

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital Ob/Gyn Medical Student Electives:

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.

Prerequisites:

Students must be third or fourth year students in good academic standing who have completed their Ob/Gyn rotation of their clerkship. They must complete an elective application form. 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.

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.

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 the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (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.

Goals and Objectives:

1. 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 wards and Labour and Delivery service
- Participate in daily ward rounds
- Perform daily an initial history and physical (supervised as required) on at least one new patient admitted to the Gynecology and/or Labour and Delivery service

- Evaluate, manage, and participate in the care of patients presenting to the ambulatory Ob and Gyn clinics at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital. The amount of 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, Kenya
- Learn small procedures relevant to the discipline, as appropriate e.g. pelvic examination, spontaneous vaginal delivery, repair of perineal tear, assisting in the OR

2. 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 MUSM
- Visit the campus of Moi University
- Be encouraged to develop, carry out and write up a research project (recommended, not required)

3. 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

4. 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 the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital

5. 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
- Meet at least weekly with the Medical Liaison 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

6. 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 the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital

- 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.

7. Health Advocate

- Minimize risks to personal health such as 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

Evaluation:

University of Toronto elective evaluation forms will be filled out by the Academic Coordinator of Global Health Initiatives with input from the local supervisors.

The student is expected to provide the Academic Coordinator with a short personal reflection paper reflective of a topic/topics encountered and of interest during the elective.

Personal Care

During the elective in Eldoret, accommodation will be at IU House facilities within walking distance to MTRH. Computers and e-mail services are available. The facilities do have security arrangements although, as with travel anywhere, theft is a possibility and residents are advised to pack and insure their belongings accordingly.

It is recognized that the setting of Eldoret may provide the elective student with previously unencountered personal and professional challenges. Prior to departure, the student will be provided with predeparture orientation and a handbook (in development) by the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in order to help the resident acclimatize to the environment in Eldoret and anticipate potential concerns. Advice will be provided with regards to appropriate immunizations, travel medications, protocols in the event of needle-stick injury, arrangement of appropriate health insurance, (to cover in Kenya and for any potential weekend activities), etc. prior to departure. It is expected that the resident will indeed undertake a travel clinic appointment as per advice predeparture as well as undergo any suggested testing (e.g. TB skin test 3 months after return home) after the elective. 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. Sources of such information may include:

- Modules from the USAID Global Health eLearning Center (www.globalhealthlearning.org)
- Teaching modules from the Global Health Education Consortium website (www.globalhealthedu.org)
- www.iukenya.org / IU Kenya manual (available upon request)
- Textbooks, journal articles, UpToDate, etc.