Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Selective-Elective Program

COURSE#:  DSCI9904
[ ] SELECTIVE
[ X ] ELECTIVE
TRIMESTER:  Winter

DEPARTMENT:  Diagnostic Sciences
COURSE TITLE:  Elective in Orofacial Pain

MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE:
The evaluation of facial pain of non-odontogenic origin is a difficult diagnostic problem. Dental students are introduced to the mechanisms of Orofacial pain in sophomore and junior lectures, but are not exposed to treatment modalities. Confusion in recognizing and treatment of Orofacial pain patients, or appropriate referrals for treatment continue. The Orofacial pain faculty is often called upon by students who see these complex patients in the clinic. This elective would provide a more detailed clinical exposure for interested students in the diagnosis and treatment of Orofacial pain of non-odontogenic origin.

COURSE CONTENT:
This will be primarily clinical course. Students will attend the Orofacial pain clinic with the faculty and OFP Fellow. The clinical experience will be augmented by reading assignments including current journal articles and textbook chapters. Case based didactic material will be presented relevant to clinical cases.

OBJECTIVES OF COURSE:
The objectives of this elective program will be to increase the understanding of the diagnosis and management of Orofacial pain. At the conclusion of this course, it will be expected that the students will be prepared to evaluate and diagnosis Orofacial pain disorders, apply basic treatment modalities, and become aware of appropriate referral paths.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:
Students will be evaluated by the level of their clinical participation and preparedness. Familiarity with reading assignments and ability to discuss clinical cases will be stressed.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Number of students:  4 (Upon approval and recommendation of GPA)
Day/Time:  TBA, but simultaneous with OFP Clinic in the Dept of Oral Medicine
Number of weeks of Program:  6 months, one clinical session per week

COURSE DIRECTOR(s):  Dr. Gary M. Heir
LECTURE SCHEDULE SUMMARY

This course will augment the student’s understanding of Orofacial pain. The emphasis will be on differential diagnosis and specific treatment modalities.

Topics included in this elective program will include:

1. History Taking

2. Elements of the physical exam
   A. Muscle examination
   B. TMJ evaluation
   C. Cranial nerves

3. Review of pain
   A. Neuropathic
   B. Muscular
   C. Neurovascular
   D. Psychogenic

4. Treatment modalities
   A. Appliances: When and how
   B. Pharmacotherapies
   C. Other modalities, i.e., physical therapy, etc.

Students will participate in regularly scheduled OFP Clinic in the department of Diagnostic Sciences. No additional cost factors are anticipated.