

# Preceptor and Rotation Spotlight - Dr. Geoff Wall & Iowa Methodist Medical Center

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Dr. Geoff Wall is one of the most respected associate pharmacy professors at Drake University. It is apparent that his students value him. Not only did he receive the 2005 Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award, but several awards during previous years as well, including Mentor of the Year and Faculty Preceptor of the Year. Besides teaching many therapeutic and clinical pharmacokinetic lectures to third year pharmacy students, he spends most of his time educating and giving fourth year pharmacy students the opportunity to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to real life situations. One student describes Wall as "one of the most intelligent

people I know; he never ceases to amaze his students with his extensive knowledge of pharmacy and medicine." One of the rotations Dr. Wall offers is an Internal Medicine rotation at Iowa Methodist Hospital. From day one, the students are active members of the internal medicine team, which consists of attending physicians, medical and pharmacy residents, medical students, Dr. Wall, and pharmacy students. The rotation involves working on the Teaching Service, which encompasses a select number of cases where the focus is clinical education and treating the patient. The Teaching Service provides excellent learning opportunities for residents and students and receives some of the more challenging and interesting admissions.

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The two internal medicine rotation students divide the patients on the Service between themselves, each

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gathering the history of their patients, medication histories and other pertinent information such as lab values. Every morning the students update the patient charts with any changes made over night, document histories, and review the charts of any new patients admitted to the Service. Next, the team meets before rounds to discuss each patient. At this time, the pharmacy team discusses each patient with the physician, makes recommendations for changes to patients' drug therapy, and answers any medication questions that may arise. In addition, Dr. Wall or the pharmacy resident talk with students about any problems found and what changes or additional monitoring the students would recommend. After

working out the details, Dr. Wall allows the students to make the recommendations to the physician. This task gives students the opportunity to develop confidence and to improve their ability to communicate with other health professionals. Consequently, students have several opportunities for patient counseling, during or after rounds.

Rounds occupy most of the morning. The afternoons are filled with lectures, discussions, and presentations. Dr. Wall gives a mini lecture almost every afternoon. These sessions are more than just a lecture. Students are involved, constantly being called on for

answers and input. During the rotation, students are asked to do three projects. These include one journal club session, one general topic discussion, and one formal PowerPoint presentation on a disease state or drug. In addition to these projects, another benefit of the teaching service is continued education in the form of short lectures and presentations by various members of the internal medicine team. By getting actively involved in Dr. Wall's rotation students feel they can solidify what was learned in the classroom as well as improve confidence in their pharmacy knowledge. One student says "He (Dr. Wall) takes the time to make sure his students have the knowledge they will need as future pharmacists. His interest in students does not stop there; he makes the whole experience fun. He wants us to enjoy what we do and make the most of our pharmacy careers." The rotation is the perfect combination of autonomy and guidance from Dr. Wall. His rotation gives students independence and responsibility but also enough direction to ensure they are getting a valuable experience.

