Synapse: Introduction to Child Neurology

Spring 2018

Course Dates: April 6, 13, 20, 27
Fridays, 2:00-4:00 PM

Maximum Students: 2

Class Year: MS1

Course Director: Deepa S Rajan, MD
Co-Director, Neuro Genetics Clinic
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Contact Information: rajands@upmc.edu
412-692-6106

Registration: Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education
betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:
This mini elective in child neurology is designed to be an introduction to clinical child neurology for first and second year medical students. Our overall goal is to foster an awareness and interest in neurosciences and child neurology and to provide mentoring opportunities for students by learning the fundamentals of clinical specialty of child neurology.

Clinical experiences will be integrated and intertwined with the Neuroanatomy/ Neurophysiology curriculum to promote an understanding of the basic neuroscience in the context of clinical practice. This will be accomplished via a 4 session course with didactic sessions integrated with an examinations workshop and low instructor-to-student ratio clinical experiences. 2 students will be paired with an attending to work through a case in the clinic. Students will be briefed on the case and by the end of the course will be expected to obtain a complete history, perform relevant portions of the neurological physical exam, and help construct an assessment and plan.

Course Objectives:
- To increase familiarity and proficiency with clinical neurological examination
- To apply neuroscience principles to clinical child neurology
- To offer mentorship and career development opportunities in child neurology

Requirements:
Attendance at all 4 sessions

Suggested Attendance:
Neuro-Radiology Conference: Friday 4PM-5PM
Clinical Pediatric Neurology Conference: Tuesday 1PM -2PM

Pre-Requisites:
None
COURSE OUTLINE

SYNAPSE: Introduction to Child Neurology
Dates/Times TBD
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh

Course Director:
Deepa S Rajan, MD
rajands@upmc.edu
412-692-6106

Participating Faculty:
Deepa Rajan MD
Miya Asato MD

Locations: Listed in the sessions below.

Course Objectives:
- Assist the student’s transition from didactic to integrated clinical neurological setting
- Reduce “neurophobia” – to develop a comfort level and proficiency with the pediatric neurology examination

Recommended Reading prior to and during the elective:
https://library.med.utah.edu/pedineurologicexam/html/introduction.html
The University of Utah website is a good introduction to the basics of pediatric neurological exam and developmental assessment. We recommend that the students review the introductory videos prior to the mini elective. Material will be accessible via dropbox prior to the elective.

Textbooks available through HSLS for the initiated:
Blumenfeld’s Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases, available through the HSLS
Fenichel GM. Clinical Pediatric Neurology: A signs-and-symptoms-based approach available through HSLS

Session 1—April 6, 2018
Location: 8th Floor Faculty Pavilion Conference Room, Children’s Hospital
Neurological examination interactive Workshop: Students will work with Dr. Rajan in this interactive session to learn the basics of a complete neurological exam – this will include hand’s on practice for reflexes, sensory exam and fundoscopic exam.

Session 2—April 13, 2018
Location: 2 Mouse, 2nd floor, Children’s Hospital
The students will be introduced to the clinical encounter/ neurological exam of pediatric patients admitted to the hospital in different developmental stages – newborn, toddler, preschool, school age with the attending leading the examination

Session 3, 4—April 20, April 27
Location: 2 Mouse, 2nd floor, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
During these sessions in the pediatric neurology clinic, the students will be encouraged to obtain a history and perform a complete physical/ neurological exam of patients. The students will present and discuss the case with the attending and develop an assessment and plan. The most common conditions seen in Child Neurology clinic include acute neurological conditions, seizure, movement disorders, headaches, developmental delay etc.

After every other session, students will be encouraged to attend the Friday afternoon neuroradiology conference, led by Dr. Ira Bergman, Chief of Child Neurology. During the course, if feasible the students are encouraged to attend at least one Clinical Pediatric Neurology Conference: Tuesday 1PM -2PM. This is teleconferenced to Oakland with Dr Knepper (location details will be provided).