Site-specific Learning Objectives

**DBP Autism and Social Communication Disorders Clinic**

**Description**
The DBP Autism and Social Communication Disorders Clinic sees patients referred by family physicians and pediatricians for developmental and medical evaluation of social communication deficits and repetitive, restricted behavior. Frequently, a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is being considered.

**Resident Role and Expectations**
- Two-to-four half-day clinics
- Prepare for history-taking by reviewing available records (e.g., previous assessments, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)) before appointments
- Perform histories and exams independently and present findings to attending
  - Use clinic note template to structure visit and dictation
- Collaborate with the attending to develop an assessment and plan for each patient
- Participate in documentation of visits and development of reports to referring providers

**Address**
DBP Clinics
730 Welch Road, 2nd Floor
Palo Alto, CA 94304

**Readings (see PubMed, URL, or DBP Handbook¹)**
None

**Educational Goals**
The DBP Autism and Social Communication Disorders Clinic experience prepares trainees to:
- Develop and refine specific history-taking and exam skills required in the evaluation of children with ASD concerns.
- Interpret developmental and psychoeducational testing reports from outside health care providers, schools, and other agencies.
- Integrate information from multiple sources (e.g., history and exam, review of outside records) in order to develop a developmental profile and individualized patient management plan
- Outline clinical features, diagnostic tools and criteria, and available treatment approaches for specific developmental disorders, including intellectual disability, autism, and language delay
- Understand the indications for and implications of medical testing (e.g. neuroimaging, genetic tests, hearing tests) in children with ASD
- Communicate effectively with families of children who have ASD

**Learning Objectives**
Because of participating in the DBP Autism and Social Communication Disorders Clinic, residents will develop competencies with regard to:

**MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE**
- MK1. Locate, appraise, and assimilate information from scientific studies related to their patients’ health problems
  - List evidence-based investigations (neuroimaging, genetic or other testing) recommended in a child with:
    - ASD
    - Intellectual disability

Site-specific Learning Objectives

- List the areas of impairment in a child with Autism and give examples of at least three questions that could be asked in each area
- Using the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT) as a guide, list four questions that could be asked in the primary-care setting to help screen a child whose parents are concerned about autism

PATIENT CARE
- PC1 Gather essential and accurate information about the patient
  - Take a thorough developmental history
    - Use appropriate clarifying questions to explore a “developmental” chief complaint
    - List questions that should be included in a review of systems when assessing a child with developmental delay or ASD
    - Gather family history relevant to developmental concerns and draw a three-generation pedigree
  - Perform a physical examination targeted to the assessment of ASD
    - Demonstrate a full pediatric neurologic examination
    - For at least four systems on physical examination (other than neurologic), describe possible associations between exam abnormalities and developmental delay
    - Discuss possible implications (both positive and negative) of “labeling” a child as having ASD

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- ICS1 Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
  - Communicate information about diagnosis and management in an empathic, non-judgmental manner that uses shared decision-making and empowers families to provide optimal care for their children
  - Explain to a family the implications of an ASD diagnosis
- ICS2 Demonstrate the insight and understanding into emotion and human response to emotion that allow one to appropriately develop and manage human interactions - Demonstrate essential skills in conveying difficult news to families:
  - Listen actively and validate parents’ concerns
  - Respond to parental affect and be aware of one's own affect during discussion of sensitive issues
  - Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural values
  - Recognize stages of grief and their potential impact on discussions with families