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## American Geriatrics Society Organ Block Case Series 2020-2021

Course Dates 2020: July 8 (Neurology)  
September 14 (Cardiology)  
September 21 (Psychiatry)  
October 5 (Renal/Electrolyte)  
October 26 (Pulmonary)  
November 9 (Digestion & Nutrition I–Hollow Organ)  
November 30 (Digestion & Nutrition II–Solid Organ)  
February 1 (Endocrine)

2021:

Course Time & Location: 12-1pm, Online Zoom Meeting

Maximum Students: no maximum

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Director: Leslie Scheunemann, MD, MPH  
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Course Sponsors: Geriatrics AOC and the Division of Geriatric Medicine

Course Funder: John A. Hartford Foundation (covers lunches)

### Description:

This professional enrichment course is designed to help first and second year students acquire and synthesize clinical data by working through a realistic clinical case that teaches bread-and-butter geriatric principles. Scheduled in conjunction with the first and second year organ blocks, this interactive professional enrichment course highlights aspects of each core organ system that are unique to geriatric patients. It also teaches students how to consider functional needs and maximize the function and independence of the older patient in their clinical thinking and medical decision making. The case series represents one way to teach and draw students' attention to how disease presents differently and in a more complex fashion in the older adult. Overall, the professional enrichment course provides one of few opportunities to integrate geriatric care principles into the medical school's curriculum.

Each session will be led by Geriatrics faculty or a geriatric medicine fellow who will present a clinical case involving a geriatric patient with a disease process that represents the organ system the students are studying. It will highlight up to three key geriatric medicine pearls. Students will participate in an informal discussion that is structured similar to internal medicine residents' morning report. This type of case presentation illustrates for students how to think and problem-solve like a clinician where a chief complaint is presented and examined through a process of discovery practiced by students through history taking, exam interpretation and the development of the differential diagnosis.

Students will consider the patient's baseline function and engage in problem-solving to reduce the impact of the treatment of the condition on the patient's cognitive and physical function. This elective builds on concepts learned through medical interviewing and physical examination courses in the first and second

years. This method of working through cases better prepares students for clinical encounters in third year.

Second year students attending at least five out of the eight cases will receive a certificate of completion for the professional enrichment course at the end of second year. Second year students that attended the Neurology and Psychiatry case series in Spring 2020 will receive retroactive credit towards completion for the professional enrichment course. First year students are encouraged to attend cases in areas of interest to get a glimpse into future curriculum, but are not eligible for professional enrichment course credit. To receive credit, students must attend the session while in the corresponding organ system block in order to maximize learning. This case series has been directed by Division of Geriatric Medicine faculty for over 10 years and many students have utilized it to review upcoming exam material. The 2020-21 academic year will be the fifth year the case series is formally offered as a professional enrichment course.

Course Objectives:

*By the end of the academic year, first and second year medical students will be able to:*

1. Describe how aging leads to changes particular to each organ system.
2. Summarize how illness presents differently in older adults who present to a health care setting with acute illness and/or chronic comorbidity than in younger and middle-aged adults who have similar medical problem(s).
3. Identify and prevent threats to physical and cognitive function in the care of the older patient.

Requirements:

Attendance at 5 of 8 offered sessions will be required for successful completion of professional enrichment course credit.

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**Session 1: Wednesday, July 8, 2020: Neurology**

**Session 2: Monday, September 14, 2020: Cardiology**

**Session 3: Monday, September 21, 2020: Psychiatry**

**Session 4: Monday, October 5, 2020: Renal/Electrolyte**

**Session 5: Monday, October 26, 2020: Pulmonary**

**Session 6: Monday, November 9, 2020: Digestion & Nutrition I (Hollow Organ)**

**Session 7: Monday, November 30, 2020: Digestion & Nutrition II (Solid Organ)**

**Session 8: Monday, February 1, 2021: Endocrine**