

Social Medicine Program TouroCOM - Middletown

Program Purpose

Social medicine is a dynamic and growing area of study across medical schools in the nation that merges medicine with content from areas such as Medical Humanities and Medical Sociology. This program seeks to enrich medical students with a better understanding of the social determinants of health in order to promote the development of student physicians who are critically engaged in the social conditions that help structure medical outcomes of patients and populations they serve. The program aims to further contextualize the social and historical factors affecting the health of communities and individuals.

Why Should I Take Part?

In addition to supplementing your medical knowledge and clinical education, your participation in this program will help advance your knowledge on issues that impact health beyond the walls of the clinic. This additional training will supplement your scholarship, research, and patient interaction skills. **Participants who meet a minimum attendance of 5 events in 1 academic year, or 8 events in two academic years will additionally be eligible to receive a SOMA-Middletown certificate of participation as part of the Social Medicine Program.**

Specific Objectives

- Be able to identify and discuss the social determinants of health and their components (economic stability, education, social and community context, health and healthcare, and neighborhood and built environments)
- Examine how societal influences impact healthcare, patient health outcomes, and health disparities
- Understand some of the particular needs of minority patient populations



Schedule and Content

Please see the weekly breakdown below for articles, videos, and events for our scheduled sessions. These sessions will typically be guided group discussions, but may occasionally be lectures or presentations. Many sessions will simply require attendance and participation.

Location: First-Year Auditorium

Thursday Feb 15, 2018 12:10-12:50m	<p>"The Elephant in the Room: Death and Dying"</p> <p>A presentation based on death and dying practices within our modern American healthcare system. By confronting the issues of dying, perhaps we can face some of the most human aspects of living. Discussion centered on the book <i>Being Mortal</i>, by Dr. Atul Gawande.</p> <p>https://ideas.ted.com/death-and-the-missing-piece-of-medical-school/</p>
Tuesday Mar 6, 2018 12:10-12:50m	<p>"Understanding Transgender Health"</p> <p>A dialogue on the spectrum of issues and health disparities facing the transgender community and transitioning patients. We will discuss how to address these healthcare needs as compassionate and respectful care providers.</p> <p>Collaboration with Social Justice & Public Health Club.</p>
Thursday Apr 12, 2018 12:10-12:50m	<p>"Nutrition in the Modern World: Why Going Local Makes Sense"</p> <p>A look at the socioeconomic divide in nutrition and the wave of corporate chains challenging local food economies. A local farmer will be talking with us about some of these challenges and educating us on how to support local farms.</p> <p>Special guests from Soons Orchards will be setting up a small farmer's market table for students interested in purchasing local products.</p> <p>https://www.npr.org/2017/12/11/569815331/loving-and-hating-dollar-general-in-rural-america</p>

Questions? Email SOMA Cultural and Health Disparities Chair, April Perez-Moore: aperez_m@student.touro.edu