Summary of Surgery Clerkship Objectives

The objectives of the Phase 2 surgery clerkship are to assist the student in developing the following abilities and skills:

1. The **practice** of applying basic science disciplines to clinical situations.
2. To **recognize diseases** or conditions that are treated surgically. This includes understanding the normal physiology, pathophysiology and changes incurred by surgical treatment. The student will be expected to understand the natural history of surgical diseases and the normal physiology in individuals not affected.
3. To **develop problem-solving skills** based on a complete history, performance of a complete physical examination and collective interpretation of additional data such as laboratory and X-ray results.
4. To **recognize** common surgical **emergencies** and the appropriate responses to these emergencies.
5. To **develop** basic manual skills required in effective patient care.
6. To **develop self-assessment skills** that will provide the student with appropriate input or awareness as to his or her performance on the clerkship objectives.
7. To **develop and maintain personal characteristics**, attitudes and ideals appropriate for the physician and surgeon. This should include an awareness of personal strengths, weaknesses, appearance, reliability, integrity, honesty, and the ability to interrelate with other individuals.
8. To **develop** skills enabling an effective interaction with patients, colleagues, nurses, and other health care professionals. This includes the development of communication skills that are necessary for the exchange of information concerning patients and the ability to cooperate with other disciplines in patient care.
9. **Recognize** that diverse cultural, religious, and socioeconomic factors can affect both the provider's approach and the patient's response to surgical care.
10. Students will **demonstrate** professional behavior in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. This is in line with our medical school's pillars of excellence and with medical licensing standards in the United States and abroad
11. Following **self-directed learning**, the student will be able to:
    a. Define microsatellite instability and describe its importance in colorectal cancer
    b. Describe the body's mechanisms of meeting energy needs during prolonged fasting
    c. Identify the inheritance of the BRCA gene and describe its role in breast cancer

Additional Surgical Objectives

Objectives for specific surgical subjects have been prepared by the Curriculum Committee of the Association for Surgical Education (ASE) and are published in the "Manual of Surgical Objectives: A Symptom and Problem-Based Approach," 4th Edition. These are essentially lists of expected knowledge, skills and accomplishments to be studied for each specific subject. The Department utilizes these objectives for the Phase 2 Surgery Clerkship, and students should review the objectives during the clerkship.

A summary of the topics is listed below. Students should refer to the manual for specific details on each topic.

It is expected that students will obtain some knowledge and experience in each of the topics. The Manual is an excellent resource to guide preparation for the NBME shelf exam. Surgery is a broad field and while students will obtain direct clinical experience in many of the following topics, some knowledge will need to be obtained indirectly through conferences, problem based learning and self study of textbooks and journals.

Topics:

Abdominal Masses
Abdominal Pain
Abdominal Wall & Groin Masses
Altered Neurologic Status
Asymptomatic Patient with Positive Test
Back Pain
Breast Problems
Chest Pain & Shortness of Breath
Ear & Nose Problems
Fluid, Electrolyte & Acid Base Disorders
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage
Jaundice
Leg Pain
Lung Nodule
Neck Mass
Non-Healing Wounds
Perianal Problems
Perioperative Care
Post-operative Complications
Scrotal Pain & Swelling
Shock
Skin & Soft Tissue Lesions
Swallowing Difficulty & Pain
Transplantation
Trauma
Urinary Complaints