

## **Ballsbridge University Liberia**

### **Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology by Recherche**

#### **The Perspective:**

Liberia has some of the worst reproductive health indicators, including low contraceptive, high unmet need for family planning, high total fertility rate, high infant mortality, and high maternal mortality. The majority of these indicators however are due to otherwise preventable conditions.

There are currently about 6 Gynaecologists in Liberia. Only about 2 are in all the upcountry public service stations combined, 4 are in Monrovia while the rest are in other institutions. Realizing that the population of Liberia is now estimated at about 2.6 million and the fact that we have over 15 County, it is of paramount importance that obstetricians/gynaecologists trained are posted to the districts to improve the lives of the Liberia population. They can also offer training and support to other cadres of staff in the reproductive field.

Obstetrics & Gynaecology is a branch of medicine that deals with the health and diseases of women. It focuses on anatomical, physiological, endocrinology, psychology and pathology of the reproductive system of women *and men*.

Obstetrics deals with all aspects of pregnancy, including: antenatal care, normal physiology, early pregnancy problems and other pathological events which occur during pregnancy and labour. Obstetrics also involves the study of the foetus as an individual which is intimately related to the health of the mother.

The combined training program prepares the practicing OB/GYN to provide care for both pregnant and non-pregnant patients as well as surgical management of the entire scope of clinical pathology involving female reproductive organs.

#### **Program Goal:**

The overall goal of the program is to produce a specialist who is competent in obstetric and gynaecological clinical practice, as well as research. In addition, the graduate should be able to manage and organize obstetric and gynaecological services in health units and the community and in turn be able to mentor, direct and supervise other health workers in the same field.

### **The M.Med Obs and Gyn Graduate:**

The aim of the Postgraduate program in Obstetrics & Gynaecology is to produce a competent Obstetrician & Gynaecologist by Recherche who:

- Practices the specialty ethically (has acquired appropriate attitudes i.e professional disposition and behavior towards colleagues, patients, relatives and communities)
- Recognizes the health needs of adolescents, females in reproductive age group & post menopausal females
- Is competent to recognize and manage the pathological states related to reproductive system with knowledge of anatomy, physiology, endocrinology pharmacology & pathophysiology.
- Is aware of contemporary advances & developments in the field of maternal and newborn health & other related issues. (Has Acquired skills i.e. ability to integrate knowledge to clinical situations at an advanced Level) and has the confident understanding of a subject with the ability to use it for a specific purpose.
- Is well oriented to the principles of research methodology and epidemiology
- Has acquired the basic skills in teaching of the Medical and Paramedical Professionals.
- Organizes and supervises the health care services, demonstrating adequate managerial skills in the clinic/hospital or the field situation where he is assigned.
- Is enthusiastic in advocating for maternal & newborn health

### **Admission Requirements:**

- Must be a holder of MBChB or its equivalent from a recognized University.
- Should have passed MBChB or its equivalent with a CGPA of at least 3.0 or its equivalent.
- Should be proficient in English or provide a certificate of proficiency in English if the language of instruction in the previous institution was not English
- Should have worked for at least one-year post-internship,
- Working in a clinical setting is Most.
- Recommendation Letter from a consultant Obstetric and gynecologist

### **Program Duration:**

This is a three-year program with clinical and applied basic science courses.

The Master of Medicine program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology extends over a period of three years. Each year consists of 2 semesters and a recess term, except year 3 which has only two semesters. The duration of a semester is 17 weeks; 15 weeks for teaching online

& learning, and two weeks for examinations online. There is a three-week holiday between the semesters. The recess term lasts 10 weeks.

- ✚ The postgraduate (PG) goes through 3 years part time residential training. Attendance requirements for all activities is more than 80%
- ✚ A logbook is designated for each PG student as part of progressive assessment. The logbook is used to monitor the training of the student.
- ✚ The PG students are encouraged towards self-directed learning; faculty only function as guide. Formal lectures are kept to a minimum. Interactive discussions through tutorials, journal clubs, clinical seminars, demonstrations, grand rounds and mini rounds are used to reinforce the understanding of the material given through formal lectures.
- ✚ Students are expected to learn as they work in outpatients and special clinics (opportunistic learning) under supervision. Students also actively participate in all academic activities within the department.

### **Program Structure:**

The clinical courses are spread out through the three years of training and progressive assessment is done by the use of a logbook. The clinical courses include;

- Health systems management.
- Imaging & radiology in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Clinical reproductive endocrinology.
- Safe Motherhood and perinatal medicine including neonatal resuscitation
- High risk pregnancy and emergency obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Proposal development
- Benign Gynaecological Disorders
- Gynaecological oncology
- Family Planning, Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health, STD/HIV/AIDS
- Urogynaecology
- Community Reproductive Health
- Operative obstetrics and Gynaecology including laparoscopy and emergency general surgery.
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology practicum including obstetric anaesthesia
- Advances in obstetrics and Gynaecology

The following Applied Basic Science courses are taught at an advanced level.

- Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Research methods
- Applied Anatomy
- Advanced General Physiology
- Reproductive anatomy & embryology
- Advanced reproductive endocrinology

- Reproductive micro-pathology, immunology & genetics
- Applied pharmacology
- Physiology of pregnancy

Students prepare a dissertation which is defended during a Viva voce examination at a date determined by the Examination Board.

### Study Load:

A total of 108 Credit Units must be accumulated for successful completion of the Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

### Course Outline:

#### Year 1 Semester 1

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
PHS7103	Advanced General Physiology	15	30	60	75	5
MOG7103	Advanced Anatomy and embryology	15	30	60	75	5
MCM7105	Diagnostic Microbiology & Immunology	15	30	30	45	3
MOG7107	Safe Motherhood and Perinatal Medicine I	15	30	30	45	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>16</b>

#### Year 1 Semester 2

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
CHS7201	Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Research Methods	30	-	30	60	4
MOG7203	Applied Pharmacology	15	30	-	45	3
MOG7204	Physiology of pregnancy	15	30		45	3
MOG7205	Advanced Reproductive Endocrinology	15	30	30	60	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>14</b>

#### Year 1 Recess Term

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
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HSM7301	Health Systems management	30	-	30	60	4
MOG7302	Imaging & Radiology in Obstetrics/ Gynecology	15	30	60	60	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>8</b>

### Year 2 Semester 1

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
MOG8102	High risk pregnancy and emergency obstetrics & gynaecology	15	30	60	75	5
MOG8103	Proposal development	15	30	60	75	5
MOG8104	Clinical reproductive endocrinology	15	30	60	75	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>15</b>

### Year 2 Semester 2

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
MOG8202	Family Planning & Adolescent Health / HIV & AIDS	15	30	60	75	5
MOG8204	Benign Gynaecological disorders	15	30	60	75	5
MOG8205	Gynaecological oncology	15	60	60	75	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>15</b>

### Year 2 Recess Term

Code		LH	TH	PH.	CH	CU
MOG8302	Community Reproductive Health	15	30	90	75	5
MOG8303	Uro gynecology	15	30	90	75	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>10</b>

### Year 3 Semester 1

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
MOG8403	Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology	10	20	65	75	5

MOG8404	Operative Obstetrics	10	20	65	75	5
MOG8405	Operative Gynaecology	10	20	65	75	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>15</b>

### Year 3 Semester 2

Code	Course Title	LH	TH	PH	CH	CU
MOG8501	Advances in Obstetrics/ Gynaecology	15	30	60	75	5
MOG8502	Dissertation	-	30	120	75	5
MOG8503	Safe motherhood & Perinatal medicine II	15	30	60	75	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>15</b>

### Learning Methods:

- ✘ Problem based learning
- ✘ Online Grand round / Teaching round
- ✘ Clinico-pathological conference
- ✘ Skills lab
- ✘ Pathological specimen study
- ✘ Assignment
- ✘ Conducting research
- ✘ Community rotations and media talk shows
- ✘ Bed side teaching
- ✘ Mini Lecture / Discussion
- ✘ Clinical practice
- ✘ Self-directive learning
- ✘ Spot diagnosis in studies, slides, write up,
- ✘ Seminar/tutorial presentation
- ✘ Mini-rounds
- ✘ Journal club meetings
- ✘ Severe maternal and perinatal morbidity reviews / Audit
- ✘ Maternal and Perinatal Death Review meetings

### Assessment:

*Continuous/formative assessment:* Formative assessment contributes 40% of the final mark and it is done throughout the training period. The assessment is as objective as possible based on a log book as to whether the candidate has achieved set competencies. If the

performance is found to be unsatisfactory then the candidate has to reappear for evaluation or repeat the rotation as prescribed by the block coordinator.

Progress tests comprising of online essays, short notes and/or multiple choices questions are conducted midway through each semester as part of formative assessment. Formative assessment is in form of:

- Logbook
- Progress Tests
- Any other method as prescribed under the specific course e.g. clinical presentations, written reports, sonographic albums, etc
- All the various components contribute equally.

At the end of each semester, a certificate of due performance is provided to each student in order for him/her to be eligible to sit the final examinations. The certificate of due performance is awarded based on the following:

- Attendance more than 80% of the working days
- Attendance of more than 80% of all lectures, tutorials & seminars
- Completion of minimum number of procedures and presentations as evidenced in the logbook, and mandatory basic courses.
- Certification of thesis which is worthy defending (for year 3).

*Summative assessment:* The summative assessment contributes 60% of the overall score at the end of each semester;

- There are written examinations in form of essay questions, short notes, and/or multiple choice questions for each course
- There are clinical examinations in form of Long case presentations and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE)
- In addition, there is a Viva voce at the end of each semester for selected courses.
- For the final year summative assessment there is an external examiner for the clinical examination, the Viva voce and the thesis defence.
- The final year (Year III) clinical examination is more embracing and comprehensive.
- The dissertation should be handed in at least three months before the time of defence of the dissertation.
- All the various components contribute equally.

### **Collaboration:**

Institutions collaborating with the College of Health Sciences Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on this program are;

### **Mac Master University**

ESTHER AND JETELINE MEDICAL CENTER

## **Teaching Facilities:**

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has;

- Dedicated library,
- 24-hour Internet connection,
- Ultrasound machines
- Models
- Colposcopes
- Cryotherapy machines
- Computer hubs
- Modern teaching aids
- Dedicated classroom and other classrooms that are accessible to the department

## **Employment Opportunities:**