

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Toronto

Residency Rotation-Specific Objectives

Rotation: ELECTIVE ROTATION at the MOI UNIVERSITY, Kenya

A. Purpose:

The aim of the University of Toronto AMPATH¹-Reproductive Health elective experience in International Obstetrics and Gynecology is to give residents the opportunity 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.
- The rotation will allow for the resident to experience standard components of obstetrics and gynecology in a resource-poor setting in Eldoret, Kenya as well as more rural surrounding areas. 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.

Note: Other related sections: Resident Eligibility, Rotation Specifics, Expectations, Setting, Evaluation, Funding, Personal Care, and Resources — follow B. Goals and Objectives.

B. Goals and Objectives:

Unique goals and objectives to this international rotation include, but are not limited to the following:

1 MEDICAL EXPERT

- 1 Maternal Morbidity and Mortality: learn about the common causes of maternal morbidity and mortality in resource-poor settings and learn about relevant strategies to reduce such outcomes.
- 2 Surgery in Resource-Poor Settings: experience the realities of attaining surgical skills in technically limited settings and learn techniques appropriate to the circumstances.
- 3 HIV/AIDS: -Experience the effects of this epidemic on reproductive health
 - Interact and integrate with other members of the AMPATH program
 - Learn about the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, specifically the PMTCT² program.
- 4 Manage obstetrical scenarios within the context of a resource-poor settings including:
 - Antepartum care
 - Medical and obstetric complications of pregnancy and labour
 - Multiple gestation management
 - Postpartum hemorrhage
 - VBAC
 - Malpresentation
- 5 Manage gynecologic scenarios within the context of a resource-poor settings including:
 - Abnormal Uterine Bleeding
 - Cervical cancer
 - First-trimester complications
 - GTN (gestational trophoblastic neoplasia) and other gynecologic cancers
 - Obstetric fistula.
 - Pelvic masses and their assessment and management;

¹ Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH)

² Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)

- Pelvic pain and issues of perioperative care.
- Sexual violence
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Urogynecologic concerns
- Complex medical conditions within the context of reproductive health

6 Under supervision, demonstrate skill appropriate for level of training in the Kenyan setting depending on opportunities during the rotation.

- Abdominal Hysterectomy
- Exploratory laparotomy
- Breech Vaginal Delivery
- Multifetal Delivery
- Repeat Cesarean Delivery

7 Participate in the surgical procedures necessary for complex perineal repair or fistula repair when available.

8 Manage the following common conditions in the Kenyan setting:

- Post-abortal patient
- Advanced condylomata
- Patient with a pelvic mass
- Malaria in pregnancy
- Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia
- Pre-term labor and pre-term delivery.

2 COMMUNICATOR

- 1 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.
- 2 Meet weekly with the Medical Liaison to review and discuss progress, perspectives, and insights.
- 3 Demonstrate effective cross-cultural communication skills, knowledge, and attitudes.
- 4 Participate in teaching of Kenyan medical students and trainees, both formally and informally.
- 5 Develop a rudimentary knowledge of Kiswahili in the context of patient care.
- 6 Develop collegial relationships with Kenyan health care professionals and students.

3 COLLABORATOR

- 1 Work collegially with fellow Kenyan faculty, residents and medical students.
- 2 Collaborate in patient care with the North American Supervisor, residents and medical students and Kenyan faculty, residents, and medical students to provide optimal patient care.
- 3 Participate in community outreach programs.
- 4 Participate as a member of a medical team on the wards of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

4 MANAGER

- 1 Determine appropriate investigations and management of common problems seen in a resource-poor setting.

5 HEALTH ADVOCATE

- 1 Understand Health Disparities: begin to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for culturally competent care in a resource-poor settings

6 SCHOLAR

- 1 Participate in a knowledge-enhancing project for the Department of Reproductive Health at MTRH³ such as development of a clinical protocol or teaching module.

7 PROFESSIONAL

- 1 Understand Global Health Ethics: residents will encounter unique clinical circumstances that will challenge their ethical framework in a manner which is different from what is typically experienced in Canada.
- 2 Interact professionally and socially with his/her counterpart(s).
- 3 Demonstrate respect for the Kenyan Clinical Officers, Medical Officers, and Registrars, who are the primary care physicians responsible for the management of patients at the MTRH.
- 4 Behave professionally in a manner that would be expected in North America, e.g. arrive on time, participate in a full day of work.

C Resident Eligibility:

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 Elective Coordinator in consultation with the Residency Program Director. Occasionally it may be possible for more than one resident to participate in the elective simultaneously, in which case the schedule will be developed to ensure good opportunities without overlap for all trainees.

D Rotation Specifics:

The rotation will consist of a 6-to-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 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 (electives will not be possible without such on-site North American faculty supervision).
- 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.

E. Expectations:

The elective Resident is expected to:

- Fulfill all requirements from the Postgraduate Medical Education office in regards to participation in electives as residents
- Participate in the teaching of Moi University medical trainees in Kenya (usually a maximum of 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.
- 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. The resident must also contact UofT PGME for pre-departure training prior to leaving for the elective. While in Eldoret, the resident is expected to meet at least weekly with the North American faculty supervisor.

³ Moi University's School of Medicine/Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (*MTRH*),

- Provide the Academic Coordinator with a short personal reflection paper reflective of a topic/topics encountered and of interest during the elective.

F. 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). MTRH is located in Eldoret, a city of almost 200,000 in western Kenya. Obstetrical volume consists of up to 15,000 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 resident may have the opportunity to visit and work in, depending on supervision, opportunity and level of interest.

In partnering with the Department of Reproductive Health at MUSOM and the Division of Reproductive Medicine at MTRH, the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology joined the AMPATH Consortium, a group of North American Universities led by the Indiana University's (IU) School of Medicine. More recently IU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has joined Toronto's efforts to improve reproductive health for Kenyan women. The AMPATH Consortium has excelled in a partnership which is based on improved care and includes extensive educational and research opportunities. Given the large academic presence at both MU and MTRH, the elective resident will have the opportunity to interact with many other faculty and trainees from other AMPATH schools.

Specific clinical areas identified for focus in the partnership between MU/ MTRH, the University of Toronto and IU include cervical cancer prevention and screening initiatives, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (pMTCT) of HIV, and addressing the burden of maternal morbidity and mortality. Residents can anticipate exposure to all of these areas as well as to both urban and rural practice of clinical care and public reproductive health programming in the area.

G. Evaluation

An evaluation of the rotation will be completed ~~on~~ using the same ITER forms, according to CanMeds format, as would be expected for any rotation at the University of Toronto. Similarly, mid-term and exit interviews will be expected with the rotation supervisor. The evaluator will consist of the University of Toronto or Indiana University Ob/Gyn staff on the ground in Eldoret, collaboratively with MU/ MTRH faculty and staff with whom the resident has also interacted.

H. Funding

As of 2014, through departmental and hospital practice plan support, the Alan D. Bocking Scholarships provide for bidirectional exchange of trainees between Moi and U of T. These scholarships support the basic costs of travel and accommodation. The exact amount available for financial support may vary from year to year. There are also elective grant opportunities available through various organizations such as the SOGC and CFWH. The Elective Coordinator will explore these with the resident and it is expected that the resident will first apply for these scholarship funds. In this manner, more support will be available to all residents if some are successful at securing scholarships.

I. Accommodation

During the elective in Eldoret, accommodation will be at the AMPATH consortium facilities, called IU House, 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.

J. Personal Care

It is recognized that the setting of Eldoret may provide the elective resident with previously unencountered personal and professional challenges. Prior to departure, the resident will be given a handbook developed 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 is available 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. Per postgraduate medical education guidelines, residents are required to produce either a reflection piece, attend individual debriefing with their Toronto supervisor or attend a group debriefing through PGME as part of their responsibilities.

K. Resources:

The resident 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)
- Textbooks, journal articles, UpToDate, etc.

Version Control

Date	Version No	Author	Location of Revisions	Approved at RPC Meeting
Oct 15 2012	2.1	unknown		unknown
Mar 06 2014	2.3	unknown		unknown
Apr 04,2016	2.5	C Sutherland	throughout	Apr 04,2016
April 6, 2018	2.6	R Spitzer, T Mutungi / C Sutherland		