



University
of
Pittsburgh

School
of
Medicine

American Geriatrics Society Organ Block Case Series PEC 2021-2022

Course Dates 2021: April 13 (Neurology)
May 17 (Psychiatry)
September 13 (Cardiology)
October 4 (Renal/Electrolyte)
October 22 (Pulmonary)
November 8 (Digestion & Nutrition I–Hollow Organ)
November 22 (Digestion & Nutrition II–Solid Organ)
January 31 (Endocrine)

2022:

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

Maximum Students: no maximum

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

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Course Sponsors: Geriatrics AOC and the Division of Geriatric Medicine

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

Description:

This PEC 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 PEC 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 PEC 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

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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 PEC at the end of second year. Second year students that attended the Neurology and Psychiatry case series in Spring 2019 will receive retroactive credit towards completion for the PEC. First year students are encouraged to attend cases in areas of interest to get a glimpse into future curriculum, but are not eligible for PEC 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 2019-20 academic year will be the fourth year the case series is formally offered as a PEC.

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 mini-elective credit.

Session 1: Monday, April 13, 2021: Neurology

Session 2: Monday, May 17, 2021: Psychiatry

Session 3: Monday, September 13, 2021: Cardiology

Session 4: Monday, October 4, 2021: Renal/Electrolyte

Session 5: Monday, October 22, 2021: Pulmonary

Session 6: Monday, November 8, 2021: Digestion & Nutrition I (Hollow Organ)

Session 7: Monday, November 22, 2021: Digestion & Nutrition II (Solid Organ)

Session 8: Monday, January 31, 2022: Endocrine