SMALL GROUP SESSION 20  
February 24th or February 26th

Readings: Read the 4 clinical vignettes found at the “Who Cares: Chronic Illness in America,” web-site,  
http://www.pbs.org/fredfriendly/whocares/patient_files/patient_files.html  
Optional: Read brief essays by 3 health care professionals at the same web-site:  
http://www.pbs.org/fredfriendly/whocares/the_challenge/the_challenge.html  
(These links will be available on the POM-1 web-site).

Prepare by: Bringing learning objectives from last week’s case.

Brief Outline:  
Section 1. Touch Base (20 minutes)  
Section 2. Case Discussion – A Patient with Leg Pain. (1 hour)  
Section 3. Visit from a Real Patient with a Chronic Illness (90 minutes)  
Section 4. Evaluate Session (10 minutes)

Preparation for Next Week: Preceptor visits

Prepare by  
• Calling your preceptor to confirm time.  
• Bringing your stethoscope  
• Wearing white coat and dressing professionally.
Section 1. Touch Base (15 to 30 minutes)
Discuss learning objectives. Do any students have family members with chronic illnesses?

Section 2. Case Discussion – A Patient with Leg Pain (1 hour)

Objectives:
1. To develop a differential diagnosis for a patient who presents with leg pain.
2. To apply physiologic principles to help explain the etiology of a patient’s symptoms.
3. To better understand the physician’s role in helping a patient adapt to a chronic illness.

Case – chief complaint:

Mr/s. K. is a 65 year-old man/woman who comes in complaining of leg pain.

A mentor will role-play the patient. Parts of the case will be handed out sequentially.

Learning objectives will be assigned for this case.
Section 3. A Visitor with a Chronic Illness (90 minutes)

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an empathic and patient-centered approach to a discussion of a patient’s chronic illness.
2. Describe a patient’s experience of a chronic illness.
3. Describe the potential roles of physicians and other health professionals in caring for patients with chronic illnesses.

A patient with a chronic illness will be visiting each small group this week. They will come to the group about halfway through the session. This person is not a standardized patient. This person has a chronic illness, and is here to share their story and their perspective with you. The format of this session should be more of a discussion, rather than an interview. After introducing yourselves to your guest, one student should begin discussion with the patient about the history of their illness. Everyone should have the opportunity to ask the person some questions. Some possible areas to explore are:

- The history of the person’s illness.
- The symptoms the patient has had.
- The patient’s reaction to being diagnosed.
- The patient’s treatment.
- The impact the illness has had on the patient’s life, including the effect of the illness on the patient’s quality of life, their ability to function, and lifestyle changes the patient has had to make to comply with treatment plans.
- The effect of the illness on family and friends.
- The financial impact of the illness.
- Emotional stress or illness related to the chronic illness.
- Interactions the patient has had with the health care system, including physicians, nurses, other health care professionals, insurance companies or government agencies.
- Health care professionals (no names needed) the patient has found particularly helpful, and why.
- Health care professionals (no names needed) the patients has not found helpful, and why.
- Strategies the patient uses to cope with illness.
- Sources of strength, help and support.

Allow for 10 to 15 minutes for the group to discuss the encounter with this patient after the patient leaves.

Section 4. Evaluate Session