Goals & Objectives of Training and Specialty Requirements
Gynecologic Oncology Rotation
January 2015

Preamble
The rotation in Gynecologic Oncology provides an introduction to the subspecialty as well as providing the resident the ability to learn skills and perform oncology related functions at the generalist level.

The goals of the rotation are aimed at developing strong skills in the diagnosis, investigation and treatment of gynecologic malignancies, knowledge of when to transfer patients to a tertiary care facility in a safe and appropriate manner and a good level of basic surgical skills to manage adequately chosen patients and to deal with unexpected emergencies.

MEDICAL EXPERT
The resident is expected to develop an extensive knowledge in the following areas:

1. Knowledge of the biology of gynecologic cancers as it relates to etiology, genesis through precancerous lesions, histology, epidemiology, common complications, prognosis and terminal events.

2. The ability to diagnose and stage each malignancy according to the current FIGO systems. He/She should be able to demonstrate the ability to conduct an interview and physical examination of patients with known or suspected gynecologic malignancies and to formulate a plan of management based on the patient’s specific histology, medical background, social condition, as well as the patient’s wishes, specifically in regard to reproductive and sexual issues. He/She should be proficient in choosing the appropriate laboratory and radiologic investigations for diagnosis. He/She should be able to liaise with pathologists to provide and interpret the results of tissue samples.

3. A proper routine in preparing the patients for complex surgery including the ability to select the patients for transfer to tertiary care units.

4. The surgical skills to manage the appropriately selected patients including becoming familiar with some specific surgical interventions which may be of use in general practice, including: exploration of the retroperitoneal spaces, the identification of structures, specifically the ureters and major vessels, internal iliac artery ligation in case of emergency, omental biopsy/omentectomy, peritoneal biopsies, peritoneal washings, diaphragmatic scrapings/biopsies.
5. Through the attendance and participation in the performance of medical gynecologic surgery, the resident will gain an understanding of pelvic, abdominal and perineal anatomy and a basic understanding of the intricacies of the more advanced surgical procedures and their complications.

6. An understanding and working knowledge of the general surgical and urologic procedures as applied to the correction of traumatic intraoperative events on bowel, ureters and bladder, and to develop a level of comfort with these procedures by participating in procedures on the bowel and urologic tract. To gain a basic knowledge in the management of small and large bowel fistulas of various etiology as well as recognition and management of radiation-induced bowel injury.

7. The ability to care for postoperative patients including the management of commonly encountered complications of the various procedures in the field of gynecologic oncology. This includes assessing the need for postoperative ICU care as well as supplemental nutritional support through total parenteral nutrition.

The successful resident will have a working knowledge of:

1. The principles of colposcopy and the indications for referral as well as the indications for locally ablative procedures such as laser vaporization, leep excision and cone biopsy. This is done as part of the gynecologic oncologists participating in the Colposcopy Clinic.

2. The principles of chemotherapy with respect to toxicity and indications for use of the commonly utilized drugs.

3. The principles of radiotherapy and toxicities both acute and late, the utility of radiotherapy as primary and adjuvant treatment as well as palliative therapy.

4. The principles of palliative care in the treatment of gynecologic malignancies especially as it applies to pain control, control of nausea, vomiting, and the preservation of bowel function. The resident should develop an understanding on how to handle sensitive end of life issues.

The successful resident will have a working knowledge of all the major gynecologic cancers and pre-cancers, namely vulvar cancer, VIN, Paget’s Disease, melanoma; preinvasive cervical cancers as well as invasive squamous cell and adenocarcinoma and other histologic variants; uterine cancers including endometrial and sarcoma; ovarian cancer of all major groups, namely epithelial, germ cell, stromal and metastatic; tubal cancer; gestational trophoblastic neoplasia.

The resident should be able to successfully do a simple hysterectomy, bilateral salpingo oophorectomy with washings, peritoneal biopsies and omentectomy in those cases where unanticipated cancer is found. The resident will understand the role for and the complications of lymphadenectomy (inguinal, pelvic, para-aortic), although not qualified to perform this. The resident will understand the role of ultra-radical surgery in the
management of gynecologic malignancy, namely radical vulvectomy, tumour debulking, exenterative procedures.

**COLLABORATOR**

The resident should be able to successfully
1) Participate effectively and appropriately in a multi-professional health care team
2) Work with other health professionals to prevent and resolve intra-professional conflict to optimize patient care.

**MANAGER**

1) The resident should be able to successfully participate in activities that contribute to the effectiveness of their health care organization and systems such as patient safety initiatives and manoeuvres to control hospital-acquired infections.
2) Manage and practice career effectively.
3) Evaluate “cost benefit” when ordering tests in an environment with limited resources.
4) Serve in leadership roles if qualified and when appropriate.

**HEALTH ADVOCATE**

The resident should be able to:
1) Respond to individual patient health needs and issues as part of patient care
2) Respond to the health needs of the communities that they serve
3) Identify the determinants of health for the population that they serve
4) Promote the health of individual patients, communities and populations

**SCHOLAR**

The residents are encouraged to:
1) Maintain and enhance professional activities through ongoing learning. They participate in tumour boards and gynecologic oncology rounds.
2) Evaluate medical information and its sources critically by participation in journal clubs throughout the residency program
3) Facilitate the learning of patients, families and students
4) Contribute to the development, dissemination and translation of new knowledge and practices. Residents can initiate and complete research projects for presentation at the R.T. Weaver Research Day.

**PROFESSIONAL**

1) The resident will demonstrate integrity, honesty, compassion, respect in the delivery of the highest possible quality of care
2) Show appropriate personal and interpersonal behaviour
3) Seek advice, opinions and assistance in order to improve the delivery of care whenever medical or ethical appropriateness is in doubt
4) Practice medicine in accordance with the ethical standards of the profession and with respect for the laws regulating the practice of medicine in the provinces and territories of Canada
5) The ability to balance professional and personal life without impact on the quality of care provided to the patients