



Obstetrics & Gynaecology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FAQ for Research Supervisors

The Department places a high value on research, consistent with the University of Toronto's mission statement. Successful research requires optimal support for the trainee. This FAQ provides details for the potential research supervisors.

1. What is the role of the research supervisor?

Overall, to ensure successful completion of the agreed-on project: this will require your:

- awareness of the resident's schedule and availability for progress meetings based on their schedules
- meeting with the resident a) on a regular basis, as required, during key parts of the research, and b) regularly every 6 months until the project is completed
- initiating such meetings, if the resident does not request them.
- commitment to teaching the resident how to design and evaluate their study.

"I have found it's very rewarding to supervise residents for research projects."- Research Supervisor

2. What qualifications/experience is required?

The most important thing is accessibility. If you have done any research yourself, you are capable of supporting resident research.

Residents are fun to work with and enthusiastic, and it's great to see them get excited as they collect their data and see their results."- Research Supervisor

3. How do I determine if the project is right for the resident?

Some residents have proven research skills. If so – they should be able to self-assess – If not, then ensure they are fully committed to the project – generally, the smaller, the better. The biggest issue is usually the fit between the resident's statistical ability and the project's requirement for statistical analysis. Seek collaborations with other faculty as necessary.

4. Do I need funding to be a research supervisor?

- Given the time constraints of residency training, you should discourage a resident research project that is conditional upon external funding. Grant writing is not a required objective of this experience, and support is by no means guaranteed. However, if the research project is exceptional, the resident fully committed, and time allows, the resident should be encouraged to apply to funding agencies.
- As supervisor you agree to meet all costs that are required for the resident to successfully complete his/her agreed project, **including the costs of preparing a poster** for the annual Department Research Day. It is quite possible for the resident to complete a project without any funding required.
- You should not begin a project that requires outside statistical help unless you have funding available for this. Most projects can be designed such that the statistical analysis is within the skill set of the resident or supervisor if support for statistics is not available.
- You are not required to fund the resident to attend any meeting outside Toronto. However, you should not encourage submission of abstracts to meetings without knowing whether the resident can afford to go. (See "Resident Conference/Course Funding Guidelines.")

5. What are sources of funding for resident research?

This should be considered at the “negotiation” stage between the resident and you, the potential supervisor.

5.1 Hospital ObGyn (and Divisional) practice plans

These typically offer small (<\$10,000) start-up grants annually, and are very supportive of trainees, provided the hospital is formally recognized in any presentation or publication. Know what your site has to offer.

5.2 University of Toronto

5.3 SOGC / Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health

5.4 PSI. The Physicians’ Services Inc Foundation has at least 2 grant submission deadlines/year with a specific category for resident research.

5.5 APOG President’s Grant for Resident Research

“On a more practical note, it is also a great way to get projects done - we are so busy and it helps to have other people to get projects off the ground.” - Research Supervisor

6. How do I evaluate the resident?

Resident requirements for Level 1 and level 2 are outlined in the document “Research Requirements” (posted on the ObGyn website). You, as supervisor, need to complete the ITERs* (on POWER) for each research rotation.

*ITER = In Training Evaluation Report

7. How do I assess project progress?

You can expect a resident to complete a research question, literature review, and REB submission by the end of PGY3. If your trainee does not meet this timeline, it should be discussed. If you have concerns at this point, contact the Residency Program Director.

8. Should a resident have multiple projects?

The program philosophy is quality, not quantity; therefore residents are strongly discouraged to take on any additional project until current projects are completed. In discussing the project with a resident you should review their current commitments. Over-commitment is an important source of work-stress. Supervisors play a key role in minimizing this threat.

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9. How is authorship assigned?

"Authorship credit should be based on criteria developed by the International Committee for Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE): (1) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; (2) drafting the article or reviewing it and, if appropriate, revising it critically for important intellectual content; (3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions (1) and (2) and (3). In addition, each author must certify that he or she has participated sufficiently in the work to believe in its overall validity and to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of its content." (*American Journal of Epidemiology*, Online ISSN 1476-6256 - Print ISSN 0002-9262)

The resident is expected to be the first author of any abstract and/or manuscript produced for the research project, provided s/he meets all research expectations. Any dispute between resident and supervisor will be referred to the Chair of the Research Committee for assessment and resolution.

"I've learned much from my residents about topics I thought I knew, when I've worked with them on research projects. It is stimulating and a nice change from the office." - Research Supervisor

10. What can I expect of the resident?

You can expect the resident to:

- Develop a research hypothesis, protocol and ethics submission
- Present at the Resident Academic Half-Day research review session.
- Carry out the study (collect the data and analyze)
- Present at the Department Annual Research Day a minimum of one time during residency.
- Prepare a written manuscript of research findings that adheres to the guidelines of an appropriate journal, to the Research Supervisor's satisfaction.

11. How does the Department help?

The Department facilitates research by providing:

- research mentors — mentors help PGY1s formulate an initial question and assist with finding an appropriate supervisor
- three months of protected time (usually in two six-week blocks) for research
- a research compendium of faculty research interests
- an annual Department-wide research day in which the residents present
- conference funding support: \$2000 for travel expenses for the first project a resident is first author on, and up to \$2000 for subsequent projects (on a case-by-case basis)
- publication support (through the Research Coordinator)
- discounts for poster production through U of T corporate account at Kinko's.

Important Related Documents:

- **"Research Requirements"** checklist document (posted on PORTAL and the ObGyn website). This is a key document for residents; it outlines what is needed for achieving research Level 1 and Level 2.
- **Research-Rotation Objectives**
- **Research TIPS for Residents**