

Neuro-Oncology Elective (Course # 2102)

Elective Director: Michael Youssef MD

Other Faculty: Elizabeth Maher, MD, PhD, Nawal Shaikh MD

Classification: MS4 Elective

Location: Simmons Cancer Center, Parkland Health and Hospital system, and UT Southwestern Hospitals

Number of Students Per Elective Period: 1

Rotation Goal: To educate students about how to provide the best possible care to patients with malignant brain and spinal cord neoplasms. Medical students in this elective will learn the management approaches to a variety of neuro-oncologic tumors and neurologic complications of cancer, and also have the opportunity to become involved in a neuro-oncology research project.

First Day Contact: Michael Youssef—email Michael.youssef@utsouthwestern.edu Students will meet in the clinic (NM7.206) on the first elective day for Neuro-Oncology clerkship orientation. Students should contact Dr. Youssef via e-mail when they register for the course and again one week prior to start of the course.

Clinic Location: NM7.206, Simmons Cancer Center on North Campus. Currently, clinic starts at 8:00 AM Monday-Thursday.

Expected Weekly Schedule:

1. Outpatient Neuro-Oncology clinic with Drs Youssef, Shaikh, and Maher on Monday-Thursday.
2. Inpatient Neuro-Oncology consults.
3. Conference: Friday, 12:30PM– 2:00 PM, Neuro-Oncology Tumor Board. This is a multidisciplinary conference including medical oncology, neurology, neurosurgery, radiation oncology, and neuropathology (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

Educational Objectives:

1. Learn to elicit the specifics of the neuro-oncology patient history and perform a detailed neurologic examination.
2. To become familiar with the presentation, evaluation, management and course of common neuro-oncology problems, including chemotherapy treatments and neurologic complications of cancer, such as management of seizures, cognitive decline, and altered mental status.
3. To become familiar with the radiographic characteristics of various brain tumor types and to formulate a differential diagnosis based on MRI evaluations.

Student Responsibilities:

1. To attend the Neuro-Oncology clinics.
2. To perform history and physical on assigned brain tumor patients.
3. To attend any additional neuro-oncology teaching sessions as scheduled, such as Neuro-Oncology Tumor Boards.
4. To perform neuro-oncology subspecialty consultations at University hospitals as needed under the supervision of the neuro-oncology attending physicians.

Call: No overnight call responsibilities during this rotation

Method of Student Evaluation: Grading for the course is on a pass/fail basis, and is determined by the course director with input from faculty members and residents. To attain a passing grade, students are expected to demonstrate adequate performance in the stated elective Educational Objectives and Student Responsibilities.

Days Off: Standard 4th year electives attendance policies apply. All scheduled absences must be cleared by the course directors and may not exceed 4 days.