**Year 3 – September 2012**

1. **Overall Aim**

The main purpose of this attachment is to combine the skills you have been establishing in history taking with those required for clinical examination, primarily in the ward and in the surgery, but also in the clinical skills laboratories.

By the end of the attachment you should:-

* Be familiar with basic methods of clinical examination of the following:
  + general examination of the patient (e.g. lymph nodes, evidence of anaemia, rashes, breasts)
  + the cardiovascular system
  + the respiratory system
  + the abdomen
  + the central nervous system, including simple assessment of cognitive function
* Be able to combine the patient history with clinical examination to provide a comprehensive clinical assessment of the patient.

(At the end of this firm it is not expected that you will be able to provide extensive lists of differential diagnoses based on these assessments but you should have some acquaintance with causes of common presentations e.g. acute chest and abdominal pain, shortness of breath, jaundice etc which will be explored in much greater depth in the lecture course during the two 10-week attachments (beginning December 2012).

* 1. **GP Sessions**

You will be scheduled to attend GP teaching for one session per week for up to 6 weeks of this attachment.

* 1. **Case Presentations**

The emphasis is very strongly on you seeing as many patients as feasible in whatever clinical setting. It is therefore essential that you optimise opportunities to present cases whether in clinics, ward rounds or dedicated teaching sessions.

You should also gain experience in writing case presentations. As a minimum therefore it is suggested that:-

* Each student writes up 10 cases during the attachment and presents these to a member of the firm, and that
* He/ she presents at least one patient per week to the firm, possibly at a ward round.

In both circumstances you should discuss briefly some of the appropriate investigations and differential diagnoses.

Note that, while you will be formally attached to a medical or surgical firm, you should take opportunities to see all types of patients by agreement with the team looking after them.

It is not the primary intention during this attachment that you should be taught in any depth about the particular firm’s specialty though you should of course take advantage of the clinical experience available in that setting.

1. **Acute Takes**

It is particularly important that you should be present for acute takes, usually in pairs rather than the whole firm, and for the post-take ward round the following morning. The most memorable and useful clinical experiences usually occur on-call, and it is vital that you see acutely ill patients who may require hospital admission. This will give you the opportunity to see patients from admission through the entire patient journey. You are required to present your patients on the post-take ward rounds. Attendance “on-take” and at the post-take ward round should be prioritised over all other teaching apart from fixed GP sessions.

Specific teaching ward rounds at other times, if it is possible for them to be arranged, would also be useful.

It is recommended that all students should spend at least one weekend on-take.

**6. MDT Expanded Case Study**

You will be expected to complete a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Expanded Case Study during the 1st 10-week attachment.

**7. Group Lecture and Interactive Online Learning**

There will be 3 live lecture sessions held in the Drewe Lecture Theatre at Charing Cross. At other times during this attachment there will be time set aside for you to study interactive learning modules on Blackboard. Details will be available later on the intranet.

**Background to Clinical Specialities (November 2012)**

This 3 week lecture course acts an introduction to many different clinical specialities. It is a taster session to give a better understanding of each speciality, and aims to broaden and integrate your clinical knowledge at an early stage. It will include introductory material to clinical specialities taught in Year 5.

**2nd and 3rd (10-week) Attachments in General Medicine/Surgery (December 2012 to May 2013)**

1. **Overall Aims**

* To consolidate and broaden experience in medicine and surgery, including anaesthetics.
* To increase familiarity with a broad range of clinical situations and conditions in medicine and surgery.
* To introduce anaesthetics as peri-operative care and as the specialty concerned with the management of pain and intensive care.
  + 1. **Format**
* You will be attached to a lead Consultant and Firm for the duration of the attachment, but will undertake activities with other teams during this period.
* You will be given detailed timetables of activities in your own firm and outside it.
* Activities in each attachment will include:-
* GP sessions (we aim to deliver 12 sessions in total across the two 10-week attachments).
* Lectures and sessions set aside for e-learning – half day each week
* Case presentations – 1 per week
* Clinical Skills Laboratory teaching – 1 session per week
* Acute takes
* You will be expected to complete a clinical improvement project during the 2nd 10- week attachment. This assignment has been introduced to teach elements of management and leadership skills that are essential for all doctors working within the NHS.
* You will be expected to complete an expanded case study during the 3rd 10-week attachment.
  + 1. **GP Sessions**

You will attend GP teaching for 18 sessions in total across the three 10 week attachments. These are compulsory teaching sessions, specifically designed to teach you basic clinical skills and examination techniques.

* + 1. **Case Presentations**

The emphasis is very strongly on you seeing as many patients as feasible in whatever clinical setting. It is therefore essential that you optimise opportunities to present cases whether in clinics, ward rounds or dedicated teaching sessions.

* + 1. **Acute Takes**

It is particularly important that you should be present for acute takes, usually in pairs rather than the whole firm, and for the post-take ward round the following morning. Teaching ward rounds may be scheduled at other times.

**6. Group Lecture and Interactive Online Learning**

There will also be up to 8 lectures held at the Charing Cross Campus which will be partly aimed at summarising important clinical topics. At other times during these attachments there will be time set aside for you to study interactive learning modules on Blackboard. Details will be available later on the intranet.