

VA Inpatient Morning Conference Description

- **Morning Report:** Takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 am. All trainees and students at the VA are expected to attend. Department faculty including the chief of medicine at the VA attend. At each conference one senior resident presents a teaching case while the chief resident facilitates discussion with the audience. Emphasis is given to clinical reasoning skills, pathophysiology, cost-effective use of diagnostic tests and constructing concise but relevant differential diagnosis. These conferences are interactive with open participation from all in attendance.
- **Professor Rounds with Dr. Christman:** Affectionately dubbed “chest x- ray rounds,” these are weekly conferences where interns at the VA learn how to evaluate AP and lateral chest x-rays from Dr. Brian Christman, Chief of Medicine at the VA. Early in the year this is a review of chest x-rays and their associated diseases. Later in the academic year, the scope broadens to include physical exam topics, clinical scenarios and diagnostic evaluation.
- **Ultrasound “Gel” Rounds:** Once weekly sessions where house staff at the VA practice point-of-care ultrasound skills, while receiving direct coaching and feedback from the faculty facilitators. The facilitators include attendings in the hospital medicine division or clinical fellows from pulmonary and critical care.
- **Electrolyte Rounds:** Thursdays mornings at the Nashville VA, Dr. Arroyo (former VUMC Chief Resident and current nephrology attending) provides chalk talks on electrolyte disturbances. The purpose of the conference is to teach house staff how to think critically about various electrolyte disturbances, their causes, and treatments.
- **Clinical Reasoning Conference (CRC):** Friday morning conference at the VA are highly interactive, group-based discussions of diagnostically complex medical cases. The scenarios are highly selected in order to facilitate a fruitful discussion of differential diagnoses from physicians throughout various stages of training. Interns, residents and attendings form teams, working together to establish the diagnosis, with limited objective and imaging data available. This conference challenges all learners to discuss their clinical reasoning. Brief presentations on the ultimate diagnosis follow the unveiling of the diagnosis.

- **Death Conference:** This is an alternate Friday morning conference that intermittently takes the place of CRC. At the VA, autopsies are a benefit offered for free to veterans and their families. When a veteran has an autopsy of interest the pathology department will alert the chief medical resident so that a learning conference can occur. During the conference we discuss the clinical circumstances leading up to the death and pathologic findings discovered on autopsy. Generally, the Chief or Assistant Chief of Medicine at the VA presents for the first half of the conference followed by pathology to discuss the autopsy.