ReEntry: managing the transition into clinical training for MD-PhD students at Yale
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Integrating clinical training into the MSTP
A requirement for 6 months of clinical training prior to engaging in full-time thesis research provides:
• the opportunity to participate in longitudinal clinical experiences during research years
• the challenge of re-joining MD classmates midway through Year 3

Turning lemons into lemonade
Longitudinal clinical experiences during PhD years are becoming the norm
• A way to maintain clinical competence
• Clerkship credit can be earned from LCEs
• Sold as opportunity to identify clinical mentors and contacts useful for matching to residencies
• Creates additional time during clinical years for away-rotations and clinical electives; perceived as benefit for “tough matches”

Focus on re-entry begins early
A discussion to plan re-entry is mandated 6 months prior to re-starting clinical training
• Individualized assessment of clinical competence
• Special “clinical warm-ups” designed for MD-PhDs
  • “Mini-med” at affiliated community hospital
  • Specialty clinic rotation
  • Emergency Department rotation
  • Medical Consult rotation
• Faculty observation of clinical exam & presentation skills

Successful implementation requires buy-in from the Medical School & MD-PhD Program
Substantial investments are required to make this re-entry program work:
• ReEntry is led by Dr. Asnes, who fills a position created jointly by the Medical School Office of Education and the MD-PhD Program
• Support for the position comes from both programs
• Dr. Asnes is empowered to create LCEs that are credited by the Medical School
• The MD-PhD program has embraced the individualized focus on re-entry as a key element of the successful transition to clinical training

LCE experiences
HAVEN Free Clinic
Wednesday Evening Clinic
Pediatric Primary Care
Ambulatory Medicine (VA)
Yale PCC
Refugee Clinic
Adult & Pediatric Specialty Clinics

Clerkship Credits for LCE
Primary Care Clinic (4 wk)
Ambulatory Medicine (4 wk)
Pediatrics/Outpatient (4 wk)
Neurology (4 wk)
Psychiatry (2 wk plus special 4 wk inpt rotation)

Participation in LCE (one year or more)
Proportion of class
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Measures of success in an environment with minimal metrics
The Yale Medical School does not issue grades to students, so clerkship grades for students experiencing ReEntry cannot be compared to historical averages
• Student satisfaction with the program is very high, as reflected in exit interviews with graduating MD-PhD students
• Student acceptance of the program and its focus on LCEs to maintain clinical competence is high
• MD-PhD performance on the Uconn standardized patient exams has improved