

The Connecticut Hospice, Branford, CT

An Opportunity to Learn Symptom Management

This 52-bed inpatient program at the nation's first hospice provides intensive palliative care for patients with terminal illness. The medical, psychological and spiritual needs of these patients and their families are met through the coordinated efforts of an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) of physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, clergy, art therapists and volunteers.

Students work one-on-one with an attending physician caring for patients approaching the end of life and their families. They participate fully in admissions, morning rounds, family conferences and IDT conferences. This elective offers students an opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge and skills in the management of symptoms (pain, anxiety, insomnia, etc.), which will benefit them in their future care of all patients, both those approaching the end of life as well as those who are acutely or chronically ill. It is the only elective in which symptom management receives a major focus.

We offer two- or four-week rotations. The four-week rotation allows for optional time spent with allied services and/or home care. The goals of this rotation for students are to learn to provide optimal symptom management and, as members of the IDT, to learn to care for patients approaching the end of life and to give support to their families.

Contact: Louis Gonzalez, MA, MPH, at (203) 315-7502.

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