RTS4012 CLINICAL STUDIES 1

Leader: Ms Liz Parkinson
Credit points: 3
Prerequisites: RTS4000, RTS4010, NMS4021
Co-requisites: RTS4020, RTS4022

Synopsis:

This is the first clinical practice unit and it provides a systematic introduction to the clinical nuclear medicine setting in particular (1) department layout and design; (2) personal and patient safety; (3) imaging and laboratory equipment; (4) participation in routine imaging studies on adult patients exhibiting a range of clinical conditions and presentations; (5) patient care and communication strategies with patients, carers and team members; (6) introduction to the hot laboratory.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, students will have a broad understanding of the role of nuclear medicine in medical practice, the professional role of nuclear medicine scientists and workplace design and routines. Through means of appropriate rostering and clinical supervision students will gain clinical experience in routine nuclear medicine imaging studies addressed in Nuclear Medicine and Radiopharmacy 1 and Physics and Instrumentation 1, and the professional skills addressed in Professional Practice 1. In this unit, emphasis is placed on students gaining experience in studies of the respiratory system, skeletal system, gastrointestinal system and renal system, and develop beginner level competency in:

1. The interpretation of nuclear medicine referrals;
2. Patient identification, preparation, positioning and care during imaging procedures;
3. The selection of image acquisition parameters for planar studies, including radiopharmaceutical and collimator selection and counting statistics;
4. Image display and interpretation;
5. Maintaining a safe work environment, by practising the principles of radiation safety and protection, occupational health and safety, and infection control for patients, themselves and staff;
6. Administrative work practices, including the management of resources.

Students will also develop effective communication skills with clinical staff and patients (and their carers), and they will conduct nuclear medicine studies in a professional and ethical manner. During this clinical rotation, students will gain the equivalent of four days observational experience in the hot laboratory / radiopharmaceutical preparation.

Assessment:

Case reports related to examinations and patient interactions + Clinical skills assessment + Clinical studies professional portfolio

Off-campus attendance requirements:

Placement for 5 continuous weeks in a clinical nuclear medicine centre (4 weeks academic credit, 1 week professional credit).