

## COURSE DESIGN

**MECHANISMS OF HUMAN DISEASE** is a course of study offered to the second year students in the third and fourth semesters of the medical school curriculum. The course begins with a one week period devoted to general principles and concepts of pathology. The remainder of the course focuses on systemic or organ pathology, microbiology and virology. The course consists of lectures, small group discussions using the case method approach, morphology-clinical correlation sessions (laboratory sessions), and independent study. Lectures will be presented in lecture hall **390**. Small group discussions will take place in the learning clusters. Laboratory sessions will take place in the case method rooms (360, 460 or lecture hall). Virtual microscopy review sessions will take place in the sit down labs.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Small group discussions, lectures and laboratories are offered at different times during the week; therefore, you are responsible to check the schedule on the WEB for date, time and location. **Variations in the schedule do occur. Check your Group-Wise email regularly for updates.**

The **MECHANISMS OF HUMAN DISEASE** course is designed to expose the student to four learning situations: small group discussion, lecture, laboratory, and self-study.

The purpose of the lecture is to present concepts and facts relating to general and systemic pathology and related topics in clinical medicine, microbiology and virology. Each lecturer provides his/her own objectives and handouts that serve as guide to the most important information that must be learned. The lecturer uses audio-visual aids to enhance and reinforce learning. Reading assignments expand upon and enhance the lecture/handouts.

Small group discussions afford students the opportunity for active learning. Students must be prepared for each session by reading each case, defining unknown terms, and reading relevant lecture handouts and chapters from the textbook. This format allows students to engage one another and the faculty facilitator in a discussion about the pathology and the clinico-pathologic correlations concerning each case. Additionally, the student will begin to develop the critical skill of solving a clinical problem.

The laboratory sessions are used to learn the morphologic changes that occur in disease. The Virtual microscope and gross photographs of diseased organs and histologic sections will be used as visual aids to enhance the student's understanding of a disease and to correlate clinical manifestations with structural changes. Students will be asked to describe the characteristic pathology of each disease as seen in projected photographs, microscopic sections via the virtual microscope, and even x-rays. Students will be provided the opportunity to examine gross specimens during a scheduled "organ recital" .

Students are expected to read the textbooks and fulfill all educational objectives cited for each lecture, small group and laboratory session. Self-directed learning, independent study and problem solving are integral components for success in a career in medicine and for success in the Mechanisms of Human Disease Course.

Theresa Kristopaitis, M.D  
Course Director

9/7/2011