

Forensic Psychiatry

Rotation Description

This is a 2-3 month long rotation with three clinical delivery components and an observational/experiential component.

- 1) Senior residents spend a Monday of each week for approximately two rotations providing testimony in involuntary civil commitment hearings for inpatients on the Adult Psychiatry Unit at Sparrow Hospital, St. Lawrence Campus. Residents will see patients in the morning and provide testimony in the afternoon. Supervision is provided by hospital psychology faculty.
- 2) Residents will spend one day per month with Community Mental Health faculty at the Ingham County Jail observing triage and treatment of prisoners.
- 3) Residents spend two days per week at the Ingham County Mental Health Court in Mason, MI and at CEI-CMH.

Supervising Faculty

Rotation faculty include clinical faculty community-based psychiatrists, an MSU full-time child and adolescent psychologist and Sparrow psychology faculty who are experienced in court testimony. The resident is directly supervised throughout.

Educational Goals

1. The resident gains understanding of the issues involved with competence to stand trial and treatment through a mental health court. (1,4,5)
2. The resident develops knowledge of personality disorders and mental illness presenting in the hospital, prison, juvenile, family and mental health court. (1,2)
3. The resident obtains increased understanding of diagnostic techniques useful in differentiating malingering from other psychiatric disorders. (1,2)
4. Residents learn about the link between misdemeanors, violent crime and psychiatric disorders. (1,2)
5. Residents learn how to evaluate patients for commitment hearings (1,3,6)

Behavioral Objectives

1. The Resident gains skills in working with a chronically psychiatrically ill population involved in the legal system. (1,3,6)
2. Residents improve their diagnostic techniques to assess malingering from other psychiatric problems. (1,2,6)
3. Residents evaluate individuals in the justice system with the new onset of psychiatric disorders. (1,2)
4. Residents learn how to provide testimony in court settings. (3,4,5,6)

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Recognize and address common problems seen in forensic settings such as malingering and violent behavior
- Diagnose and provide treatment for substance use disorders including alcohol, cocaine, opiates and stimulants.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- Present findings and judgments in a coherent, orderly oral and written fashion, including differential diagnosis and biopsychosocial interventions
- Engage with a family and assess family functioning
- Work with a multidisciplinary treatment team

Professionalism

- Supervise and teach medical students and junior residents
- Interact with judges, probation officers, nurses, social workers, and therapists in a professional manner
- Respond to patient and treatment team needs in a timely and properly prioritized

Systems Based Practice

- Plan appropriate follow-up care, including medication management, therapy and substance treatment in the community
- Be aware of legal issues impacting treatment and behavior
- Understand the various available community resources in the area and how to access them

Patient Care

- Work within a team providing care
- Develop a management plan for each patient
- Do short term therapy with discrete objectives