, or elsewhere). We need this information to plan hour requirements and for fall and spring events.
3. Whether you are graduating in December 2020 or spring of May 2021 (we need this to make sure we prioritize hours for any December grads).
4. Whether you wish to do the Traditional Course or be a PCM Teaching Scholar during your M4 year

Each year, we have a **PCM Steering Committee** who works with me to improve and streamline the course. I am happy to write that we have already had our first meeting to discuss information that the class should be provided early in the fall and spring terms of the M3 year. Thanks to Chelsea Miller (PCM liaison), Kenneth Coca, Jennings Dooley, Logan McClure, Daniel Peters and Caitlin Witt for serving in this capacity. They will serve as the class sounding board, so feel free to bring them comments, questions or concerns.

You will receive an email from COM about when you can register for M4 courses. Deadlines for enrollment come early in the spring/summer, so please make sure you complete these tasks early. Since the first day of classes is technically July 1, be sure to register prior to this or Dr. Ryan will have to get involved. **In the fall of your M4 year, you will enroll in the PCM30410 course. In the spring, you will enroll for the PCM30420 course.** Both are 1-hour, pass/fail courses which are mandatory for graduation. If for some reason you are off-cycle, you will still enroll for these courses, although December grads should plan to do 30420 in the spring of their final year and complete 30410 during the fall term prior to December graduation.

In order to help you prepare CS2 Clinical Skills, we have designed STEP PREP, a half-day session that is designed to provide a 6-case practice for the exam. The sessions are held on average once monthly, although we sometimes do them twice monthly depending on demand. It is very important that we know when you will be sitting CS2 to be able to schedule dates/resources for these sessions. Once we have everyone’s information, it permits us to come up with the number of sessions needed throughout the year.

While the sessions are at no cost to you, they are very expensive for both CHIPS and COM in terms of resources, SP training and faculty time. If you sign up, you are expected to be there. Due to issues caused by last minute cancellations in M4 classes in the past, we are revisiting the cancellation policy with our Steering Committee and Dr. Epps at CHIPS. In the past, we did a hours penalty for late cancellations/no-shows, although CHIPs and the Steering Committee are exploring other options for next year due to problems this year. Please keep in mind that if learners cancel at the last minute or no-show, it put the program in jeopardy for the whole class.

The Teaching Scholar program was started 3 years ago. The Teaching Scholars M4s help with events like Clinical Skills training and also have the opportunity to participate in some live classroom activities. Teaching Scholars serve as school liaisons for TAR WARS and have additional educational enrichment activities throughout the year. Teaching Scholars complete a greater number of hours in both the 30410 and 30420 courses compared to the Traditional track. The Teaching Scholars distinction is provided to Dr. Womack for use the MSPE. Dr. Jameson, Whitt and I are also trying to have some special designation at graduation for our Teaching Scholar group. Individuals who are interested should opt-in (by email). Faculty will then evaluate all applicants and formal invitations will be sent out in late spring to all those chosen to participate. There is not a set number of slots available, so we hope anyone who is interested lets us know. This year, around a third of the class participated as a Teaching Scholar.

Information about both the Traditional and Teaching Scholar track will be made available in early spring once the fall M1 and M2 calendars are set. We will communicate with you through the Emedley 30410/30420 course page, where you can find the course information, gradebook where hour tallies are kept, and other important information.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please provide the information listed above to Michael Holliday so we can get plans rolling for your M4 year. Congratulations and can’t believe you all are nearly M4s- time flies! Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Beth Choby, MD FAAFP

PCM Course Director