

AMPATH-UofT Ob/Gyn Electives at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital

MEDICAL STUDENT

General Description:

This elective opportunity offers continued studies in the management of obstetrical and gynecological patients in rural and urban communities of Kenya. This elective will combine observational and hands-on clinical experiences in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The student will actively participate in the management of routine obstetrical and gynecologic patients, as well as participation in the care of high-risk obstetrical patients. During this rotation the student will start to gain an understanding of the major reproductive health problems specific to Kenya.

In offering this elective opportunity, the University of Toronto has partnered with Indiana University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. On the ground supervision in Eldoret will be provided by either one or both U of T or IU Ob/Gyn staff as well as local Kenyan faculty. While in Eldoret, the student is expected to meet at least weekly with the North American faculty supervisor. The student will not engage in patient care in any manner other than that which would be appropriate for the level of training in the local Canadian setting.

Prerequisites:

Students must be in good academic standing. Third or fourth year students must have completed the Ob/Gyn rotation of their clerkship. Prior to departure, each student must meet with the elective coordinator for mandatory pre-departure sessions as well as for debriefing session(s) after return.

Setting:

The setting for this rotation is Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the second largest teaching hospital in Kenya and the affiliated teaching centre for Moi University's School of Medicine (MUSOM). The elective will include exposure to gynecology, antenatal and labour wards at the hospital. MTRH is located in Eldoret, a city of almost 200,000 in western Kenya. Obstetrical volume consists of over 4000 deliveries per year, many of which are referred from outside institutions. There are over 500 gynecologic surgeries conducted annually and over 7000 reproductive-health related outpatient visits. In addition, MTRH and AMPATH are affiliated with 19 surrounding district hospital sites, which the student may have the opportunity to visit and work in, depending on supervision, opportunity and level of interest.

Personal Care:

During the elective in Eldoret, accommodation will be at the IU House facilities within walking distance to MTRH. Internet services are available. Prior to departure, the resident will be given a guidebook developed by the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in order to help the resident acclimatize to the environment in Eldoret and anticipate potential concerns. Advice is available with regards to appropriate immunizations, travel medications, insurance, and other concerns prior to departure. While every opportunity will be taken to promote and ensure resident health

and safety during the elective, it is recognized that there are potential inherent dangers to travel.

Resources:

The student is encouraged to prepare for their elective through self-directed learning in appropriate topic areas. A list of resources can be provided on request.

Goals and Objectives:

Medical Expert

- Understand the clinical presentation and management of common diseases in Kenya
- Evaluate, manage, and participate in the care of patients admitted to the Gynecology ward and Labour and Delivery service
- Perform daily an initial history and physical (supervised as required) on at least one new patient admitted to the Gynecology ward and/or Labour and Delivery service
- Participate in daily ward rounds
- Evaluate, manage, and participate in the care of patients presenting to the ambulatory Ob/Gyn clinics at MTRH
 - Time spent in the ambulatory clinics will be at the discretion of the supervisor
- Deliver diagnostic and therapeutic services in the "technology-poor" environment of Eldoret
- Learn small procedures relevant to the discipline, as appropriate
 - e.g. pelvic examination, spontaneous vaginal delivery, repair of perineal tear, assisting in the OR

Scholar

- Participate in all teaching rounds
- Participate in all relevant conferences and seminars
- Engage in self-directed learning; a significant portion of evening hours Monday through Friday should be dedicated to self-directed learning.
- Observe at least one group tutorial at MUSOM
- Visit the campus of Moi University
- Be encouraged to develop, carry out and write up a research project (recommended, not required)

Manager

- Understand the structure of medical care delivery and education in Kenya
- Practice time management skills in the provision of medicine in a resource poor setting

Collaborator

- Collaborate in patient care with North American Supervisor as well as with Kenyan faculty, residents, medical students, midwives and nurses to provide optimal patient care
- Participate in the delivery of clinical and educational services at one of the rural health centers and at one of the urban health centers in the Eldoret area
- Participate in community outreach programs

- Participate as a member of a medical team on the wards of MTRH

Communicator

- Discuss with the faculty preceptor(s) in Eldoret the relationships of social, political, and economic factors to health in Kenya as compared to North America
- Engage in weekly meetings to review and discuss progress, perspectives, and insights
- Demonstrate effective cross-cultural communication skills, knowledge, and attitudes
- Work collegially with fellow Kenyan faculty, residents and medical students
- Develop a rudimentary knowledge of Kiswahili
- Develop collegial relationships and personal friendships with Kenyan health care professionals and students

Professional

- Dress in a manner that reflects an understanding of and respect for the local culture
 - e.g. men will usually wear shirts and ties and sport coats/white coats, women will wear dress slacks or dresses below the knee/white coats
- Interact professionally and socially with his/her counterpart(s)
- Demonstrate respect for the Kenyan medical officer/intern who is the primary care physician responsible for the management of patients at MTRH
- Behave professionally in a manner that would be expected in North America
 - e.g. arrive on time, participate in a full day of work, etc.

Health Advocate

- Minimize risks to personal health
 - e.g. avoiding travel after dark, avoiding travel in unsafe vehicles, taking all recommended immunizations and malaria prophylaxis, obtain necessary personal health insurance, etc.
- Advocate for patient care and resource allocation as is appropriate within the local medical system