“History of Medicine in a Day and a Walk!”

Instructor: Steven J. Peitzman, MD, Professor of Medicine

Purpose and Description: Learn something about the roots of the profession and life for which you are now preparing. The two-component course will comprise a full day (9 am to 4 pm) on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Queen Lane Campus, and Dr. Peitzman’s popular history-of-medicine walking tour of Old Philadelphia, Saturday morning April 15 (it takes about 2 hours).

Topics will include: Highlights of change in medical thought and practice from Hippocrates to the 20th Century; epidemics; the germ theory and “Typhoid Mary”; the evolution of therapeutics and surgery; the entry of women into medicine; homeopathy (these last two topics relate to the origins of DUCOM). Methods will include: discussion; illustrated lectures; at least one video; a “readers theatre” presentation; some in-class brief readings of original literature; a visit to the Legacy Center (DUCOM historical archives). The walking tour will include the nation’s first general hospital; site where the 1793 yellow fever epidemic began; the building where both predecessor schools first held their graduations circa 1850; a surviving 19th-century dispensary building, an important Quaker meetinghouse, etc.

Schedule: Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, in SAC. The walk will occur on Saturday April 15 from 9 am to about 11, and we meet at 5th and Arch Streets. Completing an electronic survey is a requirement of the course.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Enrollment is limited to 25 students. Some years there is a waiting list, so students registering are expected to attend. You can register by email: contact the Humanities coordinator (humanities.coordinator@drexelmed.edu) no later than March 24, 2016. For questions about the content of the course, email Dr. Peitzman at speitzma@drexelmed.edu. If you find that you are unable to attend, please notify the coordinator at least two weeks prior to this elective.