

Gastrointestinal System Course Description

This unit will cover the structures and functions of the organs of the gastrointestinal tract, as well as the auxiliary organs critical for digestive processes including the pancreas and liver. The behavior of this complex system of organs will be considered in normal health and in a variety of GI, hepatic, and metabolic disorders. The clinical presentations (CPs) within the GI Unit will be focused on the following common situations and presentations that a primary care physician will experience:

- Constipation/stool incontinence
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice
- Abnormal liver functions
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal distension
- GI bleeding

Each week consists of 1 to 2 clinical presentations that are accompanied by clinical algorithms, clinical reasoning guides, and objectives lists. Clinical faculty will walk the students through the clinical algorithm emphasizing critical decision points and setting the framework for the integration of the basic and clinical sciences. Following the clinical algorithm presentation by the clinical faculty, basic science faculty will present the fundamental principles from the traditional basic sciences (e.g. anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, nutrition, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, etc.) to ensure adequate knowledge and skills required to arrive at a correct diagnosis. These basic science lectures will highlight the normal structures and functions of the system as a whole, immediately followed by an examination of various disease states including care and treatment options. Students will participate in worked case example sessions; as well as take part in a Medical Skills and Masters Colloquium course that run concurrently.

