Navigator Program in Geriatrics – OE 932

Brief description (200 words or less of course details):

The Navigator program works by pairing a nursing, pharmacy, MS1, or MS2 student with an older patient, whom they navigate through their various outpatient medical encounters during an academic year to help the patient more fully understand their health problems and treatments.

After completing the program, the medical student learner will be able to: Consider the complexity of multiple medical co-morbidities, polypharmacy, involvement of family members and/or caretakers, and possible cognitive impairment when communicating with older persons in the ambulatory clinical setting. Demonstrate how to accurately reconcile a patient’s medications, including prescribed, herbal, and over-the-counter medications. Develop communication skills for effectively relating to older patients and apply them during their clinical years. Weigh standard recommendations for health screenings and treatments with the age, functional status, and the goals of care for their older patients. Reflect upon the psychological, social, and spiritual needs of their patients with advanced illness and their family members. Recognize health literacy issues affecting older patients.

Semester offered: Fall/Spring

Registration information: Contact student leaders below

Requirements for credit:

Completion of 3 group meetings (Mods I, II, III); "navigate" at least one patient to at least one healthcare provider visit; written reflection of experience

Contact information (student and faculty leaders):

Hosana Mamata
Melissa McCarthy
Kerri McKie

Faculty: Gary P. Blanchard, MD

Offered in this academic year: YES