

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the last few years have seen some changes to how we deliver teaching within the School. As the situation seems to be more stable now, we intend to resume our delivery, as far as possible, back to pre-pandemic methods. The timetable can be viewed in detail, as usual, via Galen. Since we are in a medical school, we align some of our activity with more stringent NHS safety protocols and measures. This applies particularly to placements and clinical skills teaching.

Despite the pandemic now appearing to stabilise somewhat, there is still uncertainty and this may mean that we have to make changes to the way we deliver the module. Any changes are minimised as far as possible and approved through due process within both School's and, where relevant, University's quality assurance systems. Please be flexible and work with us to provide you with the best opportunities we can by following guidance and behaving professionally. We will do our best to communicate any changes with you clearly and effectively

### **MD4001**

This module is the third Honours level module, and is the last of the modules examined using formal mid and end of semester exams. The principle behind this module is similar in structure to other honours modules in the course. Students are first introduced to the normal structure and development of the central nervous system (CNS) and the head and neck. As the semester progresses we introduce concepts about specific areas of the cerebral cortices and specialised functions as well as the pathways where different types of neuronal information flows along as it passes to and from the brain. The five special senses (those senses associated with the head) are presented to students in both lectures and practical classes; this information is dovetailed with the clinical examination of cranial nerves and the structure/function of the brainstem nuclei.

One of the important aspects conveyed in this semester is an appreciation of the complex interactions that exist between the structures of the head and neck, and their control by the central and peripheral nervous systems. Further, emphasis is placed on the neurological feedback mechanisms which allow normal reflexive and planned motor output.

Running concurrently with this integrative theme are a series of lectures aimed at explaining some of the higher functions of the brain, as well as some of the interactions of specialised areas found within the brain. These interactions produce phenomena that we experience as thought, memory, sleep, and emotion all of which are regulated by interaction with the environment around us. In line with the other honours modules, once the normal structure and function is covered the students learn about general pathology of the CNS and imaging techniques as well as specific diseases with common occurrences. Alongside these lectures the students learn about the pharmacological treatments and psychological effects of these disease states.

In the latter part of the semester the subject matter turns to the control exerted over the body's other systems by the endocrine glands. As well as the normal structure and function of these glands we illustrate to students how these control points integrate amongst the functions of other systems. Here we also cover therapies for selected thyroid disorders, diabetes and selected adrenal disorders.

Throughout the teaching of this module there are the common vertical themes such as Clinical Medicine, Communication Skills and Health Psychology which are taught using examples, where possible, from scenarios involving the CNS and endocrine systems.

# University of St Andrews - School of Medicine Handbook

## MD4001 Central Nervous system and Endocrine System

Central Nervous system							Endocrine System				
Structure	Function		Treatment				S	F	T		

Structure and function of the head and neck

Clinical Medicine, Health Psychology

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10      11