PTSM PRACTICUM – OVERVIEW

The Physical Therapy/Sports Medicine Department offers a credited credit practicum each term (summer term excluded). This is a collaborative program between the Human Physiology Department and the PTSM Department at the University Health Center, which entails a 30 hour commitment to the department over the course of 1 term, resulting in the accrual of 1 credit through the human physiology department. Students who are accepted into the program are paired with either a physical therapist or athletic trainer and observe all aspects of care, including the opportunity to interact with patients, ask/answer questions and assist with non-treatment related tasks. In addition, each student will be responsible for identifying an area of interest to research (ie. hip impingement syndrome) and will prepare a short presentation for the treatment staff during their final week.

Requirements:

To be eligible for consideration, students must have completed the following courses:

- HPHY 321 (Anatomy)
- HPHY 322 (Physiology)
- HPHY 323 (Anatomy)
- HPHY 324 (Physiology)

Students who are selected to participate must comply with all UHC policies regarding confidentiality, flu shots and proof of immunizations.

Process:

- Interested students must complete an application (available in the PTSM Department) and return it to the PTSM Manager no later than Friday of week 7 in the preceding term.
- All students who complete an application and meet the basic requirements will be scheduled for a brief meeting with the PTSM Manager to review expectations and answer a few questions.
- Students who are selected to participate are then scheduled with a physical therapist or athletic trainer.
- The student must select a research article of interest by the end of week 3, with guidance from the clinician.
- All students will work on a brief (5-10 minute) presentation of their research article to be done for the treatment staff during a continuing education meeting.

General Guidelines:

**Dress Code:** Our dress code is casual professional. Unacceptable attire includes offensive images/language, rumpled or ripped clothing, revealing clothing (such as low necklines, bare midriffs, or bare backsides), mini-skirts, flip flops and shorts. Also, we ask that you refrain from the use of heavy perfumes or colognes.

**Confidentiality:** The maintenance of patient confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Students may NOT discuss patients or their conditions with anyone other than your supervising clinician(s).

**Patient Interactions:** It is acceptable to converse with patients and ask questions; however this must be done in a professional manner, being sensitive to patients’ condition and medical history. If you are unsure as to whether or not to ask a question, wait until you are alone with your supervising clinician.

**Other Tasks:** Students are encouraged to help with non-treatment tasks, such as switching used linens for fresh ones, putting equipment away and generally assisting with clinic upkeep.

**Research Article:** Students will be responsible for reading and analyzing their research article following which they will give a short presentation on their articles/findings for the treatment staff and listen to the other students’ presentations. During the week of presentations, students will not be required to come in for their observation hours. They will have 2 hours of at home preparation time and 1 hour in clinic for the presentation.