General Information

Time: 4:00-5:50 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Boelter Hall, Room 4283

Course Coordinator:
Carlos Cepeda, Ph.D. (206-0861, Room 58-258 Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, also known as NPI) ccepda@mednet.ucla.edu

Office Hours: By appointment.

Text: There is no official Textbook. Reading material will be provided at the beginning of the course. Optional readings for clinical aspects of disease:

Grading: Grades will be based on class participation (50%) and a paper (50%). There are no exams.

Course Description: This course will introduce students to a number of neurological diseases. The goal will be to first describe the disease from a clinical perspective, dealing with the clinical population and discussing treatments and underlying causes. In a second session each week there will be a more in depth discussion of the disorder, dealing with mechanisms, and especially new treatments.

Class Participation and Presentation: In addition to class participation each student will be part of a team of 3-4 students who will be responsible for guiding one of the class discussions. These assignments will be made within the first week of the quarter. Student discussion leaders will be responsible for determining the major questions and issues pertaining to a particular disorder. In order to provide the most exposure and experience to the different neurological disorders, topics for class discussion and for the term paper for any particular student cannot be on the same disorder. The format of the Discussion is flexible. Power Point Presentations are allowed but greatly discouraged. Usually each team member presents and discusses one paper and writes a set of questions to encourage class participation. In the past, some teams have organized quiz games such as Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, The Price is Right, Family Feud, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Deal or no Deal, or even invent games such as Parkinsopoly.

Papers: Fifty percent of the grade will be based on a 10-15 page (double spaced) paper on one of the disorders covered in the course. Students are required to meet with the coordinator to discuss the topic for the paper. The paper should be based on at least 10 original research reports concerning the disorder, examining neural mechanisms responsible for the disorder and new potential treatments. In addition, papers should be designed to evaluate the existing treatments for a disorder and to suggest novel alternatives based on the newest research. Papers are due Wednesday, June 3, 2009. No exceptions.
LECTURE SCHEDULE and ASSIGNED READINGS

Mar 30: Introduction to Neurological Disorders.
Chapters 1-6 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.

April 1: Introduction to Neurological Disorders: Discussion

April 6: Epilepsy I
Chapter 13 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.

April 8: Epilepsy I Discussion

April 13: Epilepsy II (Models)

April 15: Epilepsy II Discussion

April 20: Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.
Chapter 16 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.

April 22: Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease Discussion

April 27: Sleep Disorders
Chapter 6 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.
*Pace-Schott EF, Hobson JA.* (2002) The neurobiology of sleep: genetics, cellular physiology and


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**April 29: Sleep Disorders Discussion**

**May 4: Parkinson’s Disease I.**
Chapter 11 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.


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**May 6: Parkinson’s Disease I Discussion**

**May 11: Parkinson’s Disease II (Models)**


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**May 13: Parkinson’s Disease II Discussion**

**May 18: Huntington’s Disease I**

Chapter 12, pp. 139-146 in Neurology by Robert C. Collins.


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**May 20: Huntington’s Disease I Discussion**

**May 25: No Class (Memorial Day)**

**May 27: Huntington’s Disease II (Models)**


June 1: Huntington's Disease II Discussion

June 3: Summary and Perspectives