**56/EXT/SCM**

**Forensic Psychiatry**

**Module Tutor:** Dr David Reiss

The Three Bridges Unit

West London Mental Health NHS Trust

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**Reporting Instructions**

Please attend at 9.30 a.m. at the Three Bridges Unit reception and ask for Dr Reiss

**Aims and Objectives**

To provide a high quality introduction for medical undergraduates to forensic psychiatry which will enable the students to:

1. increase their knowledge and understanding of forensic psychiatry;
2. develop a basic understanding of the clinical skills needed for assessing, treating and managing the mentally ill and people with psychological problems within forensic psychiatric settings.

At the end of the SCM students should be able to demonstrate:

* a basic knowledge of forensic psychiatric treatment facilities, together with a basic understanding of mental health legislation;

1. a basic understanding of the skills involved in the assessment, treatment and management of mentally disordered offenders, together with the management of risk.

**Background Information**

Forensic psychiatry is a high profile and expanding area of psychiatry.

West London Mental Health NHS Trust is one of the largest providers of forensic mental healthcare in the UK. The Three Bridges Unit is the Trust’s regional medium secure unit. The Trust also runs Broadmoor Hospital in Berkshire, one of the three high security hospitals in England and Wales, and provides services to HMP & YOI Feltham.

**Key Learning Events**

The variable nature of some of the clinical work (such as court visits) and the changing placements of the specialty trainees means that the final timetable will be decided just before the module starts. The exact schedule will remain flexible and be reviewed each day in order to maximise the teaching opportunities. The module will be based at the Three Bridges Unit (medium security) and will include sessions at Broadmoor Hospital (high security) as well as other sites such as HMP Wandsworth & YOI Feltham and courts.

The module aims to provide a basic core programme which will include:

* Tutorials with the specialty trainees (2 hours/week)
* Ward rounds on a clinical unit (4 hours)
* A visit to a high secure unit
* A visit to a prison (4 hours)
* A visit to a court diversion scheme
* Visits to community facilities (4 hours/week)
* Discussion on the impact of your experience
* The production of a written case report (assessment)

Additional options may include

* Accompanying a clinician on an outside assessment
* A visit to a forensic ward for women
* Outpatient clinics
* Attendance at a therapy session
* A visit to a rehabilitation facility

**Recommended Reading**

“Forensic psychiatry: an introduction for medical students” A special supplement of *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health* (in press), edited by David Reiss and Pamela J. Taylor, published by Whurr, in 2004. This will be provided to all students on the SCM.

*Another useful textbook is “Forensic Mental Health: Concepts, systems, and practice” edited by Annie Bartlett and Gillian McGauley, published by Oxford University Press October 2009 and “Forensic Mental Heath” Author Mary McMurran, published by Willan Publishing November 2008.*

**Assessment**

One case report of 2,000 - 3,000 words.

**Maximum number of students per period**:

2