

Debate Chamber Medicine Summer School Part One

Day One

10.30 – 12.30: Dealing with Patients

Students will be introduced to the techniques which medical professionals use to gain vital information from patients who may find it difficult to describe their own symptoms, or who may be reluctant to give a full account of their history. We will look particularly at the way in which we can describe and categorise pain using the SOCRATES method. To conclude this session, students will engage in role-play diagnosis and communication exercises using the techniques that they have learnt.

12.30 – 13.30: Lunch

13.30 – 15.00: Radiology

Radiologists study medical images in order to make or refine a diagnosis. Students will learn about the varied processes and comparative advantages of different medical imaging technologies including radiography, CT scanning, fluoroscopy, ultrasound and MRIs. Each group will then take the role of radiologists in our detailed case studies, discussing and then presenting their diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

15.00 – 16.30: Haematology

This session is devoted to the study of blood and disorders of the blood. After an overview of the constitution and functions of the blood, students will learn about the role of antibodies, antigens and the Rhesus factor, including its effect on haemolytic disease. We will look at case studies involving anaemia, septic shock and malaria, explaining their causes, the mechanism of infection, symptoms and treatment.

Day Two

10.30 – 12.00: Introduction to Cardiology

In this seminar we will explore the complexity of the cardiovascular system, and take a particularly close look at the system of valves within the heart. This will be followed by consideration of several conditions which can develop when there are malformations of the heart, including hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Students will learn how to diagnose heart defects such as mitral stenosis and aortic regurgitation simply by listening to the sounds and rhythm of the heart.

12.00 – 13.00: Cardiology Case Studies

Following on from the introductory session, students will work through some detailed case studies, looking at how various sources of information can come together to make a diagnosis, and what factors might influence decisions as to the best option for treatment in individual cases.

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 15.00: Cardiac Surgery

Surgery is a common treatment option for serious heart conditions, and in this session, we will look at some heart diseases that require surgical operations. In particular, we will examine the different access incisions for open heart surgery and how the vascular system functions during the procedure.

15.00 – 16.30: Suturing and Trauma

Our final session will focus on one of the key skills in emergency medicine or trauma: suturing, or stitching, a wound. The class will then have a chance to practice their own skills using authentic suture kits to perform the simple interrupted stitch, which will simulate the close of a mid sized injury to arm or leg.