

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

RESIDENT

Purpose:

To experience firsthand the practice and challenges of global reproductive health. For some residents, this may serve as an opportunity to develop a prolonged interest and potential for leadership in Global Women's Reproductive Health. The elective will include exposure to some or all of clinical, public health, policy and research activities in a resource poor setting; issues of cultural sensitivity, health disparities, human rights and medical ethics will also be evident. Unique curricular goals and objectives will be realized as a result of their academic and overseas training. The rotation will allow for the resident to experience standard components of Obstetrics and Gynecology in a resource poor setting in Eldoret, Kenya. It is anticipated that the elective will lead to a greater appreciation of the meaning of core competency skills as they relate to the care of women in Canada and abroad.

Rotation:

The elective resident will be a senior Ob/Gyn resident (3rd year or higher) at the University of Toronto in satisfactory academic standing. Selection to participate in the rotation will be at the discretion of the program director. It may be possible for more than one resident to participate in the elective simultaneously, in which case schedule will be developed to ensure good opportunities without overlap for all trainees.

The rotation will consist of a 12-week period spent either entirely at Moi University (MU) and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), or split between MU/MTRH and affiliated rural clinic sites. (Shorter elective periods will be considered on an individual basis but are discouraged.) The resident is also encouraged to incorporate a research project into their rotation, in which case time would be split between clinical and research responsibilities as is appropriate. If research is incorporated, the resident would be encouraged to have been involved in planning of a project for an appropriate time prior to the elective. The resident will be supervised by the on-site member of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology teaching faculty, or the faculty of our partner institution, Indiana University. The resident will also work with our Kenyan partner faculty and alongside Kenyan undergraduate and postgraduate trainees in a situation of graded responsibility as would be expected in Toronto. To this end, the resident will act only within the scope of their level of training and will operate only under the supervision of their North American and/or Kenyan supervisor, as they would in Toronto.

Expectations:

The resident will be expected to participate in the teaching of Moi University medical trainees in Kenya (usually one formal session/week on elective as well as informal teaching), as well as to present at least one educational rounds to departmental colleagues during the experience in Eldoret. The resident will also be expected to produce a project for the Division of Reproductive Health (DRH) at MTRH, either a clinical protocol or another project at the request of our Kenyan colleagues. A draft of

this project will be a prerequisite to departure for the elective and completion of the project will be required to achieve successful completion of the rotation. Occasionally, at the discretion of our Kenyan colleagues, a research project may take the place of the expected protocol or project.

The resident is expected to schedule and participate in preparatory sessions with the elective coordinator prior to departure (these may take place one on one or with other trainees scheduled to go on elective) and a debriefing session upon return. While in Eldoret, the student is expected to meet at least weekly with the North American faculty supervisor.

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. Given the large academic presence at Moi as part of the AMPATH Consortium, the resident will have the opportunity to interact with other faculty and trainees from other schools. Specific areas include: obstetric fistula prevention and treatment, cervical cancer prevention and screening, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and addressing maternal mortality and morbidity.

Funding:

There is some financial support available to residents who participate in this elective to offset their costs.

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:

Medical Expert and Scholar

- Learn firsthand about the common causes of maternal morbidity and mortality in resource poor settings and about relevant strategies to reduce such outcomes.

- Experience the realities of attaining surgical skills in technically limited settings and will learn techniques appropriate to the circumstances
- Experience the effects of HIV/AIDS on reproductive health and learn about the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, specifically the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (pMTCT) program
- Manage and gain exposure to obstetrical scenarios unique to resource poor settings
 - e.g. antepartum care, medical and obstetric complications of pregnancy and labour, multiple gestation management, management of postpartum hemorrhage, management of VBAC and the natural history and management of obstetric fistula.
- Manage and gain exposure to gynecologic scenarios unique to resource poor settings
 - e.g. assessment and management of sexual violence; abnormal uterine bleeding; STIs; cervical cancer, GTN and other gynecologic cancers; first trimester complications; urogynecologic concerns; pelvic masses and their assessment and management; pelvic pain and issues of perioperative care
- Manage and gain exposure to pediatric and adolescent gynecology and reproductive endocrinology concerns and the approach in the setting
 - e.g. menstrual disorders, delayed and precocious puberty, ambiguous genitalia, infertility
- Complete the following procedures and manage the following common conditions in the Kenyan setting under supervision
 - Abdominal hysterectomy
 - Complex perineal repair or fistula repair
 - Exploratory laparotomy
 - Management of post abortal patient
 - Management of advanced condylomata
 - Management of a patient with a pelvic mass
 - Breech vaginal delivery (optional)
 - Multifetal delivery (optional)
 - Repeat cesarean delivery
 - Management of malaria in pregnancy
 - Management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia
 - Management of preterm labor and preterm delivery
- Participate in a knowledge-enhancing project for the Department of RH at MTRH such as development of a clinical protocol

Health Advocate

- Develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for culturally competent care in low resource settings
- Be challenged by unique clinical circumstances that will push ethical frameworks in a manner which is different from what is typically experienced in Canada

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
- Participate in teaching of Kenyan medical students and trainees, both formally and informally
- Develop a rudimentary knowledge of Kiswahili

- Develop collegial relationships and potentially personal friendships with Kenyan health care professionals and students

Collaborator

- Collaborate in patient care with the North American Supervisor as well as with Kenyan faculty, residents and medical students 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

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 who is the primary care physician responsible for the management of patients at the 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.