

University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Residency Program Directors: Dr. Duda & Dr. Mytopher
Royal University Hospital
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What are you looking for specifically in an impressive candidate?

We are looking for students who are excited about obstetrics and gynecology. An impressive candidate should demonstrate the ability to function both independently and as part of a team, as well as demonstrate an interest in learning!

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

It is not required that students do electives at our program in order to match to a residency position here. In addition, our program frequently matches students from outside Saskatchewan to the program. All students are welcome to spend elective time with us but we realize your elective time is limited. If you are interested in our program but haven't been able to make it here on an elective, do not be deterred from applying! Also, if you are interested in coming by just to check out the program, we would be happy to accommodate you on a tour.

What is your residency program's orientation and focus?

Our program focuses on solid academic learning in addition to hands on learning and we have the advantage of more hands-on experience than larger programs. While we focus to train excellent generalist OB/GYNs, recent years have seen many of our graduates match to very competitive fellowship programs in REI, MFM, Gyne Onc, Urogynecology, and MIS. Our only fellowship program is in Minimally Invasive Surgery (based in Regina), so there is no competition with fellows for procedural skills. There is also specific coursework in research methodology, critical appraisal, and teaching.

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

Every day is different depending on what rotation you are on in. In general, there is teaching every morning followed by clinic, OR, or whatever is scheduled for that day. One of the benefits of obstetrics and gynecology is the great variety, and every day brings new experiences. We feel a major strength of our program is the daily teaching we receive and our academic half day, both of which involve residents and faculty as educators.

Rotations on Labour and Delivery start with handover which begins at 7:35am, with sign-over rounds at 5:35pm. General gynecology ORs begin at 7:45am. Clinics generally begin at 9:00am and run until 4:00pm or 5:00pm. As previously mentioned, we have teaching every morning starting at 7:00am.

What is the resident satisfaction?

We are very satisfied with our program. We get along well with each other and with our faculty, both at work and socially. We like that we are getting excellent generalist training but are also well positioned to be accepted into subspecialty training if we so desire. In addition, our program is very receptive to making changes that continue to improve our program. We have excellent program directors who are actively involved.

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

Absolutely! We have ample elective time that can be spent doing local, national, or international electives and preceptorships. In total, there are 5 months of electives during the 5-year training program.

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

We have a “graduated” call schedule. PGY2's have up to 7/month, PGY3's up to 6, and PGY4's up to 5. Typically, PGY5's do 4 call per month. During the gyne oncology rotation, you are required to do 4 weeks of gyne oncology call.

What distinguishes the U of S program from other programs?

Our program is smaller than most, which has many benefits. There is much less competition for hands on experience. We currently have one to two residents on call per night, which means every interesting case that walks through the door is yours! Residents can get as much surgical experience as they want. In addition, we are a very close group of residents and make a point of supporting each other; having good work friends is invaluable not only for on-the-job morale, but also supporting each other and having fun! We think we're probably the happiest group of residents in Canada! The graduated call schedule as a senior resident also provides ample study time in preparation for the Royal College exam. Saskatoon is an affordable and beautiful place to live – ask anyone that lives here. Last, but certainly not least, we are very proud of our brand-new facility – the Maternal Care Centre, which is located in the brand new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital. The labour and delivery unit is operated as a single-care maternity room model which means that labour, delivery and postpartum care is received in the same room. The new facility has 65 of these private patient rooms and outpatient areas, three dedicated maternal operating rooms, and comfortable triage/assessment rooms. This new centre is spacious and boasts beautiful views of the South Saskatchewan river and the downtown cityscape.

What distinguishes your city from others?

More sunny days than anywhere else in Canada! We are a fast-growing city, but Saskatoon remains easy to navigate while maintaining lots of natural parks. Excellent golfing and cottage-country lakes are nearby.

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

Obstetrics and Gynecology has become increasingly competitive over the last few years. However, medical students who love the field, and are motivated to put in the time and effort, have the best chance of matching and having success in their future careers.

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

Our program requires that all residents complete one research project. There are many opportunities to become involved in more research projects if desired. We have a yearly research dinner evening, where residents provide updates on their projects. This allows for peer and faculty feedback, and for PGY1s to organize their projects. We have a dedicated research facilitator, and access to statisticians. In February, PGY5's present their completed projects at Resident Research Day.

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

We would recommend that students attend the SOGC ACSC if they are interested in Obstetrics and Gynecology. It's a great way to learn more about the field and to meet the medical students who are your future colleagues, as well as residents and faculty. The Western Canada SOGC CME (Alberta) in March is also a great choice, not only for the educational (and social!) benefit, but also because many of us attend, and many of our faculty are presenters.

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

Education Coordinators: Carlee Guenter (carlee.guenter@usask.ca)

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