General Description:

The fourth year Clinical Science Electives in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology offers the student the opportunity to enhance his/her skills in out-patient diagnosis and management. The student is expected to attend according to the schedule agreed upon with the supervisor, including call duty, rounds etc. for the full block. Students with specific learning objectives for their experience should arrange a time to meet with the supervisor to discuss them.

General Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the clinical elective, students should:

1. Demonstrate competence in patient assessment, assigning priorities to new problems presented and weighing the relevance of the information obtained.
2. Be able to present a succinct history in verbal or written form.
3. Be capable of developing a differential diagnosis from history and physical examination.
4. Be comfortable with and competent to perform bi-manual examination, pap smear and vaginal swab.
5. Be able to develop an optimum plan for further investigation and treatment of patient problems based on the patient's individual needs, an evidence-based approach and a consideration of resource availability.
6. Be aware of the nature and principles of management of tertiary problems within the specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology.
7. Have a satisfactory understanding of the nature of the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and the lifestyle of the obstetrician/gynaecologist.
8. Be capable of making a well-informed decision regarding the selection of this specialty as a vocation.

A. Obstetrics – Objectives:

a) Perform a complete history, physical examination, establish and confirm gestational age and identify risk factors during an initial antenatal assessment.

b) Identify health issues and counsel patients with respect to nutrition, activity and exercise, sexual activity, smoking and drug use in pregnancy.

c) Discuss the importance of routine prenatal laboratory investigations, prenatal diagnostic options (IPS, Quad screen, amniocentesis, CVS) and ultrasound assessment of fetal morphology.

d) Participate in ongoing antenatal care and investigations (GDM screening, Rh prophylaxis, GBS screening, term cervical assessment) to ensure maternal health and normal fetal growth and wellbeing.

e) Provide assessments of normal healing at 6 weeks post partum, counseling of approximate VBAC considerations, and counseling on contraceptive options.
B. Gynaecology – Objectives:

a) Perform a sensitive, organized history (including menstrual, contraceptive, sexual and gynaecologic history) in ambulatory patients presenting with gynaecologic problems.

b) Perform a complete physical examination with an emphasis on the gynaecologic examination (abdominal exam, bimanual pelvic exam, speculum exam and pap smear) in ambulatory patients presenting with gynaecologic problems.

c) Develop a differential diagnosis and management plan for common gynaecologic problems (dysmenorrhea, dysfunctional uterine bleeding, contraception, infertility, pelvic mass, menopausal symptoms, post menopausal bleeding, pelvic relaxation and urinary incontinence).

d) Understand the importance of screening for cervical cancer and current screening programs. Discuss the results of an abnormal pap smear and outline appropriate follow up or investigations.

e) Conduct patient-centered interviews that explore the patient’s feelings, ideas, impact on function, and expectations.

f) Develop relationships with patients characterized by compassion, empathy, respect, and genuineness, demonstrating a willingness to collaborate with the patient about management.

g) Perform a physical examination without causing the patient embarrassment.

h) Adapt treatment plans to the individual with consideration for the patient’s age, general health, special needs, expectations, cultural background, progress, or changes in condition.

i) Demonstrate skill in communication of information with clear, concise explanations that are understandable to patients.

j) Recognize risk factors and be able to counsel patients on risk reduction.

k) Identify the rights and legal responsibilities of physicians to patients and the community.

l) Describe the determinants of health and apply them appropriately to enhance individual and community wellbeing.

m) Apply the concept of cost-effectiveness to public health interventions.

n) Demonstrate skill in self-directed learning by:
   i. Determine the validity and applicability of published data through critical appraisal
   ii. Ability to identify areas of deficiency in one's own knowledge and skills.
   iii. Ability to find appropriate educational resources.
   iv. Ability to evaluate personal learning progress.
   v. Ability to use new knowledge in the care of patients.

o) Collaborate effectively with patients and families without having to take charge.

p) Demonstrates the ability to place the needs of patients and families first.

q) Demonstrates honesty and trustworthiness in assessment, study and learning.

r) Demonstrates responsibility and respect.

s) Recognize personal biases and ensure that they do not interfere with the patient’s best interests.

t) Be willing to seek help, advice or consultation when needed.

u) Assist patients in accessing the health care system for physical, psychological, social, and economic rehabilitation or long-term care.

v) Use the concepts of evidence-based medicine to guide patient care decisions.

w) Identify potential conflict between individual and population interests and seek advice from others.

x) Assess the effectiveness of practice and engage in continuous quality improvement.

EVALUATION: Summative Clinical Elective Assessment evaluation compiled by your Preceptor

LOTTERY: OB/GYN rotations are ONLY available via the On-line Electives Lottery –
1 Student in Block 2, 4, 6 & 8 ONLY