** Students MUST email Dr. Poplin at least 5 days BEFORE the start of the elective.

**OVERALL EDUCATIONAL GOAL OF ELECTIVE**
- Introduce medical students to the concepts of palliative medicine and hospice including, interdisciplinary care: team members include clergy, social worker, physical and occupational therapy, nurses and physicians.
- Introduction to various communications skills via observations and readings
- Gain exposure to some of the social and ethical considerations
- Understanding delivery of palliative care: in an inpatient and outpatient setting
- Introduce the concepts of symptom management

**OBJECTIVES**
At the end of the elective, the student will understand the basics of working in an interdisciplinary team. The student will learn concepts of palliative care and hospice care and end-of-life care. The student will be introduced to communications skills required to provide good patient care. The student will explore and share their perspective on what is good patient care.

I. Patient care – student will work with palliative care and hospice staff to provide care to patients with chronic severe illnesses and their caregivers. Students will participate in family meetings and evaluation of patients with palliative care needs.

II. Medical knowledge - Students will be introduced to the topics such as: communication skills, pain management, non-pain symptom management

III. Practice-based learning and improvement – Students will learn about the roles of different team members and how they interact with other medical professionals.

IV. Interpersonal and communication skills - Students will learn communication skills for “breaking bad news” that can be applied to almost all conversations.

V. Professionalism – Students will learn by observation and demonstration the importance of an approach to dealing with difficult situations,
VI. Systems-based Practice – students will learn the various settings where palliative and hospice care is provided and how patients are transitioned within the system.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**
Each student will achieve the goals of the elective through the following activities:

- Home visits through Haven Hospice at JFK
- Participate in Integrative Team meetings at the Hospice
- Patient visits with pastoral care at RWJUH ICU
- Work with social worker at CINJ (attend family meeting etc.)
- Round with inpatient palliative care team at RWJUH and outpatient practices of faculty
- Readings:
  - Atul Gawande "Being Mortal"
  - Parts of AMA’s EPEC curriculum
  - Kushner’s "Why bad things happen to good people"
  - Watch PBS’s: Moyers on dying
  - Meet with clinical faculty faculty
- For further information pertaining to this course, please: 1) Log into my.umdnj.edu using your UMDNJ login. 2) Click on “groups” on the top panel. 3) Click on “Groups Index”. 4) Click on “Academic” under “Group Studio”. 5) Click on “RWJ H&P”.

**METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION**
Discussions with Dr. Poplin and other faculty member along feedback from other faculty members and a narrative from student, based on his/her experience.

**ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES FOR THIS ELECTIVE?** No

**IS THIS ELECTIVE AVAILABLE TO THIRD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS AS WELL?** Yes, Spring semester only