We want to welcome you in advance to the 3rd year Emergency Medicine Specialty Clerkship. Orientation will take place on the first Monday of the rotation at 8am in the room listed in the welcome email. If you are scheduled to work a shift on the first day of the clerkship, you are NOT expected to report in the ED until AFTER orientation.

All readings for the clerkship are from the text, *Harwood-Nuss’ Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine* edited by Wolfson. There are about 85 pages in the readings; pace your readings accordingly and do some reading every day. If you wait until the last day or two to do the reading, you will find yourself in trouble. Due to a limited number of textbooks, the assigned chapters are in PDF format on LCMS+. You will be held responsible for material covered in:

**Introduction - The Approach to the Emergency Department Patient**
A primer on how to evaluate the patient in the emergency department setting, where you deal with imperfect information with the pressures of time and volume of patients. While there will be no specifics from this chapter covered on the exam, it is essential to understand the approach to the readings and, more importantly, the patient encounter in the emergency department setting.

**Chapter 4 - Shock**
The hallmark of care in the emergency department is the rapid evaluation and resuscitation of the critically ill patient. Shock is the condition where there is inadequate tissue perfusion due to a variety of conditions. You will gain a better understanding of the physiology and acute management of this state.

**Chapter 9 - Chest Pain**
Evaluation of one of the most common and most serious chief complaints in the emergency department. You will be expected to understand life threatening causes of chest pain and how to evaluate the patient who complains of chest pain and will understand clinical interventions necessary in special situations.

**Chapter 10 - Abdominal Pain**
Evaluation of a chief complaint with a broad differential diagnosis, of which a few are life-threatening and some need immediate attention. You will be expected to understand different causes of abdominal pain and the diagnostic modalities available in the emergency department.
Chapter 11 - Dyspnea
Understanding the pathophysiology and different causes of the sensation of shortness of breath. You will be expected to learn how to evaluate the patient with this complaint and initiate therapy in the emergency department.

Chapter 14 - Altered Mental Status and Coma
Evaluation of the patient with altered sensorium which may be from a metabolic, neurovascular, or toxicologic abnormality. You will be expected to learn the basic assessment of the patient to better determine the underlying etiology.

Chapter 18 - General Principles of Trauma
The initial evaluation and stabilization of the injured patient is one of the most common and important occurrences in the emergency department. You will learn the systematic approach to the care of the injured patient and how to initiate evaluation and treatment of the injuries.

Chapter 21 - Wound Management
Wound management a medical skill that is almost completely done in the acute setting in the emergency department. You will be expected to understand the factors involved in wound care, wound repair, and long term wound healing.

Chapter 81 - Acute Coronary Syndrome
Evaluation of ACS, which encompasses the various presentations of ischemic cardiac disease. You will be expected to understand the different presentations of coronary artery disease and the work-up to determine the cause as well as the initiation of therapy in the emergency department.

Chapter 152 - Cerebrovascular Disease
Understanding the variety of etiologies of stroke, the sudden onset of neurologic deficits due to and acute vascular lesion in the brain. You will need to understand risk factors, the effects from specific lesions, and therapies available in the acute setting.

Chapter 280 - General Considerations: Recognition, Initial Approach, and Early Management of the Poisoned Patient
Evaluation of the patient who has been exposed to a foreign material. You will be expected to understand basic concepts of the diagnosis as well as management of the poisoned patient.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Murphy at 558-8084.