

## **FELLOWSHIP IN GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EQUITY**

The *Fellowship in Global Women's Health and Equity (GWHE)* at the University of Toronto is affiliated with Women's College Hospital; in particular, through its Institute for Health Systems Solutions & Virtual Care (WIHV) and Global Women's Health Program.

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**Application Deadline:** Applications are due on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year (for the following academic year).

### **Program Information**

The *Fellowship in Global Women's Health and Equity* within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Toronto is a 2-year certificate subspecialty training program. This program is run in partnership with the Academic Model for Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) Reproductive Health program in Western Kenya and our partner institution, Indiana University, and has been developed and supported through Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

The Fellowship will focus on situating women's reproductive health concerns and needs in the greater context of their social, political and economic lives and expects to graduate clinicians who place priority on research, advocacy and policy change. By combining in-depth field experience in global women's health internationally with clinical and academic training in Canada, the program trains graduates to be leaders in the care of marginalized and vulnerable women both locally and internationally.

Fellows are expected to be self-directed, with the program designed to provide considerable flexibility within the academic year to facilitate the pursuit of their career goals and objectives.

### **Goals & Objectives**

In line with the CanMEDS framework, the fellowship program will develop the core competencies of medical expert, communicator, collaborator, manager, health advocate, scholar and professional in global health. To that end, the program will emphasize practice in areas of clinical care, scholarship and field experience.

The overall objectives of this fellowship are:

- To train Obstetrician/Gynaecologists who are committed and have the clinical skills required to improve the health of marginalized women locally and internationally
- To create leaders in global women's reproductive health in the areas of research, policy and advocacy
- To build a cadre of academic Obstetricians/Gynaecologists who can compete successfully for grants and academic university positions

For a complete list of goals and objectives, [click here](#).

### **Unique Benefits of GWHE Program**

As the only Global Women's Health and Equity fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Canada, the GWHE program responds to the need identified by trainees to acquire formal expertise in global health, as well as to the desire to produce physician leaders in Reproductive Health who are able to contribute effectively in research, advocacy and policy development in this sector. The combination of rotations in Toronto and Northern Ontario as well as fieldwork in Kenya provides graduates with the context to understand the practice of women's health in low-resource settings, as well as the insight, skills, and knowledge required to contribute to the development of sustainable women's health programs locally and internationally.

### **Program Outline**

(The exact breakdown of time spent on each rotation will have some flexibility to account for individual fellow's needs and goals as well as external factors that sometimes affect international exchange programs)

### **Local Opportunities/Rotations:**

A minimum 12 months of clinical rotations will be completed in Canada throughout the fellowship training, with the majority taking place within the greater Toronto area. Rotations will focus on areas of practice that are relevant to the understanding and clinical care of underserved and marginalized women in Canada, or to enhance skills needed to practice in resource poor settings. Fellows will be encouraged to select rotations that will serve their specific career goals and experiences and will have the option to initiate new rotations to meet their personal learning objectives, within the overall goals of the program.

These rotations include, but are not limited to:

- Abortion and Postabortal Care
- Addiction in Pregnancy
- Colposcopy
- Contraception/Family Planning
- General Surgery
- Gynaecologic Oncology

- HIV and Pregnancy
- Immigrant and Refugee Women's Health
- Indigenous Women's Health (in Thunder Bay, Ontario, in affiliation with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine)
- Midwifery
- Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology
- LGBTQ Health
- Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Urology
- Women's Mental Health
- Young Women's Health

For a brief description of each clinical rotation, [click here](#).

#### *Fellow's Clinic:*

The Fellow will run a longitudinal general Obstetrics & Gynaecology clinic, two half days per month, at Women's College Hospital. This clinic, called the "*Women's Equity*" clinic will accept referrals from the Crossroads Immigrant and Refugee Clinic at Women's College Hospital, as well as other primary care providers looking after women from vulnerable groups. The clinic will be supervised by the Fellowship Program Director.

#### *Fellow Outreach:*

The Fellow will provide a monthly seminar on Women's Health topics at Christie Refugee Welcome Centre, a Toronto organization that provides temporary shelter and a safe haven for refugee families from all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Opportunities for development of novel partnerships and outreach are also available.

#### *International Placement:*

Fellows will be encouraged to complete between 9-12 months (as a single or multiple placements) in Eldoret, Kenya under the supervision of a local AMPATH faculty member, in collaboration with the AMPATH Consortium. (Reproductive Health is managed as a collaboration between the University of Toronto and Indiana University). Time will be spent in Eldoret in both years of the fellowship and the duration and details will be discussed and organized on an individual basis, taking into account individual fellows goals as well as program capacity.

In Eldoret, the fellow will hold the position of Team Leader with AMPATH – Reproductive Health. In this position, fellows will broaden their clinical skills while leading initiatives with Kenyan colleagues that aim to reduce the inequities in care that women in Western Kenya face. As Team Leader, the fellow will be a faculty member of Indiana University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) and Moi University School of Medicine, (MUSOM) and will have specific clinical, teaching, research and administrative duties. For a full description outlining the role and responsibilities as Team Leader, AMPATH-RH, [click here](#).

If the fellow prefers to work with another organization, a detailed proposal must be developed by the fellow and approved by the Fellowship Director prior to any formal arrangement made with the organization itself. The organization must support the goals of the fellowship and, at the broadest level, aim to improve the health and human rights of marginalized and/or vulnerable women in a sustainable way. In addition, the fellow may need to obtain funding from other sources to support their placement

During the international placement(s), fellows will develop hands-on clinical experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in a low-resource setting. They will also gain a deep contextual understanding of the health needs of women in these settings and the health services available to them. Specific areas of clinical exposure will include:

- Cervical cancer screening
- Contraception and post abortion care provision
- Gynaecology inpatient and outpatient care
- Gynaecologic oncology diagnosis, treatment and prevention
- High-risk obstetrics management
- Labour ward/inpatient obstetrics
- Outpatient antenatal and postnatal care
- Adolescent reproductive health and care

During the international placement(s), the fellow will also be expected to participate in ongoing research and project work in global women's health, within the AMPATH-RH team. This experience will allow the fellow to begin to identify areas of personal interest and career focus. The fellow will also develop collaborative relationships with colleagues from the country or community in which he/she is placed. This placement will encourage the fellow to develop a deeper understanding of the complex role of socioeconomic, political, and population influences on reproductive health outcomes for women.

### Educational Opportunities

Throughout the fellowship, fellows will maintain an academic portfolio which will keep track of all learning opportunities engaged in and completed. The fellow may audit relevant courses at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health to enhance their competency as a researcher, program manager and practitioner. This could include courses on public health, epidemiology, biostatistics, and other relevant topics. There will also be a catalogue of online module-based educational materials from which to choose.

Fellows will also have the opportunity to collaborate with global health fellows from various other departments at the University of Toronto (Family Medicine, Paediatrics). Opportunities to collaborate include the engagement in journal clubs, attendance at tropical medicine rounds, leadership training courses, as well as fellow's research courses. Fellows will also be invited to participate in the annual Global Health Primer, which welcomes a broad array of speakers on various global health topics.

Finally, while in Eldoret, there are multiple formal educational sessions (lectures, rounds, etc) which the fellow will be expected to attend, participate in and lead, as appropriate.

Alternate academic options (i.e. simultaneous pursuit of an advanced degree) can be discussed with the Fellowship Director and will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

### Research

Protected time will be provided to conduct research. Fellows will be expected to participate in both ongoing research projects locally and within AMPATH, as well as initiate new projects. The fellow will also be expected to present locally and/or at international meetings, at least once, based on their research work. Ideally, the research that the fellow engages in will lead to at least one first author publication and at least one conference presentation as well as presentation at our department research day.

Research work and skill development will include training in and/or development of grant applications, research project conception, research ethics applications, data collection and analysis, manuscript writing and participation in the activities of the AMPATH Reproductive Health Research Group.

Research support will be provided by the Fellowship Program Director, the Institute for Health Systems Solutions & Virtual Care (WIHV) at Women's College Hospital, and the AMPATH data analysis and management team.

### Teaching

Fellows will be encouraged to teach medical trainees (students, residents) while on clinical rotations and through formal seminars as these become available (e.g. University of Toronto Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residency Program Academic Half Day) on topics pertaining to advocacy, global health, and vulnerable populations. Fellows will also be expected to participate in inter-hospital Grand Rounds. These formal sessions will be coordinated by the program administrator and Fellowship Director.

### **Settings and Partners Involved**

#### The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH)

The University of Toronto has been a partner with the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) Consortium since 2006, co-leading the consortium's efforts to advance care, education, and research in reproductive health. While in Canada, fellows will be expected to participate in conference calls, video conferencing sessions, and other activities that support AMPATH in Eldoret, Kenya. This will allow fellows to become familiar with their colleagues abroad and gain a better understanding of the AMPATH program in preparation for their placement(s) in Kenya.

For more information on the collaborative partnership that the University of Toronto shares with AMPATH, [click here](#).

*For a recent program update on the work of AMPATH-RH, [click here](#).*

#### *AMPATH in Kenya*

Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), the second largest teaching hospital in Kenya is located in Eldoret, a city in western Kenya of almost four hundred thousand people. Obstetrical volume consists of twelve thousand deliveries per year, many of which are referred from outside institutions. There are over five hundred gynecologic surgeries conducted annually and over seven thousand reproductive-health related outpatient visits. Common clinical concerns are: cardiac disease in pregnancy, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, multiple pregnancies and congenital anomalies, fibroids, cervical cancer, complications of abortion, molar pregnancies and gestational trophoblastic disease, ectopic pregnancy, and obstetric fistula. In addition to the clinical, teaching and research that occurs within the hospital setting, AMPATH's population and community health work reaches a population of 3.5 million in Western Kenya and includes microfinance programs, community groups for prevention and care, health insurance projects, education, farming and livelihood programs.

#### Toronto, Canada

For the majority of the local rotations, the fellow will spend their time serving the patient population of downtown Toronto. This diverse area is home to some of the city's highest and lowest income residents. As such, clinical care in Toronto must focus on meeting the needs of several vulnerable populations. In particular, this includes indigenous women, the homeless and under housed, women living with HIV/AIDS, women with severe and persistent mental illness and addictions, and women from within the LGBTQ community.

In addition to its economic diversity, Toronto is renowned as one of the most multicultural cities in the world, with 46% of its population consisting of immigrants to Canada (2011). This contributes to the great cultural and linguistic diversity in Toronto, and creates a unique learning opportunity in the city.

#### The Northern Ontario School of Medicine in Thunder Bay, Ontario

The fellow will have the opportunity to complete a rotation focused on Indigenous Women's Health in Thunder Bay, Ontario, through the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and with community partners in Thunder Bay working with this population. Thunder Bay is a city of 110,000, located on the shores of Lake

Superior, in North-Western Ontario. It acts as a referral centre for many of the remote First Nations reserves throughout the Northwestern part of the province of Ontario and also has a large Indigenous population based locally.

### **Funding**

Fellows will be remunerated at \$70,000 per year Canadian with a \$5000 conference travel allowance for presentation.

### **Application Process**

Applicants must be graduates of Canadian or American Obstetrics and Gynaecology residency programs.

Fellows will be selected based on their academic merits as determined by appropriate letters of reference, relevant academic output, prior medical qualifications, and a noteworthy letter of intent.

Those interested in applying to the Global Women's Health and Equity/Advocacy Fellowship may obtain an application form [click here](#).

For further information, contact Dr. Rachel Spitzer, Fellowship Director, at [rachel.sptizer@sinaihealthsystem.ca](mailto:rachel.sptizer@sinaihealthsystem.ca) or Ashley Lanys, at [Ashley.lanys@utoronto.ca](mailto:Ashley.lanys@utoronto.ca).