

Organization of C. A. M. S. I. Preceptorship Program

The following report is a synopsis of the plan which was presented at the 1958 C.A.M.S.I. Conference by Toronto University. We at Dalhousie have followed this plan in establishing Preceptorship at Dalhousie. It must be noted that the whole programme would have been impossible without the aid of the Halifax-Dartmouth Branch of the College of General Practice, who devoted a great deal of their valuable time to the students. The medical student body would like to take this opportunity to thank the College of General Practice for their aid, and especially those doctors who so ably acted as Preceptors.

(Editor)

I. Purposes of the Preceptorship Plan

1. To provide an opportunity for the undergraduate to observe and live with a General Practitioner in his own environment.
2. To give some insight into the many various aspects of General Practice.
3. To enable the student to see disease in its earliest phase, and to follow it through to its eventual resolution.
4. To enable the student to personally come in contact with the patient-doctor relationship—so difficult to grasp effectively in hospital.
5. To create a greater awareness of the social, economic and religious aspects which are such an important part of medical practice.
6. To provide the doctor with stimulation for further study and to satisfy his desire to pass on knowledge and experience to others.

II. Organization and Mechanics of the Plan

1. The local chapter of the Canadian College of General Practice is consulted and they provide a list of acceptable doctors who are willing to act as Preceptors.
2. Any student is eligible who has completed his third medical year.
3. It is suggested that the first two weeks in the summer or the last two weeks prior to the return to University is the most suitable time.
4. Applicants will submit a letter of application to the local C.A.M.S.I. Officer stating why they wish the opportunity and where they would prefer to go (clinic group, urban, suburban or rural practice).
5. A deadline is given for these applications by the local C.A.M.S.I. Officer.
6. Students are advised prior to application that not all who apply will necessarily be accepted.

7. The local chapter of the College of General Practice is requested to form a committee to select the Preceptors, to ensure maintenance of the high calibre of person required.

8. The local C.A.M.S.I. Officer then meets with the Committee of the College and proceeds to dovetail the applications, considering each on a personal basis. If any students apply who are felt to be objectionable their application should not be considered.

9. Students are, as promptly as possible, advised of their Preceptor's name and address. A letter should also be sent from the L.C.O. or College to the doctor advising him of the name and address of the student. The student should then correspond with the Preceptor arranging, if possible, a meeting prior to the two weeks period of Preceptorship. Final arrangements are left to the individual student.

10. At the end of the Preceptorship period both doctor and student are asked for a short confidential report containing their comments and suggestions.

11. The L.C.O. should write a personal letter to each participating doctor expressing C.A.M.S.I.'s appreciation.

III. Possible Difficulties

1. The careful selection of applicants is most important, to avoid placing two incompatible personalities together.
2. Once applicants have been advised of their Preceptor's name and address they should be given one week to finally commit themselves. Their decision should then be final and only under extreme circumstances should they be permitted to withdraw.
3. The College should stress to the doctor that the student is not an assistant and should not be expected to assume responsibility or to carry out routine work.
4. There should be no payment of money by either participant.



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