

Physicians & Social Responsibility 1 (CBHX2408)

1 credit Concurrent Elective (November – April)

Elective Director: James Dwyer, PhD dwyerj@upstate.edu

Maximum number of students: 16

The responsibility of a physician is not only to deliver excellent care, but also to work to change systems when they conspire to make it difficult to do the right thing. This elective, paired with the follow-up elective, Physicians and Social Responsibility (PSR) 2, gives medical students tools to identify areas within health care that need change and to work effectively to make that change happen. This elective builds on students' experiences to equip them to identify and address the policies, systems, and assumptions underlying the health care system's inadequacies and injustices. PSR1 (CBHX2408) addresses core topics related to physicians' social responsibility and is presented as eight 2-hour seminars on Wednesday afternoons. Typical topics (varying somewhat year-to-year) include health systems & finance; socio-economic disparities in health & illness; history, impact, and challenges of safety net care; basic advocacy skills; global health inequities; environmental issues in health; refugee & immigrant health. As part of the elective, students will write a proposal for a project they would like to work on.

Open to MS1, MS2, and MS4 students.