NON-CREDIT ELECTIVE TITLE  
**MS 1 / MS 2**  
**JOURNAL CLUB**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>COURSE NUMBER</strong></th>
<th><strong>LOCATION</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDC 0918A</td>
<td>KESSLER TEACHING LAB BUILDING</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>ELECTIVE DIRECTOR(s)</strong></th>
<th><strong>ELECTIVE FACULTY</strong></th>
<th><strong>ELECTIVE CONTACT</strong></th>
<th><strong>CONTACT PHONE/FAX/EMAIL</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th><strong>BLOCKS AVAILABLE</strong></th>
<th><strong>DURATION/WEEKS</strong></th>
<th><strong>HOURS PER WEEK</strong></th>
<th><strong>STUDENTS</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>8 Min; 10 Max</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 Max</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>LECTURES/SEMINARS</strong></th>
<th><strong>OUTPATIENT</strong></th>
<th><strong>INPATIENT</strong></th>
<th><strong>HOUSESTAFF</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>NIGHT CALL</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEEKENDS</strong></th>
<th><strong>LAB</strong></th>
<th><strong>EXAM REQUIRED</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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**OVERALL EDUCATIONAL GOAL**  
The purpose of the Journal Club is to familiarize students with scientific literature in medicine and to help students keep current on emerging diseases and developing therapies. It is expected that the discussion of scientific literature will enhance and promote reading and critical thinking skills for self-directed learning.

**OBJECTIVES:**

I. Patient care
   Students must be prepared to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective.
   A. Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preference, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.  
   *Through reading and discussion, students will be informed about emergent techniques and breakthroughs in healthcare.*
   B. Work as members of multi-disciplinary health care teams to provide patient-focused care.  
   *Through active debate, students will learn the value of discussion with members of healthcare teams.*
   C. Utilize appropriate and effective communication strategies, including nonverbal, explanatory, questioning and writing skills, to both elicit and provide health care information to patients and their families.
   *The discussion in the journal club will strengthen students’ communication skills, both in formulating an explanation or summary and in articulating a response.*

II. Medical knowledge
   Students must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving basic and clinical biomedical sciences, including epidemiology and social/behavioral sciences, & their application of this knowledge to patient care.
   A. Demonstrate knowledge and application of the basic and clinical sciences relevant and appropriate to the clinical practice of medicine.  
   *Students will demonstrate integration and application of knowledge in research design and data analysis as applicable to patient care.*
   B. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations.  
   *Discussion of scientific papers will foster awareness of problems and unique approaches to both benchtop and bedside problems.*

III. Practice-based learning and improvement
   Students must be able to engage in self-evaluation regarding their academic & clinical performance, develop plans for personal improvement, and recognize how the application of new learning can be used to improve patient care.
A. Demonstrate strategies to analyze academic and clinical performance over the course of their professional careers, and develop improvement plans, in a methodical fashion.  
Discussion will improve student self-directed learning by providing techniques for student to self-evaluate.

B. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific and clinical studies related to patients' health problems.
Search of scientific literature for journal club presentation and in preparation for discussion will develop student skills in identifying and analyzing relevant information and resources.

C. Obtain and use information about patients they care for and the larger population from which these patients are drawn.
Exposure to scientific literature will encourage student to efficiently research relevant information about future patients.

D. Use information technology to manage information and access on-line medical information; and support their own education.
Search of scientific literature for journal club presentation and in preparation for discussion will develop student skills in identifying and analyzing relevant information and resources.

E. Facilitate the learning of other students and health care professionals.
Presentation and discussion will strengthen student communication skills and will be focused on communicating information in an educational manner.

IV. Interpersonal and communication skills
Students must be able to demonstrate interpersonal & communication skills, both verbal and written, that results in effective information exchange with patients, patients’ families, peers, and other health professions colleagues.

A. Work effectively with others as members of a health care team, including peers, residents, faculty and other health care professionals.
Discussion will facilitate communication and cooperative attitude within an inter-professional environment.

V. Professionalism
Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principals & sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

A. Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity in interactions with peers, patients, and other health professionals.
Students will demonstrate standards of professionalism, including respect, honesty, reliability and responsibility, in interactions with faculty, staff, peers, and patients.

B. Demonstrate accountability to patients, society and the profession, and a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development.
Following current research will show commitment to self-development in the profession and to excellence through self-guided learning.

VI. Systems-based Practice
Students will be able to function effectively in teams and within a larger organizational structure. They must demonstrate an awareness of the larger context & system of health care and of the resources available within the system to provide optimal care to individual patients and groups. Finally, students must demonstrate an awareness of current barriers to health care and of the various strategies designed to assist patients in gaining access to care.

A. Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including their methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resource.
Meetings may discuss analysis of healthcare organization, and will always be angled towards incorporating the information learned into clinical practice.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
Journal Club meetings will be scheduled monthly. Any current publication relating to recent advances in treatment or knowledge fundamental and translatable to treatment will be discussed. Current medical publications, such as New England Journal of Medicine, Nature Medicine, The Lancet, and some specialized and highly regarded scientific journals, will be utilized. The selected paper will be posted in advance on a commonly accessible site. Questions relating to the paper will be included, as well as links to related articles. Open debate and critical thought will be encouraged.

Format: Each session would begin with a 10 to 15 min. presentation to summarize the publication. The group will discuss the significance and difficulties associated with the findings. A faculty mentor, and perhaps an expert in the discussion topic, will approve papers in advance of meetings, be present for all journal clubs, and
monitor whether accurate information is being given and feasible conclusions made.

Sample fields include: basic research, clinical research, biotechnology, bioengineering, medical education, medical ethics, etc. More specific topics might be Swine flu, genetically modified foods and their effect on health, controversial research/surgeries, Western vs. Eastern medicine, AIDS/Diabetes/Obesity, NJ environment and effect on population’s health.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**
Students attending 6 or more Journal Club meetings will satisfactorily complete this elective.