

JUNIOR NEUROLOGY CLERKSHIP

2001 - 2002

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Welcome to the Neurology Clerkship.

Course Director: Leon Weisberg, M.D.
Office: 587-7475

Course Education Coordinator: Marsha Graves
Tidewater Bldg. Suite 1045
Office: 584-3618
mgraves1@tulane.edu

Neurology Clerkship Bulletin Board

Your bulletin board is located adjacent to Tidewater Building Room 1045 and contains up-to-date service assignments, call schedules, outpatient experience assignments, and seminar schedules. Also posted is the Neurology weekly schedule. You are welcome at any event on this schedule including Wednesday noon resident seminars and dinner meetings of New Orleans Neuro Society. Please check neurology clerkship Web-site each week as activities available may change. The update will be done on Friday before 4:30pm for the following week. This will include "case of the week". You need to review this with your staff and residents.

What to do if you have Questions, Problems, or Complaints

Call or go see Marsha Graves, the clerkship coordinator, and she will help you to resolve the issue. If a personal or medical issue interferes with your performance on the rotation, contact Dr. Weisberg or his designee so that we are aware of this issue at the time of the occurrence not at the end of course. "The definition of a problem" is any event or action, which makes the student feel uncomfortable or may interfere with student performance.

Absences

A leave of absence for any reason must be authorized in writing by the Office of Student Affairs and forwarded to Marsha Graves, or may be obtained by simply talking with Dr. Weisberg and your resident. If you have authorized absence, let your attending and resident know.

Safety

1. Always observe Universal Precautions when interacting with patients.
2. Do not use your reflex hammer or key to check for Babinski signs. Your tool could become a vector of serious disease. Instead, use a clean wooden swab or tongue blade and throw it away after one use.
3. Do not use a hollow or beveled needle (Eg. Gelco) to test for pinprick because these needle types are too sharp. Use safety pins and dispose of them after one use in a sharps box.
4. Always guard yourself from crime, patient violence, and all types of danger. Lock your call room doors. Use the shuttle to travel between East and West Charity campus. Be street-smart.
5. Escort service for on-call:

TMC 588-5531

Charity 903-5531
VA 568-0811 ext. 5105

Reading

The course's official textbook is Essentials of Clinical Neurology by Weisberg, Strub, and Garcia (one copy on reserve in library; available in the bookstore). You should read in more depth about your own patients' medical problems. Recommended for this purpose are Principles of Neurology by Adams and Victor and Textbook of Neurology by Merritt and the Neurology Chapters in Harrison Textbook of Medicine, both, which are on reserve in the library. If you are on the Pediatric Neurology rotation, ask your attending to direct you to appropriate resources.

Clerkship Requirements

In order to pass this course, you must fulfill all of the following requirements:

1. Fully participate in your assigned service team.
2. Participate in On-call (optional).
3. Participate in Outpatient Experience once.
4. Attend Charity Neurology Clinic once each week.
5. Attend VA Neurology Clinic once each week.
6. Attend all Neurology seminars, whether you are on Psychiatry or Neurology. Attendance sign-in sheet is available.
One point is subtracted from clinical grade for each seminar missed without unexcused absence. Participation is a factor in grading of clinical evaluation.
7. Attend Neurology Grand Rounds each week, whether you are on Psychiatry or Neurology.
8. Give a presentation to your service team on topic of your interest.
9. Take the final exam.

Grading

1. Sixty-percent of your grade will come from your clinical evaluation and forty percent from your final exam performance. A "portfolio" or project is optional. It is submitted at time of exam. It is used as part of your final assessment to help supplement your evaluation and final grade. It can be on any topic relating to neurology and in any format. All are read by Dr. Weisberg. I want no one to spend money on this and it must be hard-copy for me to read (Dr. Weisberg is computer illiterate). This project should be fun and not tedious.
2. Each week your attending is expected to give you a verbal assessment of your performance so that you will know your strengths and weaknesses.
If you do not get this assessment, ask for it.
3. Your clinical evaluation will be given jointly by your team's residents and attending at a departmental meeting and this is reviewed by Dr. Weisberg who makes the final decision on the final grade. If you have any concerns please discuss with Dr. Weisberg. Assessment of yourself is also taken into consideration (see page 4). We are using the standardized evaluation form developed by the Dean's office.

Service Assignments

- a. Your responsibilities here include participating in rounds and taking care of your patients. Taking care of your patients includes:
 1. Doing a complete history and physical for your own purposes and reviewing all prior records.
 2. Forming a care plan for your patients: Take every opportunity to write the orders for your patients, but remember these must be immediately signed by your resident or attending.

3. Checking up on your patient frequently to assess progress and detect complications.
4. Talking to nurses, therapists, dietitians, and consultants to get information about your patient.
5. Writing progress notes on your patients.
6. Following up on all test results and interpreting these results.
7. Reading in depth about your patient's medical problems.
8. Participating in morning report.
9. In an effort to standardize the clinical experience, the faculty/house officers are required to review a series of clinical problems in neurology with you. There are no neurology seminars on Friday afternoon; therefore this would be an ideal time to conduct this didactic teaching. There should be no conflicts on Friday afternoon.

The topics include:

- a. episodic loss of consciousness
 - b. evaluation of the "confused" patient
 - c. assessment of "comatose" patient
 - d. evaluation of new onset headache
 - e. management of acute stroke
 - f. evaluation of "dizzy patient"
 - g. approach to neck and back pain
 - h. meaning of "brain death"
- b. Some services require morning weekend rounds. This is determined by staff and house officers. However, no medical student is allowed to work more than an average of one weekend day per week while on neurology, including on-call assignments.
 - c. You are expected to work a full day with your team on the day prior to the final exam.

On-Call

- a. On-call is optional. Contact resident and work with him/her. If you wish to go home that is fine. If you wish to stay, there is an on-call room available. This is optional but since the experience has been so uneven, I have made this optional. On-call runs from 5pm to 7am the next morning. Afterwards you will attend Morning Report, where you and your resident presents the cases from the night before. This usually occurs the next morning at 7:30am at TMC Neurology clinic in Room #7812. If your call night falls on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, Morning Report will not occur until the next week. Ask your on-call resident when to show up for morning report. Even if not on call, you are encouraged to attend AM report.
- b. You will be given your on-call schedule during orientation. Contact the resident you're assigned to work with the day before your call in order to get all the particulars involved.
- c. Your sleeping room is at MCLNO, Room #1429. Obtain the key from your resident.

Out-Patient Experience

The purpose of the outpatient experience is to give you a glimpse of a neurologist in a private practice setting. You are required to participate in the Neurology Outpatient Experience once during the clerkship. Attached is a schedule of clinic dates/times to which each of you has been assigned. Call your preceptor 1-2 days prior to your scheduled visit.

Charity Adult Neurology Clinic/VA Adult Neurology Clinic

You are required to attend both of these clinics once each week during your stay on neurology. Go with your team's resident on the days of your choice. Of course you are welcome to go to as many of these clinics as you wish. If your service is slow, attend more clinics. You are always welcome.

Seminars

- a. You are expected to prepare for the seminars beforehand. Prepare by reading the appropriate sections of your assigned textbook. Also, read any handouts that are included in this packet. This includes the clinical problems, which you should be prepared to discuss at time of seminar. The handouts are labeled as to which seminar they pertain. On the web site there are clinical problems and those which apply to the weeks seminar will be updated weekly.
- b. You should attend all neurology seminars, whether you are on Psychiatry or Neurology. Seminars take precedence over service duties; no team resident or attending should cause you to miss seminars for rounds or patient care. If this happens, bring it to Marsha Graves' attention immediately.
- c. All seminars scheduled will be given. If the speaker is late, contact Marsha Graves and a substitute speaker will be obtained.

Grand Rounds

You are required to attend Neurology Grand Rounds each week while you are on Psychiatry and Neurology. Neurology Grand Rounds occur every Tuesday from Noon to 1pm at Tidewater Building Room 1027. As with the seminars, no one should ask you to miss Grand Rounds for rounds or patient care. If there is a conflict, let Dr. Weisberg know as creating conflict for students is not acceptable.

Neurology Information Goals

It is expected that the student will accomplish these educational informational goals during the clerkship. This can be achieved by evaluating patients on the in-patient, consult, and clinic services as well as participating in clinical problem solving during the lectures and conferences. The student is expected to know the clinical history, examination findings and appropriate decision analysis for patients with the following disorders:

1. Headache and face pain
2. Dizziness-vertigo and episodic loss of consciousness
3. Weakness and gait impairment
4. Stupor and coma
5. Cerebrovascular disease
6. Seizures and epilepsy
7. Traumatic injury - brain and spine
8. Neurobehavioral disorders, including dementia, amnesia and aphasia
9. Central nervous system infection
10. Abnormal involuntary movements, including Parkinsonism
11. Demyelinating disorders (multiple sclerosis and its mimics)
12. Neurological complication of medical illness

Student Presentations

You are expected to give a presentation to your service team on a topic related to clinical neurology in which you find a particular interest. Your presentation should be five to ten minutes in length but no longer. You are free to choose any topic that you wish. You can analyze a case that you encounter while on the clerkship or give a seminar on a specific topic. There are books on reserve in the library relating to neurological disorders. They may be used for your presentation (required) or portfolio (optional).

You are not required to look any further than these references to make your report. These references will provide enough information to complete your assignment, but feel free to expand your research. Your subject matter should be focused. Enclosed is a list of suggested topics, but choose any topic that you wish.

Final Exam

Questions on the final exam will relate to material found in the assigned textbook, handouts, seminars, and Grand Rounds. The test might include all of the following formats: short answer, essay, matching, and multiple choice. The questions predominantly come from the seminar material and from the textbook by Dr. Weisberg, Neurology for Psychiatry Specialty Board Exam. Multiple copies of this book are on reserve in the library. The exact format of the rotation exam will be determined by vote of the students. To obtain an "HONORS" grade in the neurology clerkship a grade of 75 or higher must be achieved on the exam, however the grade obtained from the portfolio may move your grade to "HONORS" despite lower exam grade.