Practicum in Biology I: Gastroenterology Site

Nova Southeastern University

Roksana Hesari
Overview of Course

➢ Instructor - Dr. Mark Jaffe, DPM
➢ Didactic and experiential learning in applied settings
➢ Primary research literature exposure in field of interest
➢ Weekly face-to-face lectures for three hours
➢ Practicum site shifts for minimum of 5 hours weekly
➢ Partnerships with Alvin Sherman Library and Career Services Department
Weekly Schedule

**Monday**
Class meeting 9:00 - 9:50 am
Group Textbook Activity Discussion Post
Post weekly article that you will analyze

**Tuesday**
Inquire to classmate in another group regarding their interpretation of the textbook activity on Discussion Board

**Wednesday**
Class meeting 9:00 - 9:50 am
Respond to question asked of you in the discussion forum

**Thursday**
Field site shift from 10:00 - 3:30 pm
Complete weekly Article Analysis
Weekly Schedule (continued)

**Friday**

Journal Club 9:00 - 9:50 am

Present OR Ask two questions of weekly presenter on the discussion forum

**Saturday**

Presenter responds to questions

**Sunday**

Pre-read weekly chapter of “How to Read a Paper - The Basics of Evidence Based Medicine”
Additional Course Requirements

➢ Practicum Field Journal
➢ Primary scientific research paper
➢ Research paper presentation
➢ Library database navigation
➢ Experiential reflections
➢ Career Services graded professional resume or C.V.
➢ Graded individual interview and critique
A systematic review of screening for Hepatitis C

Field Supervisor -

Dr. Jeffrey Schneider, MD
Week Three: 09/10 - 09/16

09/13/2018

During today’s field site shift, I shadowed Dr. Schneider during 8 patient visits that are outlined below.

Patient One: This was a 48 year old female new patient whose chief complaints were diarrhea, visualized blood per rectum, abdominal pain and sensations of burning in her throat. The patient stated that she has a known diagnosis of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and takes Metformin for this on a regular basis, as prescribed by her gynecologist, however, she did note that her gynecologist recently increased the dosage of her medication and that is when she noticed that her stool changed. The patient mentioned that she had been using Zantac for relief of her symptoms and that she failed treatment with Omeprazole. Upon physical examination, Dr. Schneider noted that the patient experienced tenderness in her right upper quadrant and he also pointed out that her Body Mass Index was 50, which is regarded morbidly obese in the medical community. This visit was extremely informative as I learned several important facts regarding both PCOS and Gallstones.

Namely, there are four “F’s” to remember when considering risk factors for gallstones:
1. Female
2. Fat
3. Fertile
4. Fortyt

In this specific case, the patient met all four risk factors for gallstones. She also experienced tenderness in her RUQ which is also indicative of cholelithiasis. Due to this, Dr. Schneider recommended an ultrasound of the patient’s gallbladder to evaluate for this.

In terms of PCOS, Dr. Schneider mentioned that it is important to note in blood tests of patients with this disorder, their LH/FSH levels are elevated. What that means is that their LH levels are elevated and their FSH levels are depressed. He also made note that generally four treatment options are given to these patients:

1. Weight loss / Exercise - these patients are generally overweight
2. Metformin - these patients are generally glucose intolerant, thus, Metformin works to lowers the amount of sugar in their bloodstream
3. Oral Contraceptive Pills - these medications help to regulate the menstrual periods of those affected
4. Clomiphene - this medication is an estrogen antagonist that promotes ovulation

Dr. Schneider also recommended that this patient receive consultation for obesity surgery due to the health benefits it could have for her in the long run. Although this was a sensitive subject, the patient received the advice very well and agreed to schedule this consult with a surgeon that Dr. Schneider recommended. He also noted that she should have a colonoscopy completed due to her age as well as an endoscopy during the same visit to rule out a hiatal hernia.
Registration Requirements

- Student enrolled at Nova Southeastern University
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Minimum 3.0 major GPA
- Completion of BIOL 1510
- Completion of minimum 60 credit hours
- Approved Practicum field site
- Approved Practicum field supervisor
Contact Information

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