**Medical Microbiology**

**Objective**
The overall goals of the elective are to: A) Familiarize the student with the duties and clinical responsibilities of the Medical Microbiologist and to be involved in some cases. B) To assist in career planning of students interested in the specialty. C) Learn some basic technical, clinical and operational aspects of Medical Microbiology. D) Familiarize the student with aspects of Infection Control. E) To become familiar with how Medical Microbiology and Infection Control functions as a team and integrates with other clinical services in the hospital.

**Description**
Medical Microbiology is the branch of medicine concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infections and communicable diseases. The discipline consists primarily of four major spheres of activity: 1) The scientific and administrative direction of a diagnostic microbiology laboratory. 2) The provision of clinical consultations on the investigation, diagnosis, and treatment of patients suffering from infectious diseases, 3) The establishment and direction of infection control programs across the continuum of care, 4) public health and communicable disease prevention and epidemiology. In addition to these primary activities, Medical Microbiologists are also involved in teaching at all levels, and in basic and applied research. Depending on the date and duration for the rotation (2-4 weeks), the student will have the opportunity to observe the above aspects of Medical Microbiology at one or more teaching sites. Aspects include dedicated time on the various Microbiology benches with the teaching from the technologists, laboratory bench rounds with the Medical Microbiologist, working with the Medical Microbiologist on case consultations, interaction with the Infection Control Nurses, rounding with the Antimicrobial Stewardship Team and involvement in Public health/reference laboratory issues that arise during the rotation.