University of Toronto, Toronto  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Residency Program Director: Dr. Michele Farrugia  
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What are you looking for specifically in an impressive candidate?

The OB/GYN 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.

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

See #1 above.

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

PGY-1  
Transition to Discipline 1 block  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology (major teaching hospital) 1 block  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology (community hospital) 2 blocks  
Emergency Medicine 1 block  
General Internal Medicine 1 block  
Ambulatory Internal Medicine 1 block  
General Surgery 1 block  
Gynaecologic Oncology 1 block  
Intensive Care Unit 1 block  
Ambulatory Ultrasound 1 block  
Family Planning 1 block (opt-out system)  
Longitudinal Ambulatory Rotation (LAR) 9 months Sept-June
PGY-2 to PGY-5 Core Obstetrics and Gynaecology (teaching hospitals and community sites)
   Chief Residency
   Electives and Selectives
   Gynaecologic Oncology
   Maternal-Fetal Medicine
   Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility/Pediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology
   Urogynaecology
   Research

1 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.

2 Some PGY-1 residents may do their Core Obstetrics & Gynaecology blocks at the end of the PGY-1 year and complete some of their off-service or ambulatory rotations in their PGY-2 year. This is randomized and dependent on service requirements across all teaching sites both within the OB/GYN program as well as requirements in other programs.

As with all Royal College OB/GYN programs and other surgical programs in Canada, residents are simultaneously enrolled in the Surgical Foundations program in the PGY-1 and -2 years. At the University of Toronto, Surgical Foundations involves two “boot camps” throughout the PGY-1 year in addition to lectures throughout the year that are protected time. Residents write the Surgical Foundations exam in the fall of PGY-2 year.

### 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.

**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 plenty of 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.

**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.

**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. The program is constantly changing due to resident feedback!

**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.

**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 PGY-2, the night float system involves 7 nights in a 4-week block, with a pre-call and post-call day.

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

A few things that distinguish the UofT OB/GYN 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 PGY-1.

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.
- The Competence-By-Design model was implemented in 2018. Currently, the PGY-1 and PGY-2 year have to get evaluations and feedback in the form of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) as per the Royal College guidelines.
- 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 PGY-1 and PGY-2 trainees.
- The Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) is a fully funded two-year MSc degree program, usually undertaken between PGY-3 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 PGY-1s 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.

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.

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; in 2019 the program admitted 11 PGY-1s, of these 2 PGY-1s were IMG.

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

The Royal College requires all OB/GYN residents in all programs to complete a research project over the course of the five year program. Our program takes pride in residents’ engagement in many fields of research, from basic science, clinical evaluation, healthy policy, and medical
education among many others. Three blocks of dedicated research time are offered in the PGY-2 to -5 years that allows residents exposure to 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.

**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.

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

The program administrative office: obgyn.educ@utoronto.ca

Website: [http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/](http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/)

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

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