LSU Extern Experience

Duties and Opportunities

1. Morning Rounds:
   a. Choose an intern for mentorship, attain their user/password, and place a student note on your assigned patient. Print your SOAP note and present directly from the printout. Know your patient well regarding new exam findings, labs and possible post operative complications.
   b. Always pre-round on all of your assigned patient 30 minutes prior to your intern and review findings, note and presentation together.
   c. This exercise is intended to prepare for staff presentations every Monday morning.

2. Operating room:
   a. Pre-Op: Always be pro-active from the time patient in holding area by knowing the surgery to be performed, “bird-dogging” patients, introducing yourself to the operating room staff as a visiting student on an “acting internship”.
   b. OR set up: Make sure X-rays and photos are posted, pt casts are available. Write your name, resident, staff name on OR room white board. Pull sterile gloves for the team. “Always stay active”. Be helpful w/out being in the way of OR staff by communicating with people around you.
   c. During surgery: Proactively assist while learning about the big picture of the surgical procedure. Limit conversation to pertinent questions; when in doubt, speak only when spoken to.
   d. Post-Surgery: Stay active in patient transfer process from OR to holding area. Always stay with the patient until they are stable in post-operative recovery. Round on the pts you have assisted with.
   e. Keep in mind- when there is a surgery in the OR, this is the Extern’s time to learn about the surgeries, but also enable you to get “face-time” with staff. Do not let this opportunity go to waste (Don’t try too hard, it’s a fine line).

3. Taking Call: OMS call is “inhouse” and rotates facial-trauma on even calendar days with the Plastics team. We recommend taking call every night with emphasis on face call (You can sleep when you get back home. This is why you came here in the first place).
   a. Communicate with your intern and let him/her know what your goals are for the night. Ensure the intern can call you for each call.
   b. Externs are an integral part of the Call team by performing a consult with the intern, setting up for procedures, assisting or performing procedures and helping clean up. This is a “Team sport”
4. **Extraction clinic:** This is your time to clock –in and perform extractions/procedures your dental school might not give you an opportunity to do.
   a. Surgical extractions, wisdom teeth, root tips are all fair game.
   b. Teaching your fellow colleagues is a big part of residency, so work well with our junior dental clerks and be mindful of their learning also.
   c. **For the “gunner” externs, those who find elective cases in the clinic will get automatic brownie points with the chief resident.**

5. **Presentations:** It is encouraged to present on a topic of your desire/curiosity while on your externship. It can by on any topic such as your patient’s medical condition, basic science behind a surgical technique you assisted with.
   a. Usually 5-7 slides/10-15mins in length. Opportunities to present are on Monday mornings, Tuesday conference or Friday intern learning sessions. Collaborate with the senior resident on service.

6. **The City:** Yes we work hard, but we like to play hard also when the opportunity comes around. Make sure you have time to see the town, see a resident’s house and enjoy some of the perks of the city. Do not be shy to ask your resident for quality time on the weekends to check out the amenities.

**Basics:**

1. Bring your uniform: green hospital scrubs
2. Bring Tool belt: Maxwell ref. book, stethoscope, tongue blades, flashlight, pocket notepad, pens!
3. Bring your best Attitude: It is not a secret that externs do not have any experience and have only basic skills. Attitude on the other hand cannot be taught. This is something that only you have control over.
   a. Make sure that you are always staying positive and easy to work with/teach
   b. Always be professional. LSU-OMS has a great reputation within the hospital and we strive hard to keep it that way every day.

Bring your “A-Game”: As part of the top externships in the country, externs here learn by “doing”. This is a “can do environment” so be ready to jump right into the mix from day one.