ENRICHMENT ELECTIVE
WINTER/SPRING 2014-15

APPLIES TO: Year I and II Medical Students; Undergraduate Pre-Medical Students

TITLE: LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

FACULTY DIRECTOR: Robert B. Santulli, MD, Department of Psychiatry

COURSE INSTRUCTOR(S): Kim Betts, GSM 2

STUDENT CONTACT: Kim Betts, GSM 2

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASST: N/A

ENROLLMENT: Minimum 6 Maximum 18

TIME AND SCHEDULE:

Classroom Sessions:
Classroom sessions will be held on four Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, on the following dates. Classroom sessions will be held in Moore Hall (Psychology and Brain Sciences Building on Maynard Street) Room 110.

- January 27
- February 3
- March 3
- April 14

Class sessions will be held in Moore Hall Room 110

Experiential Learning Sessions:

Memory Café dates for winter and spring are listed below. Memory Café meets on Saturday mornings, from 10 AM to Noon in the TDI classroom in the Novell Building, Centerra Park, Lebanon. Kim Betts, DC ’12, Geisel ’17 and Nikki Moraco, Geisel ’17 direct Memory Café.

- January 31
- March 7
- April 11

Memory Café takes place at The Dartmouth Institute, Centerra Park. Rides will be available.

Perspectives dates for winter and spring are listed below. Perspectives meets on Saturday mornings, from 10:30 AM to Noon at the Hood Museum in Hanover. Perspectives is directed by Robert Santulli, M.D., Honorary Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Geisel School of Medicine.

- January 10
- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
Caregiver Support Group dates for winter and spring are listed below. Groups generally meet on the second Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 PM and the fourth Wednesday from 12:30-1:30 PM. Support groups meet in the Conference Room at the Aging Resource Center, 46 Centerra Parkway, Lebanon, NH. Rides will be available.

Groups are facilitated by Bernadette Seifert.

- January 28 (12:30 PM)
- February 11 (5:30 PM)
- February 25 (12:30 PM)
- March 4 (5:30 PM)
- March 25 (12:30 PM)
- April 8 (5:30 PM)

Description

This elective will focus on the lived experience of dementia, from the perspective of those who suffer from this cognitive disorder, and their primary care partners. There will be four traditional classroom sessions, as well as a number of unique action-based, experiential learning opportunities. Students will attend at least two Saturday morning meetings of the Upper Valley Memory Café, at least one Caregiver Support Group, and one Saturday morning meeting of Perspectives over the course of the winter and spring. Memory Café is a monthly social group for people with dementia and their families. Perspectives is a program that brings people with dementia and their care partners to the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth to view and discuss selected artworks, and have a socialization experience. Caregiver support groups are held for the primary care partners and other family members of individuals who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. Through attending these programs, students will have a valuable opportunity to get to know individuals with dementia and their primary care partners in an intimate setting.

Goals

This elective will offer a window into the lives of families coping with dementia, so that student participants may develop greater understanding of and empathy for those who suffer from this condition.

Prerequisites

None

Method of instruction

Classroom lecture and discussion. Action-based (experiential) learning at Memory Café, Caregiver Support Groups and Perspectives.

Method of evaluating students and determining successful completion (Geisel Students)

Students must attend at least three of the four of the lectures and at least four experiential learning sessions to obtain credit for the elective. Evaluation will be based on class participation in discussions and participation in Memory Café, Caregiver Support Groups, and Perspectives Sessions.