

University of Manitoba

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What are you looking for specifically in an impressive candidate?

All candidates who do well in their rotations and are interested in pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology are encouraged to apply. We value residents who are good team players, have excellent communication skills and get along well with other residents and members of the health care team. We look for candidates who not only possess strong academic capabilities, but also are mature, well-rounded and self-motivated. Please let us know if you have any extra-curricular activities and what you like to do in your spare time!

What can a potential candidate do now in order to be an appealing applicant to your program?

Doing various electives in ob/gyn is important as it gives you an idea whether this is a specialty you will like. Electives in both general ob/gyn and ob/gyn subspecialties will give you a more complete picture of the scope of practice encompassed in obstetrics and gynecology. Do electives in different programs, and don't be afraid to ask the residents about the program at their school.

How is your residency program organized? (i.e. year by year breakdown and schedule of rotations)

First year – mandatory rotations include 2 months of obstetrics, 2 months of gynecology, 2 months of internal medicine, 2 months of general surgery, 1 month of gynecology oncology clinics, 1 month of SICU, 1 month of emergency medicine, 1 month of ultrasound.

Second year – core obstetrics and gynecology at both Women's Hospital and St. Boniface Hospital. One month protected for northern trips and research.

Third year – 5-6 months of core obstetrics and gynecology, 3 months of maternal fetal medicine, 3 months of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, 1 month of family planning/research/northern trips.

Fourth year – 1 month of adolescence gynecology, 3 months of gyne-oncology, 1 month of menopause, 3-4 months of core obstetrics and gynecology, 2-3 months of electives, 2 months urogynecology. Two residents elected by their peers take on the role of chief resident during this year.

Fifth year – chief resident clinic (complete with chief operating room time) with one attending staff of your choice for at least 10 months, core obstetrics and gynecology, some elective blocks. Off service in the last 2 months for preparation for the Royal College exam.

What is your residency program's orientation and focus?

Early surgical and hands-on experience, and a high volume of complex cases. We have one of the lowest cesarean section rates in Canada, and therefore more experience in operative vaginal delivery and vaginal breech delivery. We are also the main tertiary center for a huge catchment area (all of Manitoba, Northwest Ontario and the Kivalliq region in Nunavut). We have one of the best gyne-oncology programs in Canada.

What is the availability of experiences in subspecialty areas during training?

We have trained subspecialists in gyne-oncology, urogynecology, maternal fetal medicine, adolescent gynecology and reproductive endocrinology/infertility. Some of our recent graduates have also gone to complete fellowship in minimally invasive surgery and will likely be bringing these new skills back to Winnipeg in a few years.

What is the typical day in the life of a resident?

This varies for the junior and senior residents. On obstetrics, the junior resident (PGY1) is involved in managing the wards, triage and the obstetrics service under the supervision of the senior resident and the attending. On gynecology, the junior resident will be operating and managing the gynecology service under the supervision of the more senior residents and staff. The senior residents (PGY2 and above) assume a leadership role in organizing the day-to-day service as well as participating in clinical duties. They spend their time either on subspecialty rotations perfecting skills specific to those fields, managing the labour floor and obstetrical service on core obstetrics, or operating (often multiple days per week) on core gynecology.

What is the resident satisfaction?

Satisfaction is high among residents, as we are given early surgical experience and early independence. We work in close proximity to attendings and other healthcare professionals, and benefit from great workplace relationships. We are well trained to handle high volume, complex obstetrics and challenging gynecology cases. We also benefit from a supportive program that welcomes feedback and the opportunity for improvement at every turn.

Are there sufficient elective opportunities during training to explore your special interests?

Total of 6 months elective time. Residents have done research electives, general or subspecialty electives in Manitoba and other provinces. There are also opportunities to do electives in other countries such as India, Africa and many others.

What is the on-call schedule during each year of residency?

According to the PARIM contract, the maximum call is 7 calls per month. PGY-1 and -2 have maximum 7 calls per month, and the number of calls per month decrease as you become more senior. Almost always you will do less than the maximum calls per month.

What distinguishes the U of M program from other programs?

Early surgical experience (not as an assist!) is an asset. We also have lots of operative vaginal deliveries and vaginal breech deliveries. Winnipeg has high patient volume and interesting cases, as we cover all of Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario, and Nunavut. Our resident half-day is taught by attending staff, and residents have a say in topics.

What distinguishes your city from others?

Winnipeg is a medium size city with lots of things to do. There are many summer and winter festivals, and fabulous restaurants to explore. Grand Beach, which features fine white sand, is one of the top 10 beaches in Canada and is only about an hour north of Winnipeg. Winnipeg also has an active arts and cultural scene. With the new MTS Centre, the city is now attracting popular shows and concerts from world famous performers, not to mention the Jets!

Who can we contact for more information or to set up electives?

Residency program administrator – Kim Zeller (204) 787-1988

Specifically, is there a list of residents whom we can call or email?

Kelcey Winchar umwinchk@myumanitoba.ca

Jodie Charison umcharij@myumanitoba.ca

Margot Rosenthal umrose32@myumanitoba.ca

How competitive is it to get in, and then to succeed in your field?

Obstetrics and gynecology has become more popular in the past few years and competition has increased. We have had excellent results in the Royal College Exam and our program is dedicated to help residents succeed in their training.

Is there active and/or required research in your residency program?

Our program requires residents to complete at least one research project during the course of their training. Residents are encouraged to publish and/or present their research at conferences.

What local, national or international conferences would be of benefit to candidates interested in your residency program?

The annual SOGC conference is a good conference to attend.

Where can we look for more information?

http://www.umanitoba.ca/womens_health