

PETERSBURG FAMILY MEDICINE INFORMATION

PETERSBURG CLINIC

PO Box 589
103 Fram St.
Petersburg, AK 99833

SITE DIRECTOR: Cortney Hess, M.D. - chess@PMC-HEALTH.ORG

GENERAL INFORMATION

Petersburg is small rainforest island community in Southeast Alaska. Along the Inside Passage, Petersburg can be reached by Alaska Airlines and the Alaska Marine Highway ferries. The main industries are fishing and fish processing, and tourism. The downtown area is adjacent to the docks and the medical facility are within walking distance. You can expect to serve a diverse population, which includes Alaskan Native, Scandinavian and a variety of other ethnic groups that make up this unusual community. Indoor and outdoor recreation opportunity abound so bring equipment and clothing to match the season. Expect rain!

The Practice:

Dr. Hess will coordinate the Petersburg clerkship, to provide medical care and student teaching at Petersburg Medical Center, as well as other health care agencies within each community. You may expect to provide a wide variety of emergency, acute and chronic services in this rural community where specialist services are generally not available. The four FP's staff the emergency room and clinic and round in the adjacent hospital and nursing home. One of the newest clerkship sites, the faculty and office staff are pleased to be working with students and integrating them into their practices.

Site Director Dr. Hess's cell: 907-602-9848

If you cannot reach the Site Director, call practice managers during business hours at 907-772-4299

or after business hours, ask the hospital to page the doctor on call at 907-772-9201

Housing: An apartment will be provided in town with general furnishings, including towels, bedding, dishes and internet access and local telephone service. Please arrange your own long distance service.

Transportation: A car will be provided. It should be clean and full of gas when you arrive. Please make sure you leave it in the same condition.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

Preparing for the Clerkship:

1. Those going to Petersburg will make final arrangements with Dr. Hess
2. Be sure to email the completed Student Summary Sheet to the Site Director, Dr. Hess, at least two weeks before the start date of your rotation

3. Read the technical information sheet (attached) for details on how the living quarters are set up and equipped, what you might want to bring with you (no white coat needed), and other living considerations.

On Arrival:

Flight arrangements are made through Academic Affairs. Remember that flights to Southeast Alaska are often delayed or rescheduled. In bad weather you may have to overfly to another nearby airport. Carry overnight needs on board your flight. You will have a leased car for transportation in Petersburg. Call or e-mail the week before your arrival to make arrangements to be met at the airport and to pick up your car. See site technical information for more details.

A faculty member will meet you at the clinic located at 103 Fram Street at 8 a.m. on the first day of the rotation for a tour of the facility and clinic. They will introduce you to key people and medical staff, and give a thorough orientation to the clerkship including the following:

- Review living accommodations and arrangements.
- Review list of medical staff and their various roles in the clerkship.
- Discuss objectives of the clerkship: clinical, community and managerial.
- Discuss problem-oriented charting and patient management
- Discuss procedures for admitting to the hospital, the protocol for getting orders and charts signed, and medical records completion.
- Determine interests and needs of student (Clinical Skills Inventory) and assign rotations appropriate to the individual.
- Establish a mutually satisfactory call schedule

Follow-up Clerkship Meetings:

Every week, you will meet with a faculty member to raise any questions or problems and to review the processes of internal communication in the office, ER call and any general issues for physicians.

Also at these meetings, you will discuss your progress through the clerkship, ask questions, address concerns, discuss expectations, get feedback from your site coordinator.

Final Clerkship Debriefing:

During the last week of the clerkship, your coordinator will also help you attend to details, including cleaning the apartment and car, returning keys, etc.

CLINICAL WORK

In the Office:

The major component of this clerkship is seeing patients in the physician's office. You will work with several different physicians. Most teaching is centered around the problems presented during the day. Faculty will sit down with you at the end of each clinic session to go over any problems and questions you have.

With clinic patients, you will usually take the initial history, then present your findings and plan to your preceptor. Your preceptor will discuss each case with you and see the patient him/herself.

As the faculty determine your level of competence and judgment, they allow you to assume more responsibility. You are always expected to interrupt faculty for any questions or areas of uncertainty. Your preceptor will also observe and critique your interactions with patients, using patient centered communication techniques.

You will write chart notes for the patients you see, approximately 6-8 per day. Faculty will review these notes and give you feedback on them.

On Call:

Students are on call a minimum of five weekday nights and one weekend (Saturday-Sunday) during the rotation. You may participate in making up your schedule. When on call, you will see patients in the Emergency Department as appropriate. In the ED or hospital you will write notes for hospital records.

In the Hospital:

Rounds: Rounds are made each morning on the hospitalized patients you have worked up and are following. Faculty do not need to be present if you are just visiting for assessments and counseling. However, to perform any procedure, a licensed provider must be present.

Home visits:

Students are encouraged to become closely acquainted with the lives of patients and their families. House calls are made as appropriate. You will participate in home visits with a physician or a home health nurse at least once. Physicians also see nursing home patients.

DIDACTIC PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS

Student Project: You will be asked to research and present a topic of mutual interest or do a clinic or community project during the clerkship. This can be based on a case you have seen, review article or research topic related to primary care. Another option is to do a community project, patient education project, or a radio PSA on our local public radio. Be CREATIVE!

Community Perspective:

You are urged to seek out contact with other agencies and personnel, especially in reference to the care of specific patients. Discussions will focus on community health needs, hazards, and resources. You will be included in the clinical faculty's own community activities. You may visit community centers and resources such as those listed below:

- Community Mental Health Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- Public Health Clinic / Public Health Nurse
- Wound Care
- Physical Therapy
- Nutrition Counseling

Practice Management:

Pertinent issues related to office management and practice styles are discussed at clinic meetings. These meetings occur on a regular basis and you are welcome.

Other Clerkship Resources:

Students will have their own desk. A limited number of reference books are available at the clinics. You will have online access to U.W. library resources. If you have any problems accessing current medical literature during your clerkship, don't hesitate to ask your preceptor for assistance.

Individuals in the hospital and the broader community are also interested in the medical student teaching program and would welcome student interest in their perspective on health care and the health care system in the area. Also get to know the nurses and lab technicians at the hospital. Ask your site coordinator for names of individuals who would be appropriate and interested in talking with you.

Many of the site faculty are interested in helping students make informed decisions about medical specialties and about structuring a satisfying life within any medical career. Regardless of your ultimate career choice, we're convinced you will have a different perspective of rural family practice upon clerkship completion.

PETERSBURG SITE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

HOUSING: Contact Cynthia Newman for more information at cnewman@PMC-HEALTH.org

Mail: Everyone in Petersburg gets mail at the post office. You can use general delivery i.e.:

Your name
General Delivery
Petersburg, AK 99833

or: (preferred)

c/o Petersburg Medical Center Clinic
103 Fram Street
PO Box 589
Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone: (907) 772-4299 (general clinic number)

Provided: Cooking utensils and kitchen needs, vacuum, iron, ironing board, clock/radio, TV with cable, washer/dryer.

Bring: Personal items

Additional Info: No pets allowed. No smoking allowed. A coin operated laundry facility is available.

TRANSPORTATION: Students will fly from Seattle on Alaska Air. Make reservations with Academic Affairs well in advance of your departure and remember to let the people in Alaska know when you plan to arrive. Remember that about 1 in 5 of these flights is either canceled or the plane must fly over due to weather conditions. Carry overnight needs onboard the flight with you, not as checked baggage. You will need to have the financial resources to travel for 1-2 days. You will have a leased car for transportation in the community.

EXTRAS: You will have a reduced cost pass to the local gym, swimming pool and weight room. You can rent kayaks, bicycles and other outdoor equipment. Mitkof Island has many hiking trails and old logging roads. Sea Kayaking in the area is world-class. Charter boats are available for fishing and whale watching. There will be ample opportunities to get involved in the community during your short stay.