

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's (2018)

Program Director: Dr. Sean Murphy

Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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What are you looking for specifically in an impressive candidate?

We are interested in candidates with a good academic record, excellent interpersonal skills, and a commitment to the discipline of obstetrics & gynecology. We have an extremely close and dedicated set of residents, and are seeking candidates to join this group.

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

A potential candidate should complete electives in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and would be encouraged to complete an elective at Memorial.

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

- The PGY-1 year is a focused basic training year with three 4-week blocks in obstetrics/gynecology in St. John's, NL and an additional two 4-week blocks of obstetrics and gynecology at a community hospital in Clarenville, NL. The first year also includes two blocks of internal medicine, two blocks of general surgery, one block of urology, one block of emergency medicine, one block of NICU, and one selective block. Friday afternoons are protected for the obstetrics-gynecology academic half-day.
- PGY-2 is usually a core year in general obstetrics and gynecology. This year provides an excellent training base with a balance of clinic, case room, operating room, and emergency department exposure. Two months of PGY-2 are spent on ICU.
- PGY-3 and PGY-4 expand the breadth of subspecialty expertise including: reproductive endocrinology & infertility, maternal-fetal medicine (including ultrasound), gynecologic oncology, medical endocrinology, urogynecology, and outstanding community rotations in Moncton, NB and Corner Brook, NL, where residents acquire extensive operating experience. Up to 3 months of core rotation time may be taken for research.
- PGY-5 includes several months of experience as chief resident to both obstetrics and gynecology. Additional experience in general obstetrics and gynecology is provided during this year, functioning at a junior consultant level. Remaining core rotations or elective time may also be undertaken. Faculty are extremely supportive of the need for residents to study and practice for the Royal College exam at this time, resulting in excellent pass rates over the last 10 years.

What is your residency program's orientation and focus?

The Memorial University of Newfoundland program is dynamic and unique due to its small size, with close interaction and good rapport between residents and faculty. The program is geared towards producing an excellent generalist, although recent years have seen a number of graduates enter competitive subspecialties.

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

Memorial has many faculty with subspecialty expertise including: reproductive endocrinology & infertility (4), maternal-fetal medicine (2), gynecologic oncology (2), urogynecology (2), MIS (2). Since there are no fellowship programs offered here at Memorial, residents get a lot of hands on experience in these fields.

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

A typical day would start between 7 and 8 am where residents would round on in-hospital patients with the assistance of medical students and interns, then round with staff physicians. Residents would then attend grand rounds (Thursday) or high risk rounds (Tuesday). PGY1-2 also attend Principles of Surgery on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The rest of the morning and afternoon time would be spent in the OR or attending clinics. Typically your day would be finished by 4 or 5pm.

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

Yes, Memorial offers elective time during each year of training. Because of our size we have flexibility to meet resident needs and special interests, which is a high priority for us. Both community and tertiary care center electives are possible.

What is the resident satisfaction?

Resident satisfaction is high with a very supportive faculty interested in residents learning and overall experience.

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

The on-call schedule varies depending on the time of year but typically residents can expect 1 in 4 during the first PGY-1 year, then 1 in 5-6 for PGY-2, and 1 in 6-7 for the remaining years with less call closer to the final residency exams (usually only 1 per month and no weekends!).

What distinguishes the Memorial program from other programs?

Due to its small size, Memorial prides itself on lots of hands on experience very early in the residency training. As previously mentioned, there is good flexibility within the program to help residents seek out career and sub-specialty training opportunities. PGY1s and 2s now also attend Surgical Foundations lectures and PGY2s must write and pass the Surgical Foundations exam.

What distinguishes your city from others?

St. John's is known for its fun atmosphere and friendly population. It is a small city with big city activity. Whether you love to be outdoors and hike, ski, or kayak, or if you love music, history and the arts, you will find it all in St. John's right on your door step. There is a great culinary scene with some of the best restaurants in Canada located here. There are

plenty of social activities and new residents moving here will quickly make lots of new friends.

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

To find contact information please visit www.med.mun.ca Applications must be sent to:
Electives Coordinator, Undergraduate Medical Education, Faculty of
Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Room 2743,
Health Sciences Centre, St. John's, NL A1B 3V6 CANADA
Telephone 709-777-6669 Fax 709-777-8379

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

Any of our residents would be happy to speak with interested medical student, particularly: Gina Colbourne – gcolbourne@mun.ca

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

Each year, fills 4 residency positions. Once in our program, faculty are extremely supportive of the need for residents to study and practice for the Royal College exam which has resulted in excellent pass rates over the last 10 years. Also recent years have seen a number of graduates enter competitive subspecialties.

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

Two research projects must be undertaken during the postgraduate years, for which there is ample faculty support. One project is often a chart review or case report, with the hope of a larger cohort, review or RCT for the second project. The Masters program in Clinical Epidemiology is optional and includes a thesis which can be derived from the research project. Residents are expected to present twice during the program on the Annual Resident Research Day, and in the past have often presented research results at national and international conferences.

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

Attendance at the annual SOGC medical student program or the Atlantic Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologist Meeting would benefit candidates interested in our program. As well, locally, students may benefit from attending our annual residents research day.

Where can we look for more information? www.med.mun.ca