Disease and Defense (DD) Block Position Announcement

The Office of Medical Education program is searching for a new Basic Science Disease and Defense Block Co-Director with a start date of July 1st, 2017. Candidates must have a faculty appointment at the University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree from an accredited University. This at-will position will receive 0.25 FTE.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and current CV to Carolina Jensen (Carolina.Jensen@ucdenver.edu) by April 20th, 2018.

Disease and Defense Block Director Responsibilities and Expectations

The Disease and Defense Basic Science Block Co-Director is a 0.25 FTE at will position (subject to the NIH salary cap) beginning July 1st, 2018 and reports to the Assistant Dean Essentials Core Curriculum. Duties include serving in a leadership role in developing and implementing the Block in partnership with the Clinical Block Co-Director. The Disease and Defense Block Directors will also participate with other Essentials Core Block Directors (ECBD) in the planning and evaluation of the overall Phase I and II curriculum. This will include developing clinical examples, cases or exercises that provide opportunities for students to apply basic science concepts to clinical situations. Formats will include lectures, labs and small group activities. Active learning methods will be emphasized. The Block Directors are expected to be present at all Disease and Defense Block sessions. The Disease and Defense Directors are the primary contacts for students who have concerns about any aspect of the block. They are expected to reach out to struggling students to offer advice and assistance and respond to their concerns. The Disease and Defense Block Directors will work closely with the Student Course Representatives to identify and respond to ongoing areas of concern during the block.

Specific responsibilities include:

Administration

- Assume responsibility for curricular element’s orientation including content, scheduling, assessment, grading, organization and course execution.
- Ensure syllabi, course materials, schedules, small group rosters (if applicable), and other content are of high-quality, current, posted, easily accessible, and reflect the educational objectives and content being delivered.
- Serve as a resource and communicate in a timely manner with students, administrative staff, residents and faculty.

Curriculum Execution and Program Innovation

- Provide oversight of curricula and programs with a focus on development and implementation of course goals and session-specific objectives, linking stated objectives to educational strategies and learner assessment.
- Ensure all teaching faculty and students are aware and understand the Disease and Defense competencies and learning goals.
- Ensure adherence to shared policies as developed by curriculum committees and Office of Medical Education (OME) leadership.
- Modify existing or develop new curricula or methods of delivery based on needs, changing LCME requirements, and as charged by curriculum oversight bodies.
- Actively participate in the development and maintenance of a curriculum map that includes goals, learning objectives, content, educational strategies and assessments.
- Coordinate elements of the Disease and Defense Block with appropriate Foundations content. Ensure longitudinal integration of curricular content throughout the Phases.

**Curriculum Review, Continuous Quality Improvement, and Accreditation**

- Track, monitor, assess, and identify areas for improvement in the curriculum with the goal of continuous quality improvement or as dictated by the curriculum oversight bodies.
- With the assistance of the OME Evaluation Office, evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum in achieving learning outcomes.
- Provide and present block reports to the appropriate Curriculum Committees (ECBD and Curriculum Steering Committee) with the aid of the OME Evaluation Office.
- Meet with the appropriate Assistant Dean to report on the progress of improvements in the Disease and Defense Block.
- Provide data, descriptive information, and reports to communicate course content, instructional methods, assessment, and outcomes to support overall OME program and to ensure compliance with LCME standards and other reporting.

**Student Assessment and Grading**

- Set clear expectations for student performance.
- Provide fair, and effective assessments.
- Provide assessment results to students to support their learning and on-going development.
- Monitor reliability, validity and alignment of exams with learning objectives and course content (with support of OME Evaluation Office).
- Develop a fair grading process and provide students with information on how grades are determined.
- Submit grades in a timely manner.

**Student Support and Remediation**

- To be the primary contacts for student concerns relating to the Disease and Defense block
- Ensure early identification of and provide assistance to students in academic or personal difficulty.
- Refer students with academic or personal difficulty to the Office of Student Life and work with the Office of Student Life and Remediation to develop and implement appropriate remediation plans.

**Faculty Recruitment, Support & Development**

- Recruit and develop faculty for delivering, facilitating, and/or precepting educational content.
- Work with the Academy of Medical Educators and curriculum office to coordinate facilitator and faculty development needs.
- Assure a professional and supportive learning environment.

**Supervision**

- Interface with personnel supervisors in the evaluation of support staff.
- Ensure work is given to support staff prior to deadlines to allow adequate time for completion while recognizing competing responsibilities.
Collaborative meeting attendance and participation

- The purpose of Block Directors’ meetings is to improve and standardize elements of curriculum, develop policies, provide input, ensure compliance with LCME standards, as well as disseminate best practices.
- Attendance and participation at these meetings and curriculum retreats are priorities.

Apply for the Position

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and current CV to Carolina Jensen (Carolina.Jensen@ucdenver.edu) by April 20th, 2018. This position will remain open until filled, and please direct any questions to Dr. Andrew Bradford, Assistant Dean Essentials Core (ANDY.BRADFORD@UCDENVER.EDU)
The 18-month pre-clinical Essentials Core consists of nine interdisciplinary blocks, each with a unique theme that integrates the basic, clinical and social sciences. Each block is directed by clinical and basic science co-directors with the goal of presenting basic and social sciences in a clinical context. Lecture hours have been reduced to make way for interactive small groups, labs, team projects and Problem Based Learning activities, and threading across blocks are sessions in culturally effective medicine, humanities, ethics and professionalism, informatics and evidence-based medicine and medicine and society. The Foundations of Doctoring course provides students with clinical exposure shortly after matriculation into medical school and electives, longitudinal tracks and a mentored scholarly activity provide students with opportunities to explore interests outside of the standard curriculum.

SOM MD Program
Disease and Defense Block

This 10 week course in the Spring semester covers principles of biometrics, pharmacology, pathology and infectious disease. Topics include mechanisms of tissue damage and repair. Dermatology is presented as an “Organ System,” including structural and function, pathology, pathophysiology and pharmacology.

Block Directors:
Ron Gill, PhD  
Bruce McCollister, MD

Coordinator:
Carolina Jensen (303-724-2070)

Course goals (PDF with Objectives)

- Acquire knowledge of the principles of pharmacology (including prescription writing and drug evaluation, adverse drug reactions and poisoning, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics) for comprehension of the use of anti-infective, antineoplastic, and anti-inflammatory agents.
- Acquire knowledge of the principles of microbiology as a basis for comprehension and application to the study of infectious diseases.
- Acquire knowledge of the foundational concepts regarding the pathologic basis of disease for comprehension of major categories of general pathology (infection, inflammation, and neoplasia) and as a basis for application to the study of systemic pathology and the diseases of organ systems.
- Acquire knowledge of the foundational principles underlying the practice of dermatology (including conceptual understanding of the normal structure, histology, physiology and function of the skin and the performance of a thorough skin exam).
- Apply the basic principles learned from microbiology, pathology, pharmacology and dermatology to the study of infections, inflammatory and neoplastic skin diseases.

Course Calendars

select “Disease and Defense” from drop down menu