

The Deaf Health Pathway at URSMD

Director: Jason Rotoli, MD

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The Deaf Community

Rochester Deaf in the Rochester Area

- ~5,000 adults
- Highest *per capita* in America

Deaf Community is socially and medically marginalized

- Little awareness by health providers
- Few sources of accessible health information
- Low literacy
- Low health literacy
- Inclusion in national datasets is unclear (linguistic exclusion)

The Deaf Health Pathway: Goals

- Appreciate the health disparities between the Deaf community and the general population
- Increase awareness of unique Deaf health needs within a medical system
- Introduce successful community engagement strategies
- Increase knowledge of resources available to Deaf patients
- Provide opportunities for linguistic and cultural immersion
- Prepare students to care for Deaf patients (and other minority groups)

Why You Should Join the DHP

Culture Competency & Language Immersion

- Cultural awareness of Deaf Community
 - History, Conflicts, Achievements, Challenges
- American Sign Language
 - Linguistic conduit into cultural appreciation
 - Learn a new language (or improve your fluency)

Care for underserved population

- Develop skills that can be applied to other minority populations

Become a community health advocate

- Work with Deaf organizations on a variety of health issues

Years 1 & 2

Medical Humanities Seminar Series: Three Parts

Deaf Health, Part 1

An Introduction to Deaf Language and Culture
Seminar in Spring of 1st Year

Deaf Health, Part 2

Immersion into Deaf Language and Culture
Seminar in Fall of 2nd Year

Deaf Health, Part 3

Medical Experience in Deaf Language and Culture
Seminar in Spring of 2nd Year

- *Completion of all 3 seminars is necessary to enroll in the Pathway*
- *Each Part is 2 hours weekly (1pm – 3pm) for 8 weeks*

Years 3 & 4: DHP Elective

- Four weeks (total); can be split (2+2) if needed
 - Focus on issues relating to disparities in Deaf health
 - Provides and experience in collaboration and interaction with the Deaf community
- Focus on single domain or combination of several domains
- New project or build on previous work
- May work independently or in collaboration with other DHP students

Deaf Health Pathway: Project Elements

Community Involvement

- Partnership with Deaf organizations (e.g. projects, health education programs, community service)

Research Project

- Supervised by a faculty member
- Community Education (Deaf Health Talks)
- Develop and implement an educational healthcare module for a specific medical condition or circumstance relating to the Deaf population

Interpreting Observership

- Coordinated with URM C Department of Interpreting Services

Year 3 & 4: Elective Domains

Clinical Experience

- Work with physicians who treat Deaf patients
- Develop clinical and cultural skills and knowledge about interactions with Deaf patients

Supervised Community-based Project

- 10 – 15 pages or equivalent OR Presentation & Summary
- Build on work done in Deaf electives
- Submitted by February 1 of final year

Medical Sign Workshop (optional)

- Provide more in-depth communication approaches in ASL
- Schedule two meetings with DHP director for medical case based ASL instruction

DHP Elective Deliverables

Proposal & Calendar

- Identify a Mentor
 - Each student can identify a community or health mentor to meet regularly or use the director as their mentor for the project
- Submit a Project Proposal to **Dr. Rotoli and Tressa Newton** *8 weeks prior* to start of elective
 - Should include:
 - Schedule with completion dates
 - Goals/Objectives
 - Contacts
 - Required resources (administrative support, materials, etc)

DHP Elective Deliverables

Final Report or Project

- Content will depend on nature of elective--agreed upon at start of elective
- Due by **February 1st** of Year 4

What will continue?

ASL Classes and Training

Field Trips

- Rochester School for the Deaf
- National Technical Institute for the Deaf
- National Center for Deaf Health Research

Precepting Opportunities at Various Health Settings

- Deaf Friendly Clinics
- Audiology
- ENT Surgery
- Health Clinic at RIT
- URMC Urgent Care
- SMH Interpreting

Silent Dinners

In addition to Year 1/2 Seminars and Year 3/4 elective, DHP students will have the option to participate in “Silent Dinners” *

- Monthly “voice-off” meals
- *Subsidized* dinners in various settings
 - home, restaurant, community center, etc.
- Interaction with members of the Deaf Community
- Develop linguistic and cultural proficiency through environmental immersion
- Expected participation of >50% of events

*** Developed in 2013 in response to student feedback**

What's NEW this year?

ASL/Deaf Culture Club at URSMD

- Proposed by Alcina Lidder, URSMD medical student
- Allow students to learn/practice ASL
- Notification to attend Deaf community events
- Practice ASL skills outside of the Deaf Health Seminars

Note: students who are unable to commit to the requirements of the Deaf Health Pathway and/or are pursuing a different pathway welcome

Deaf Health Pathway Certification

Those who complete all elements of the Deaf Health Pathway prior to graduation will be recognized in several ways:

1. Provision of certificate upon graduation
2. Dean's Letter
3. Transcripts

Also: Skills you develop during your elective
Residency Interviews – Diversity Milestone
Curriculum Vitae

Interested?

Please enroll in the Deaf Health Seminars when requested by the Medical Humanities Office. Students will be required to complete all 3 seminars to enroll in the Deaf Health Pathway.

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Contact the DHP Coordinator: Tressa Newton

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Deaf Health Pathway Website

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/md/admissions/elective-pathway.aspx>

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