

# University of Toronto Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Residency Program Director: Dr. Donna Steele**

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<http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/>



## ***1. What are you looking for specifically in an impressive candidate?***

The OBGYN UofT applicant selection is based on:

- Knowledge of and a commitment to a career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Evidence of communications and interpersonal skills, collaborative team behavior, resilience/flexibility, leadership/responsibility roles, and professionalism.
- Indications that the individual is well-rounded and has interests outside of medicine
- Interest and/or experience in research.

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

See #1 above.

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

### **PGY1:**

The PGY1 training includes the following rotations (1 block = 4 weeks)

- 4 weeks – Transition to Discipline (Period 1)
- 4 weeks – Obstetrics and Gynaecology at a major teaching-hospital site
- 8 weeks – Obstetrics and Gynaecology at a community hospital site
- 4 weeks – Emergency Medicine
- 8 weeks – Medicine (General)
- 4 weeks – Surgery (General)
- 4 weeks – Gynaecologic Oncology
- 4 weeks – Intensive Care Unit
- 4 weeks – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- 4 weeks – Ambulatory Ultrasound
- 4 weeks – Selective, ONE of: Anesthesia, Family Planning, Perinatal Psychiatry/Addiction, or Pain Management.
- 9 months (Sept to June) – Longitudinal Ambulatory Rotation\* (LAR)

\*The **Longitudinal Ambulatory Rotation** consists of the PGY1 trainee working in an ambulatory clinic twice a month from September to June, directly with a faculty member who acts as a preceptor and mentor. Although PGY1s benefit from a wide experience in many specialties during their first year of training, some residents might feel detached from their core interest — obstetrics and gynaecology — and colleagues. The LAR was developed in 2004 to address this, and help residents stay in touch with their specialty.

### **PGY2-5:**

These four years comprise the following rotations in accordance with Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada requirements. All required subspecialty rotations are provided at University of Toronto clinical sites. The order of rotations varies with the needs of the resident. All residents have exposure to community practice throughout the Program.

- CORE Obstetrics and Gynaecology (teaching hospitals and community sites)
- Chief Residency
- Electives and Selectives
- Gynaecologic Oncology

- Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility / Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology
- Urogynaecology
- Research (A requirement in the OBGYN Residency Program)

The 3-month research experience allows the resident exposure to either clinical or basic science research under the guidance of Department faculty. All residents are required to present their research at the Department's Annual Research Day. Satisfactory completion of residency training at the University of Toronto requires completion of a scholarly project and submission of original research.

***4. What is your residency program's orientation and focus?***

The UofT OBGYN Residency Program Objectives are as follows:

- To provide broad-based clinical and academic training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with the goal of creating the foundation for practice of general and subspecialty Obstetrics and Gynaecology;
- To fulfill all the objectives required for specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as set out by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the Royal College Surgical Foundations Program.
- To focus on clinical experiences of a secondary and tertiary nature in general and subspecialty Obstetrics and Gynaecology as provided in both major teaching-hospital sites and in community hospital sites.
- To provide opportunities for development of programs and leadership in Global Health;
- To provide graded responsibility in the acquisition of leadership skills and to emphasize development of teaching and research skills;
- To provide the environment, mentorship and experience that will allow each resident to achieve these objectives.

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

One of the strengths of the University of Toronto Program is the large volume and diversity, especially in subspecialty areas. All subspecialties are represented, including Urogynaecology, Gynaecologic Oncology, Pediatric Gynaecology, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Minimally Invasive surgery and Maternal Fetal Medicine/High Risk Obstetrics. There is ample opportunity during the residency program to have exposure to all of these areas if desired, and there is sufficient elective and selective time to accommodate this.

***6. What is the typical day in the life of a resident?***

One of the exciting aspects of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is that there is no ONE typical day! As a resident on Core Obstetrics and Gynaecology, your time will be split evenly between obstetrics, covering the labour floor and gynaecology, participating in the operating room, covering consults, and managing admitted patients. You would typically round on either the postpartum ward or the admitted gynaecology patients at around 7:00 am, and the day finishes with handover to the resident on-call around 6:00 pm.

***7. What is the resident satisfaction?***

Overall, residents are very pleased with the UofT program. They feel that they are heard and that their feedback is valued and important.

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

There are 3 months of Elective and 9 months of Selective, which is ample opportunity to explore special interests. If there is an area a resident wishes to pursue that is not listed as a traditional selective option, approval may be granted at the discretion of the Residency Program Director.

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

The UofT program is engaged in an alternative model of call: the Night Float System, with an overall graduated call system. Adopting this system was/is an iterative process with active resident participation, based on resident feedback. In PGY2, the night float system involves 7 nights in a 4 week block, with a pre-call and post-call day.

**10. What distinguishes the UofT program from other programs?**

A few things that distinguish the UofT OBGYN Residency Program are the large volume of patients, which translates into more diverse learning opportunities – ranging from common cases to rare sub-specialized problems; advanced laparoscopic training; opportunity for electives abroad; faculty members with diverse specialties, facilitating research opportunities in both clinical and basic science fields; and a surgical skills centre, which is part of a weekly educational curriculum in PGY1.

**Highlights of our UofT program are:**

- The Surgical Skills Curriculum is designed to provide opportunity for acquisition of basic-to-advanced skills important for Obstetrics and Gynaecology by using bench models, trainers, and computer simulation.
- The weekly academic half-day (AHD) session includes reviews of critical topics led by faculty and residents over a two-year cycle, topics alternate between obstetrics and gynaecology content areas.
- Since July 1, 2008, all University of Toronto residents entering PGY1 are required to complete the web-based PGCoreEd\* core competency modules as part of their residency program certification. These modules provide the foundation for non-clinical roles for the RCPSC and CFPC Programs and are focused for PGY1 and PGY2 trainees.
- The Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) is a fully funded two-year MSc degree program, usually undertaken between PGY3 and 4. Other MSc and PhD training is also available.
- Starting July 2018, 1 block of Transition to Discipline; a two-week Surgical Foundations Prep Camp provides a fantastic intense learning opportunity for acquisition of basic surgical skills. This is followed by a two-week period where PGY1s work with OBGYN staff and residents to facilitate transition to residency.
- Journal Club meets four times a year.
- Research Proposal Sessions provide an opportunity for Residents to present their research idea at an early stage, receive feedback, and ensure the project is doable.

**11. What distinguishes your city from others?**

Toronto is the largest city in Canada, and one of the most multicultural. There is something out there for everyone, including restaurants, nightlife, festivals, parks/outdoor recreation, theatres and shows, art galleries, and the list goes on.

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

The program administrative office: [obgyn.educ@utoronto.ca](mailto:obgyn.educ@utoronto.ca)

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

No – the program maintains the residents' privacy. However, residency applicants could contact the program administrative office, and arrangements could be made on an individual basis.

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

All residency programs in Canada are highly competitive. The CMG and IMG applicant numbers vary from year to year; the program at UofT admits approximately 12 PGY1s each year, of these, approximately 3 PGY1s may be IMG.

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

The 3-month research experience allows the resident exposure to either clinical or basic science research under the guidance of Department faculty. All residents are required to present their research at the Department's Annual Research Day. Satisfactory completion of residency training at the University of Toronto requires completion of a scholarly project and submission of original research.

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

Most conferences are beneficial. There is no one specific level, location, or type of conference that would be of a particular advantage.

***17. Where can we look for more information?***

Visit our website: <http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/>