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1. Introduction

As defined by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and the Collège des Médecins du Québec, Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialists are physicians trained in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of those conditions implicated in the morbidity and mortality of the mother, fetus and early newborn. These physicians have special training in the identification and management of high-risk obstetrical problems. Specialists in maternal-fetal medicine are viewed primarily as consultants to the practicing obstetrician and other health care providers. During their clinical rotations and calls, trainees are expected to acquire competencies in the different CanMEDS domains.

Fetal Medicine relies primarily on ultrasound as its tool for pregnancy evaluation and investigation and some maternal fetal specialists wish to increase their skills and expertise both in areas of diagnostic ultrasound as well as in areas of invasive procedures for fetal diagnosis and intervention.

This document describes the rotation specific objectives of the Advanced Obstetric Ultrasound Fellowship at McGill University. The program is structured to train individuals who have successfully completed a Royal College accredited Maternal Fetal medicine fellowship or International Graduates of other approved and equivalent Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship programs. This is a one-year program leading to certification in advanced obstetrical ultrasound.

The objectives are delineated according to the CanMEDS Framework. The CanMEDS framework was created by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCSPC) to clearly define the essential competencies required of a physician.

Clinical Training

In order to gain increased ultrasound expertise the candidate will manage patients in the Women’s Ultrasound Unit at the MUHC (Royal Victoria Hospital) and the Fetal cardiology unit at the MUHC.

The trainee will also become increasingly acquainted and competent in the management of complications of pregnancy, ultrasound, diagnostic techniques and invasive procedures. The trainee will be an active participant in the academic activities of the maternal-fetal medicine division including regular rounds, seminars and journal clubs. In addition, throughout the course of the one-year training program, the trainee will design and execute a research protocol in a clinical or basic science area under the supervision of an attending staff member.

General Educational Goals & Objectives

The Advanced Obstetric & Gynaecology Ultrasound Fellowship is designed to further increase the depth of knowledge and clinical expertise in fetal medicine and ultrasound as well as to continue to refine research goals and develop consultative, leadership and managerial skills for the wider obstetrical and maternal fetal medicine community. Candidates entering the Advanced Obstetric & Gynaecology Ultrasound Fellowship at McGill must have successfully completed at least five years of an accredited Obstetrics & Gynecology residency leading to a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons specialist certification or equivalent and in addition have completed a Maternal Fetal Medicine subspecialty training program.
Upon completion of the Advanced Obstetric & Gynaecology Ultrasound Fellowship the trainee will:

A. Possess a detailed knowledge and understanding of the
   1) Basic sciences (particularly physiology, embryology and anatomy) pertinent to fetal development and fetal disease as well as a detailed anatomical knowledge of the female pelvis and its organs.
   2) Diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of fetal problems
   3) Research skills and critical appraisal of the medical literature.

B. Be able to diagnose, evaluate and treat perinatal and fetal problems using the various techniques and modalities currently available

C. Conduct research, including statistical and critical appraisal of the medical literature, design of a research protocol, data recording and analysis, computer-based study and publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

D. Establish and maintain an effective doctor-patient relationship

E. Act as a consultant to other obstetrician-gynecologists (including MFM specialists), family physicians and other health care professionals

F. Function as an educator to patients, medical students, residents, colleagues and other health care professionals

G. Be a leader and role model in the quality assurance and maintenance of obstetrical care and in the establishment of practice guidelines and protocols for the institution and the community.

2. Overview of Rotations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rotation</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Teaching Site(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Ultrasound - Basic and Advanced</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>RVH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fetal echo-cardiography</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>RVH/MCH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research</td>
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<td>RVH</td>
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<td><strong>Electives:</strong></td>
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<td>Genetics, Paediatric Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>RVH/MCH</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>12</td>
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NOTE: One block is comprised of 4 weeks; hence the 1 year program is comprised of 13 blocks (1 vacation period)

MUHC sites  RVH  Royal Victoria Hospital  MCH Montreal Children’s Hospital

3. Rotation-Based Objectives of Training

The Objectives of Training for each rotation of the McGill Advanced Obstetric & Gynaecology Ultrasound Fellowship were developed with the specialists involved in the training. The objectives of this 12 month program are based on national and international guidelines on ultrasound training:
Subspecialty Training Requirements in
- EFSUMB Minimum training requirements for the practice of medical: Expectation of training being Level 3 competence
- ISUOG Update on proposed minimum standards for ultrasound training
- RCOG / SCoR / BMUS Advanced Training Skills Module – Fetal Medicine

The Objectives of Training have been reviewed and updated in 2014.
Orientation to Rotation

**Rotation duration:** Eight 4-week blocks

**Rotation supervisors:**
Dr Richard Brown (richard.brown@muhc.mcgill.ca)

**Service Requirement:** Night call from home will be shared with other MFM Fellows, for patients admitted to the RVH or JGH MFM Service and transport calls.

**Rotation Environment and Expectations**
The program is dedicated to advanced ultrasound training. Attending supervision at all sessions will allow direct and regular feedback.

**Academic Half-day sessions take place on Fridays at the MCH:**
- 8:00 - 9:00 am: Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Group rounds (RVH, MCH & JGH videoconference)
- 12.00-13.00 pm: Ultrasound Rounds (RVH F4)

**Specific Objectives and CanMEDS competencies**

On completion of the Advanced Ultrasound Rotation, the MFM trainee will have acquired the following competencies that will assist him in his/her future role as a consultant in maternal-fetal medicine.

1. **Medical Expert**

   **A. KNOWLEDGE**

   1. To have a detailed understanding of the physics underlying ultrasound imaging including Doppler, in order to obtain an optimal image.
      a) Effects on human tissues of pulsed- and continuous-wave ultrasound beams
      b) Principles of attenuation, absorption, reflection, speed of sound, and thermal and non-thermal biologic effects
      c) Interpretation of acoustic output information (including Doppler) and its clinical relevance
      d) Flow mapping (colour Doppler)
e) Signal processing (gray scale, time gain compensation, dynamic range, focus)
f) Artifacts: interpretation and avoidance
g) Reverberation, side lobes, edge effects, shadowing, enhancement

2. Understand and utilize Doppler methodology appropriate to obstetrical investigation.
   a) Evaluation of fetal and utero-placental blood flow
   b) Appreciation of problems in blood flow and velocity measurements and waveform analysis in normal and complicated pregnancies
   c) Clinical applications in the prediction of intrauterine growth retardation and preeclampsia
   d) Clinical applications in monitoring the small-for-dates fetus and pregnancies complicated by Rh isoimmunization, diabetes, postmaturity, and fetal cardiac arrhythmias
   e) Use of detailed fetal arterial and venous Doppler in evaluating high risks pregnancies including intrauterine growth restriction, fetal anaemia, fetal cardiac malformations, monochorionic twin gestations (twin-twin transfusion and twin anaemia-polycythemia sequence)

3. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of sonoembryology and fetal development.

4. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of sonographic pelvic anatomy.

5. Understand feto-maternal physiology as applicable to ultrasound, for example, basic understanding of amniotic fluid dynamics and fetal biophysical parameters as well as vascular changes in states of normal fetal wellbeing and stress.

6. To understand both fetal pathology and the pathophysiology of varied fetal conditions including but not limited to
   a) Fetal aneuploidy
   b) Genetic conditions recognizable sonographically. To understand the inheritance of genetic syndromes and have an understanding of the place and limitations of ultrasound in the diagnosis of single gene disorders
   c) Structural defects and their implications, including:
      • Cranial
        o Anencephaly
        o Holoprosencephaly
        o Ventriculomegaly
        o Posterior Fossa and Cerebellar abnormalities
        o Neural tube defects
        o Intracranial haemorrhage, causes and evaluation
      • Facial
        o Clefting
        o Facial hypoplasia
        o Hypotelorism/hypertelorism
      • Thorax
        o Skeletal dystrophy
        o Cardiac abnormalities (Transposition, Fallot’s, hypoplastic left heart etc)
        o CCAM / CPAM
        o Pleural effusions; causes, investigation and therapy
      • Abdomen
Diaphragmatic hernia; prognostic assessment, neonatal outcomes and interventions
- Hydronephrosis / urinary obstruction; etiologies, assessment, invasive testing and management
- Ascites

• Spine
  - Neural tube defects
  - Vertebral anomalies

7. To develop an understanding of the impact of maternal disease on the fetus and evaluation of the fetus in such circumstances, including maternal drug exposure.

8. To develop the ability to counsel patients regarding the risks of fetal abnormalities and the findings of a sonographic evaluation.

9. To understand the principles of invasive diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
   a) Amniocentesis - Indications and complications
   b) Chorionic villus sampling - Indications and complications
   c) Cordocentesis - Indications and complications
   d) Fetal Transfusion – peritoneal, vascular, intra-hepatic
   e) Blood, platelets
   f) Drainage and shunting of fetal body cavities
   g) Fetoscopy – its role in treatment of twin-twin transfusion syndrome, congenital diaphragmatic hernia and fetal diagnosis
   h) EXIT procedures – the indications and understanding of the procedure
   i) Open fetal surgery – role, benefits and limitations

10. To develop an understanding of medical and surgical aspects of fetal therapy, including but not limited to
   i. Medical treatment of fetal thyroid disorders
   ii. Medical treatment of fetal cardiac arrhythmias
   iii. Medical treatment of metabolic genetic syndromes – eg congenital adrenal hyperplasia

B. SKILLS - Ultrasound

1. Demonstrate competency in obtaining fetal and pelvic views and optimize the ultrasound image by adjusting the machine settings.

2. Perform a first trimester scan which involves identifying and documenting locations of the gestational sac, yolk sac, fetal number and determination of twin chorionicity, crown-rump length, presence or absence of cardiac activity, evaluation of the uterus and adnexa. Identify fetal number and viability. Obtain nuchal translucency (NT) measurements that fulfill the standard criteria and obtain the FMF certification for NT assessment.

3. Demonstrate competence in first trimester assessment of pathology, including abnormal NT, cranial and cerebral defects (e.g. exencephaly, holoprosencephaly), lower urinary tract obstruction, limb abnormalities, GI tract anomalies etc.

4. Demonstrate competence in first trimester attainment and assessment of Doppler studies (uterine artery, umbilical cord, ductus venosus, tricuspid regurgitation)
5. Identify pathologies within the first trimester, early pregnancy failure, ectopic pregnancy, gross fetal abnormality e.g., cystic hygroma, clearly abnormal nuchal translucency, megacystis, genetic syndromes (such as Meckel Gruber) etc.

6. During second and third trimester examinations to be able to identify: fetal number and viability, fetal presentation and position, the grade of placenta, fetal heart rate and rhythm, and assess amniotic fluid volume.

7. Perform first and second trimester anatomical evaluations, assessing the following fetal structures at appropriate gestations:

a) Head
   - Facial profile and facial anatomy
   - Brain
   - Cerebral cortex and cerebral ventricles, including corpus callosum
   - Posterior fossa and cerebellum
   - Cisterna magna
   - Nuchal skin fold
b) Spine
   - Longitudinal
   - Transverse
c) Limbs
   - Number
   - Movement
   - Hands and feet
d) Thorax
   - Heart Rate and rhythm
   - Four-chamber view
   - Cardiac axis and situs
   - Origins of the great vessels, the aortic arch
   - Lungs
e) Abdomen
   - Situs
   - Stomach
   - Liver, gall bladder and GI tract
   - Kidneys and urinary bladder
   - Abdominal wall and umbilicus
f) Examination of the placenta and cord
   - Placental location and morphology
   - Number of cord vessels
g) Doppler Evaluation (Pulsed wave and colour)
   - Umbilical artery and vein
   - Uterine arteries
   - Middle Cerebral artery
Other vessels, including thoracic aorta, renal arteries, ductus venosus and cardiac Doppler (for example assessment of cardiac morphology and valvular function)

8. Perform biophysical profile with clear knowledge of standard criteria and interpretive skills
9. Assess not only the principle biometric parameters including: CRL, BPD, OFD, HC, AC, FL, humerus length but also detailed biometry of the face, skeleton, brain and heart. To be able to assess the significance of these findings.

The following CanMEDS competencies apply to the Basic and the Advanced ultrasound rotations

2. Communicator
   a) Demonstrate good interpersonal skills when working with all members of the health care team
   b) Gather pertinent information about the patient, including the family’s beliefs, concerns and expectations about the illness. Listen effectively
   c) Demonstrate sensitivity in the communication of the findings of ultrasound examinations, being especially mindful of impact of psychological, social, and ethical problems associated with the diagnosis of fetal abnormality
   d) Be able to obtain informed consent.
   e) Be able to deliver a patients case presentation clearly and concisely.
   f) Be able to produce timely, meticulous and correct documentation, including ultrasound reports, consultation notes, and letters.

3. Collaborator
   a) Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with a multidisciplinary team and respect the opinions of other team members.
   b) Contribute effectively at multidisciplinary group meetings (e.g. Weekly Ultrasound rounds, Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Group meetings)
   c) Understand the role of other healthcare professionals in the provision of comprehensive patient care.
   d) Effectively work with other health professionals to prevent, negotiate and resolve interprofessional conflict.

4. Manager
   a) Coordinates and/or presents at the weekly Ultrasound Rounds
   b) Effectively utilize the information systems (Telehealth, OACIS, Viewpoint, RadImage, PACS) required for optimal patient care and communication of ultrasound findings
   c) Demonstrates organization of work and time management
   d) Delegates clinical responsibilities appropriately
   e) Executes appropriate allocation of ultrasound resources within the region and remote communities, including community hospitals, private clinics and remote outposts
   f) Understand the principles of quality assurance and administration of an ultrasound unit

5. Health Advocate
a) Identify the important determinants of health in an individual patient
b) Utilize the network of resources to facilitate patient access to care in a timely manner
c) Provide advocacy for patients with abnormal ultrasound findings by coordinating and expediting consultation with the necessary specialists, such as genetics, pediatric cardiology, pediatric radiology, pediatric surgery etc.
d) Enable patients to remain in their own communities without compromising quality of care through the use of Telehealth services coordinated by the MUHC, which includes both the review and reporting of ultrasound studies from remote areas in real and deferred time.

6. Scholar

a) Maintain a personal continuing education strategy.
b) Complete ARDMS requirements for examination and certification
c) Complete FMF certification for NT measurement
d) Critically appraise sources of medical information and apply evidence-based medicine in ultrasound
e) Facilitate learning for patients, medical students, residents and other health professionals

7. Professional

a) Deliver the highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion; including recognizing limitations of their own professional competence and seeking advice as needed
b) Exhibit appropriate professional behaviors
   i. Punctuality
   ii. Respond to calls in a timely and respectful fashion
   iii. Show appropriate demeanor with respect to appearance and language
c) Practice medicine consistent with the ethical obligations of a physician, such as maintaining patient confidentiality
d) Sensitive to ethical issues specific to MFM, such as termination of pregnancy, fetal reduction; arranges ethical consultation and discussion, as required.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the MFM trainee regarding the acquisition of ultrasound skills is performed on an on-going basis during the training periods. The MFM attending supervising the ultrasound session and the sonographers/technicians directly observe the trainee performing every ultrasound examination in the first four weeks of the first MFM block. After this, if the trainee’s performance is deemed satisfactory, the trainee is allowed to perform the ultrasound examination alone. However, the attending reviews every examination. The trainee is thus given direct feedback on every patient.

At the end of every block, an evaluation based on CanMeds roles is completed by the MFM faculty on MRESone45.

By the end of the first three Ultrasound blocks, the MFM trainee will be expected to have obtained FMF Certification in the measurement of the fetal nuchal translucency. By the end of the 1-year program the trainee is expected to have completed the ARDMS examinations in Obstetrics/Gynecology and ultrasound physics.

Suggested Reading for Ultrasound Rotation


Ultrasonography in obstetrics and gynecology / Callen, Peter W. -- Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier Saunders, 2008.5th ed. (Book) WQ 100 U47.5 2008 Reserve RVH -

The Unborn: The Art and Science of Fetal Therapy Michael R. Harrison MD FACS FAAP (Author), Mark Evans MD (Author), N. Scott Adzick MD (Author), Wolfgang Holzgreve MD MS Drhc (Author)

A Practical Guide to Fetal Echocardiography (Abuhamad, A Practical Guide to Fetal Echocardiography) Alfred Z. Abuhamad MD (Author), Rabih Chaoui (Author)


Fetal Therapy: Scientific Basis and Critical Appraisal of Clinical Benefits by Kilby, Mark D., Johnson, Anthony and Oepkes, Dick (Jan 16, 2013)


Atlas of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2 edition (1 Jan 2011) Language: English ASIN: B005GETBSM


Donald school textbook of ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology -- New Delhi: Jaypee Brothers, 2011.3rd ed. (Book) WQ 209 D65.3 2011 RVH - Women's Pavilion Library.

Doppler Ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology / Maulik, Dev. -- Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2005.2nd ed. (Book) WQ 209 D69.2 2005 RVH


Transvaginal Sonography of the Normal and Abnormal Fetus, by Moshe Bronshtein and Etan Z. Zimmer. New York: Parthenon


Version January 2014
Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Vol 1 - Eberhard Merz TIS; 2 edition


Refer to the Websites of
- SOGC (clinical practice guidelines for 2nd trimester assessment and aneuploidy screening)
- ISUOG, RCOG, AIUM, BMUS, EFSUMB (for international standards and guidelines in ultrasound)

Journals
- Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine
- Prenatal Diagnosis
- Fetal Diagnosis and therapy
Orientation to Rotation

Rotation duration: One 4-week rotation

Rotation supervisor:
- **RVH and MCH**: Lola Cartier, MSc, Genetics counselor coordinator ([lola.cartier@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:lola.cartier@muhc.mcgill.ca))

Medical Genetics staff
- Stella Drury, MSc, Genetics Counselor ([stella.drury@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:stella.drury@muhc.mcgill.ca))
- Rachel Vanneste, MSc, Genetics Counselor ([rachel.vanneste@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:rachel.vanneste@muhc.mcgill.ca))
- Dr Laura Russell, Geneticist ([laura.russell@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:laura.russell@muhc.mcgill.ca))
- Dr Josee Lavoie, Cytogenetics, ([Jlavoie@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:Jlavoie@muhc.mcgill.ca))
- Dr Isabelle De Bie, Geneticist - molecular genetics

Service Requirement: Night call from home will be shared with other MFM Fellows, for patients admitted to the RVH and transport calls.

Rotation Schedule
During the four-week rotation in Medical Genetics, the trainee will spend time at both teaching sites in outpatient settings. One week of the rotation are spent in the Cytogenetics and Molecular Labs, under the supervision of the lab technologists and directors. Three weeks will be spent in the clinic setting of prenatal diagnosis; with the genetics counselors and geneticist.

**Academic Half-day sessions take place on Fridays at the MCH:**
- **8:00 - 9:00 am**: Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Group rounds (RVH, MCH & JGH videoconference)
- **9:00 am - 12:00 pm**: Medical Genetics Teaching sessions (MCH Room C417)
- **12.00-13.00 pm**: Ultrasound Rounds (RVH F4)

Rotation Overview
Emphasis will be placed on genetics and pregnancy (prenatal diagnosis, teratogens, and embryo-fetopathology). While the trainee may be exposed to other areas of medical genetics during the rotation, at least 75% of the rotation will be dedicated to prenatal diagnosis. The trainee should keep a logbook of cases.

Educational Strategies
The trainee will be expected to:

1. Attend assigned clinics; review patient charts and relevant literature prior to clinic
2. Complete chart notes and consultation letters, which must be reviewed by supervisor
3. Complete a set of problems (dysmorphology cases, pedigree-solving, etc), to be worked on independently during the first month
4. Complete assigned reading and instruction on the use of various databases (OMIM, POSSUM, GeneTests etc)
5. One week in each of the laboratories (cytogenetics, molecular); review cases and discuss testing algorithms with lab directors, and observe basic lab testing procedures
6. Participate actively in genetics counseling at the RVH clinic and case review. Cases are reviewed individually by Genetics Counselors with the Geneticist covering the clinic, as well as at the, bi-weekly fetal diagnosis and treatment meeting.
7. Do a formal presentation at Friday Academic Half-Day

**Specific Objectives and CanMEDS competencies**

On completion of the **Medical Genetics elective**, the trainee will have acquired the following competencies that will aid their practice in a high-risk pregnancy referral centre that has an emphasis on fetal medicine, in particular, the prenatal diagnosis of congenital malformations and their genetic implications and the pre- and postnatal management of these babies.

1. **Medical Expert**
   a) Gather medical and family history; construct a pedigree
   b) Recognize the various patterns of inheritance including, Mendelian, multifactorial, and new mutations, as well as more complex modes such as, mitochondrial and uniparental disomy; analyze pedigrees, and calculate genetic risks
   c) Have an in-depth knowledge of chromosomal abnormalities (aneuploidy and structural rearrangements), mechanisms of origin and clinical implications, including recurrence risk.
   d) Carry out a comprehensive physical examination with special expertise in features of surface anatomy and anthropometric measurement; properly document findings
   e) Follow a logical approach in syndrome identification including the use of diagnostic aids (e.g. computer assisted diagnosis, literature searches), especially in the context of the fetus/neonate with multiple anomalies
   f) Have an understanding of the genetic implications of identifying fetal malformations on ultrasound; plan a course of investigation; this includes making appropriate referrals for perinatal management or for fetal pathology, the collection of appropriate fetal tissues for later studies, and planning/providing follow-up of patients, especially in cases of fetal demise or pregnancy termination.
   g) Recognize the indications, limitations and turn-around-time of laboratory investigations that pertain to genetic disease, including prenatal screening, ethnic screening, cytogenetics and molecular diagnosis; specifically have an in depth knowledge of the indications, contraindications and complications of the various prenatal diagnostic procedures including amniocentesis, chorionic villous sampling and cordocentesis, fetal echocardiogram, as well as preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PIGD) and ICSI.
   h) Evaluate a history of teratogen exposure, including the use of appropriate databases

*Version January 2014*
i) Understand the impact of maternal disease on fetal development (e.g. maternal PKU)

2. Communicator
   a) Identify the concerns of the patient/family with respect to a specific genetic condition/risk.
   b) Communicate effectively and empathetically with patients and their families; help them choose an appropriate course of action for themselves, provide support during bereavement, and advise them regarding support agencies.
   c) Communicate clearly and effectively, verbally and in writing, with other physicians and health care providers.
   d) Writes concise genetics consultation letter to referring physician containing information concerning the diagnosis, medical implications and prognosis, the reproductive risks, and the management options available.

3. Collaborator
   a) Interact and consult effectively with colleagues and allied health professionals, ensuring respect and courtesy.
   b) Recognize the limitations of his/her skills and expertise and be willing to seek consultation whenever indicated.
   c) Appreciate the role of genetics in the multidisciplinary management of high risk pregnancy.

4. Manager
   a) Demonstrate successful case management skills; including the writing of chart notes, consultation reports, letters to families, requesting and arranging any follow-up testing, appointments, etc.
   b) Participate in the coordinated care of individuals with complex, chronic disorders, offered by a multidisciplinary team.

5. Health advocate
   a) Access information regarding community support groups as well as national and international resources to which patients can be referred.
   b) Access information regarding new services and testing as they become available; e.g. through on-line computer programs.
   c) Understand the need for promotion of public awareness of genetic disease, and potential for prevention of birth defects (e.g. preconception use of folate).

6. Scholar
   a) Make presentations at formal and informal educational settings.
   b) Appreciate the role of research in genetic practice.
   c) Critically analyze current scientific developments related to the specialty.

7. Professional
   a) Have an understanding of the social, ethical, legal and cultural issues which are particular to genetics and genetic testing.
   b) Understand his/her own ethical standards and appreciate those of the patient; recognize the views and beliefs of the patient, be non-directive in most instances but be prepared to advise in certain situations.

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Evaluation

Evaluation of the trainee during the medical genetics rotation is based on day-to-day performance, including history-taking and physical examination skills, case reviews and participation during genetics rounds. The trainee will be informally assessed throughout the rotation by faculty, and will be given feedback. A mid-rotation evaluation will be completed by the rotation supervisor in consultation with other staff members, discussed with the trainee and communicated to the MFM Program Director. At the end of the rotation, rotation specific ITER will be completed on MRESone45 and discussed with the trainee.

Suggested Reading


**Chromosome abnormalities and genetic counseling**, by Gardner RJM and Sutherland GR. Oxford University press.

Other Reading


*A list of additional recommended readings, including journal articles will be provided by the Genetics staff at the beginning of the rotation.*
Advanced Fetal Doppler and Echocardiography Rotation
Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH)

Orientation to Rotation

Rotation duration: One 4-week rotation in the second year

Rotation supervisors:
MCH: Dr Luc Jutras (luc.jutras@muhc.mcgill.ca)

Service Requirement: Call from home will be shared with other MFM Fellows for patients admitted to the MFM Service of the Royal Victoria Hospital or Jewish General Hospital and transport calls,

Specific Objectives and CanMEDS competencies
On completion of the rotation in Advanced Fetal Doppler and Echocardiography, the trainee will have acquired the following competencies that will assist him in his/her future role as a consultant in maternal-fetal medicine.

1. Medical Expert

   KNOWLEDGE
   By the end of the trainee’s rotation he/she will:
   a) Know the indications for fetal echocardiography
   b) Understand the normal embryologic development of the fetal heart and fetal cardiac physiology
   c) Know the principles of the obstetric management of the pregnancy complicated by fetal heart disease
   d) Be able to identify fetal cardiac insufficiency
   e) Understand the role of fetal echocardiography in fetal diagnosis, such as in the assessment of: fetal growth-restriction, diabetic mothers, fetal anemia, extra-cardiac malformations, eg. diaphragmatic hernia, monochorionic twins (twin-to-twin transfusion)
   f) Understand the neonatal outcomes of various cardiac anomalies and principles of parental counseling
   g) List the major cardiac signs associated with heterotaxy syndromes

   SKILLS
By the end of the trainee’s rotation he/she will:

a) Identify the detailed cardiac anatomy of a normal fetus and recognize both abnormalities and variations of normality, including:
   i. Standard evaluations of apical and subcostal 4-chamber view, right and left ventricular outflow tracts,
   ii. More detailed evaluations of systemic and pulmonary venous return and intracardiac color flow mapping

b) Identify the principal cardiac anomalies, including:
   i. Septal defects: atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect and endocardial cushion defect, AVSD
   ii. Transposition of the great arteries
   iii. Tetralogy of Fallot
   iv. Left ventricular hypoplasia
   v. Mitral and tricuspid valve abnormalities
   vi. Atrioventricular discordance
   vii. Double outlet right ventricle
   viii. Double inlet ventricle
   ix. Aortic and pulmonary valve abnormalities
   x. Common arterial trunk
   xi. Aortic arch abnormalities, coarctation of the aorta
   xii. Valvular regurgitation / atresia
   xiii. Abnormalities of systemic and pulmonary venous connections, eg. interrupted inferior vena cava

c) Assess and manage fetal arrhythmias

d) Measure Doppler Velocity indices:
   i. Aorta
   ii. Pulmonary Trunk
   iii. Ductus Arteriosus
   iv. Ductus venosus

e) Identify regurgitation across atrio-ventricular valves

2. Communicator

a) Demonstrate good interpersonal skills when working with all members of the health care team
b) Gather pertinent information about the patient, including the family’s beliefs, concerns and expectations about the illness. Listen effectively
c) Demonstrate sensitivity in the communication of the findings of ultrasound examinations, being especially mindful of impact of psychological, social, and ethical problems associated with the diagnosis of fetal abnormality
d) Be able to obtain informed consent.
e) Be able to deliver a patients case presentation clearly and concisely.
f) Be able to produce timely, meticulous and correct documentation, including ultrasound reports, consultation notes, and letters.

3. Collaborator

a) Demonstrate the ability to work effectively with a multidisciplinary team and respect the opinions of other team members.
b) Contribute effectively at multidisciplinary group meetings  
c) Understand the role of other healthcare professionals in the provision of comprehensive patient care.  
d) Effectively work with other health professionals to prevent, negotiate and resolve interprofessional conflict.

4. Manager  
a) Effectively utilize the information systems (Telehealth, OACIS, Viewpoint, RadImage, PACS) required for optimal patient care and communication of ultrasound findings  
b) Demonstrates organization of work and time management  
c) Delegates clinical responsibilities appropriately  
d) Executes appropriate allocation of ultrasound resources within the region and remote communities, including community hospitals, private clinics and remote outposts  
e) Understand the principles of quality assurance and administration of an ultrasound unit

5. Health Advocate  
a) Identify the important determinants of health in an individual patient  
b) Utilize the network of resources to facilitate patient access to care in a timely manner  
c) Provide advocacy for patients with abnormal ultrasound findings by coordinating and expediting consultation with the necessary specialists, such as genetics, pediatric cardiology, pediatric radiology, pediatric surgery etc.  
d) Enable patients to remain in their own communities without compromising quality of care through the use of Telehealth services coordinated by the MUHC, which includes both the review and reporting of ultrasound studies from remote areas in real and deferred time.

6. Scholar  
a) Maintain a personal continuing education strategy.  
b) Critically appraise sources of medical information and apply evidence-based medicine in ultrasound  
c) Facilitate learning for patients, medical students, residents and other health professionals

7. Professional  
a) Deliver the highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion; including recognizing limitations of their own professional competence and seeking advice as needed  
b) Exhibit appropriate professional behaviors  
   i. Punctuality  
   ii. Respond to calls in a timely and respectful fashion  
   iii. Show appropriate demeanor with respect to appearance and language  
c) Practice medicine consistent with the ethical obligations of a physician, such as maintaining patient confidentiality  
d) Sensitive to ethical issues specific to MFM, such as termination of pregnancy, fetal reduction; arranges ethical consultation and discussion, as required.

Evaluation
The trainee’s performance is directly observed by the attending, who is a pediatric cardiologist, and by the sonographers on the unit. The trainee’s interpretation of the ultrasound findings is discussed with the attending after each case. The attendings and sonographers observe and keep track of the trainee’s progress throughout the four-week rotation. The written evaluation of the trainee at the end of the rotation is compiled by the sonographers and attendings based on their assessment of the trainee’s acquired skills in the performance of fetal echocardiography and Doppler studies. This evaluation is conducted using the rotation-specific ITER on MRESone45.

Suggested Reading

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY texts

A practical guide to fetal echocardiography / Alfred Abuhamad; Rabih Chaoui. -- Philadelphia : Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2010. 2nd ed. (Book) WQ 210.5 A16.2 2010 RVH - Women's Pavilion Library.


DOPPLER texts

Doppler Ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology / Maulik, Dev. -- Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2005.2nd ed. (Book) WQ 209 D69.2 2005 RVH - Women's Pavilion Library.


Fetal Cardiovascular Physiology:


Detection of Fetal Cardiac Malformations:


Ultrasonographic Evaluation of Fetal Wellbeing:


Bachat et al. The sequence of changes in Doppler and biophysical parameters as severe fetal growth restriction worsens. Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol 2001; 18:571.


Research Rotations
Royal Victoria Hospital

Overview
During his/her training, the trainee will undertake an independent research project. The project may focus on issues of basic science or on issues of more direct clinical relevance. Basic science research is done in the laboratory under the direction of a member of the Reproductive Biology Division of the department or in collaboration with a scientist from another department. Clinical research is done under the supervision of the MFM faculty.

The Royal College (RCPC) stipulates that one research project should be completed and a publishable manuscript should be prepared. This represents the minimal requirement; many aspects of research activities are strongly encouraged, widely supported and tailored to individual career plans.

Schedule
Six 4-week blocks will be devoted to research within the 24 month fellowship: One month should be scheduled early on in the fellowship during which:
   i) Research interests of the fellow are explored;
   ii) Plans for project and future course work are made;
   iii) An abstract to an upcoming meeting is prepared and submitted; and
   iv) The other 5 months will be scheduled in 1, 2 or 3 month blocks according to project needs and availability of other electives.

Supervision
Supervision or co-supervision of MFM related projects may be undertaken under any of the Faculty over the course of the Fellowship.

Supervision of the Research Rotation, including early planning of project(s) and establishing deadlines, ensuring objectives are being met will be done by either
   o RVH: Dr Richard Brown

Nature of the research project
Fellows can acquire good research experience in several ways:
   i) Databases that could be utilized for many clinical questions:
      o US Birth Linked Database - All births certificates in the US; data from births linked to deaths within 1st year; database accrues about 40 M births/ 10yrs (60,000 SB)
      o HCUP –NIS - 15% sample of all admissions to US hospitals; 15 ICD-9 codes and 15 procedural codes; demographic data and regional data
      o Viewpoint ultrasound database
GE Perinatal Information System will be installed shortly at the MUHC birthing centre and will eventually be linked with MOND

IRNPOEQEO will eventually provide a wealth of info on exposures/outcomes from the pregnancy and postpartum biobank it is building on mothers, fathers, infants and children

Other data sources:
- Dr Phylis Zelkowitz – Cohort on psychological parameters and obstetrical outcomes
- Dr N Chailet – Quarisma Cohort (180k births in Quebec)
- Medical Records – Case Room - Chartmaxx

Fellows will have access to codebooks for databases - in order to grasp the wealth of data and their definitions - available for research projects.

ii) Writing a review article or a book chapter

iii) Develop research question involving a small survey or questionnaire which could be implemented relatively easily, by applying feasible research ideas or hypotheses from:
- Discussions arising with staff in clinical setting
- Personal interest (biomedical / ultrasound / different practice style)
- Reading the Green Journal or other relevant peer review journals

Research project resources
Numerous resources will facilitate the MFM fellow’s research experience.

i) Epidemiology coursework through McGill dept of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health will be scheduled depending on previous formal coursework of individual trainees. McGill courses include:
- Clinical epidemiology or Reproductive Epidemiology (Dr. Olga Basso)
- Basic Biostatistics

ii) Epidemiology seminars:
- RVH Thursdays 9:30 - 10:30 in Ross Pavilion R4.02 (http://www.clinepi.mcgill.ca/)
- McGill seminars: Epidemiology on Mondays 4-5 pm in Purvis Hall room 25; Biostatistics on Tuesdays 4-5 pm in Purvis Hall Room 24.

iii) McGill Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Research division
This recently created division headed by Epidemiologist Dr Olga Basso, will provide the infrastructure and guidance for research projects of Faculty and Trainees alike. Support offered will include epidemiological and statistical consultation, and guidance with Research Ethics Board submissions.

iv) Funding of Fellows Research Projects
- MUHC's Academic Enrichment Fund (AEF) Can provide up to $5000 for study support for projects which involve a MUHC ObGyn faculty member. For more information, including application form, go to: www.mcgill.ca/obgyn/funding
- Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health (CFWH) provides annual awards to the best resident research projects in women’s health (www.cfwh.org). Deadline in Feb or March
Research presentation and publication
With faculty help and supervision a research topic will be identified for which fellows will write, submit and present an abstract (poster or oral presentation) at a professional scientific meeting over the course of their 2 year program. Meetings and abstract deadlines to consider:

a. SMFM meetings in February, abstracts due August [https://www.smfm.org/]
b. SOGC meeting in June, abstracts due in January [http://www.sogc.org/]
c. IUSOG meeting [http://www.isuog.org/Events/]

This abstract may be the basis of one of the Fellow’s manuscripts which will be prepared and submitted to a peer-review journal for publication.

Specific Objectives and CanMEDS competencies
On completion of the Research Rotations, the trainee will have acquired the following competencies that will assist him in his/her future role as a consultant in maternal-fetal medicine.

1. Medical Expert
   a) Understand and demonstrate the process involved in conducting a thorough review of medical literature
   b) Evaluate the quality of the scientific and medical literature relevant to the research project.
   c) Formulate a clear hypotheses

2. Communicator
   a) Clearly explain study to patients if applicable, ethically and without coercion
   b) Establish a good rapport with study participants.
   c) Prepare clear concise documentation related to study, such as for informed consent, protocol submission of ethics, funding, etc.

3. Collaborator
   a) Recognize his/her own limitations
   b) Collaborate with others involved in research project - such as a statistician, assistants, clinic staff, advisor

4. Manager
   a) Manage time well in conducting research, setting goals and meeting deadlines as needed
   b) Be able to write a research protocol including completing forms for the Research Ethics Board.
   c) Record data thoroughly and in a systematic fashion
   d) Carry out study (data collection, patient recruitment etc) in an organized manner according to protocol

5. Health Advocate
   a) Advocate for ethical conduct of research.
   b) Advocate against plagiarism.

6. Scholar
a) Understand the limitations of research and evidence-based findings
b) Describe the principles of research ethics
c) Understand the importance of careful and complete data gathering
d) Execute study protocol
e) Know how to perform basics statistics and apply to own dataset, seeking help with functions and interpretation as needed
f) Write the manuscript and respond to journal queries.

7. Professional
   a) Write an abstract for presentation.
   b) Present the results of their research at a national or international scientific meeting.
   c) Write a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine trainee during the Research rotation rotation is based on the process and execution of a research project. The trainee will be informally assessed throughout the rotation by faculty involved, and will be given feedback. Evaluations will be completed by the rotation supervisor in consultation with other staff members, discussed with the trainee and communicated to the MFM Program Director. At the end of the rotation, rotation specific ITER will be completed on MRESone45 and discussed with the trainee.

Suggested Reading


Life Sciences
Orientation to Rotation

**Rotation duration:** Elective rotation – ad hoc during program

**Rotation supervisor:**
- **MCH:** Dr Jean-Martin Laberge

Paediatric Surgery Staff
- Dr Sherif Emil
- Dr Promod Puligandla
- Dr Robert Baird
- Dr Jean Tchervenkov

**Elective Schedule**
When fetal abnormalities that will require postnatal paediatric surgery or surgical follow-up are identified, the trainee is expected to make arrangements to attend prenatal paediatric surgical consultations to be able to experience the surgical counseling offered in such cases. Furthermore the trainee is expected to make arrangements to attend surgical interventions when possible in order to be better able to understand the postnatal surgical care that such cases undergo.

**Academic Half-day sessions take place on Fridays at the MCH:**
- **8:00 -9:00 am:** Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Group rounds (RVH, MCH & JGH videoconference)
- **12.00-13.00 pm:** Ultrasound Rounds (RVH F4)