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RCSI Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Undergraduate Teaching Programme 2006 - 2007 General Instructions for Students

Dear Senior Cycle 1 Medical Students

Welcome to your Obstetrics & Gynaecology Rotation where you will complete a six-week clinical attachment in Obstetrics and Gynaecology / Neonatology. This clinical attachment is structured as four weeks of clinical obstetrics and gynaecology duties, one week Labour Ward attachment and one week neonatology attachment. At the end of the sixth week there will be an exit examination consisting of an obstetric / gynaecologic OSCE, as well as a neonatology written and clinical assessment.

Pre-Attachment Requirements:

Before you attend for the first day of your obstetrics and gynaecology clinical attachment you are required to have reviewed the following 11 core topics which are provided on the OBGYN section of Moodle:

- Obstetric History
- Obstetric Examination
- Normal Labour and Delivery
- Abnormal Labour and Delivery
- Preconceptional and Antenatal Care
- Postnatal History and Examination
- Gynaecologic History and Examination
- Normal Menstrual Cycle
- Perioperative Care
- Anatomy of the Female Pelvis
- Commonly Used Terms in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

After reviewing each of these 11 core topics on Moodle, you must take and pass the mandatory Quiz related to each of the topics. The pass mark is 80%. On the morning of the first day of your obstetrics and gynaecology clinical attachment, a report will be compiled on each student's progress through these pre-attachment requirements. Failure of successful completion of these requirements is grounds for being disbarred from the clinical attachment. You may then be required to reschedule an entirely new six-week clinical attachment later in the academic year. However, since the later attachments are already full, this may lead to a requirement to repeat the attachment in 2007-2008.

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Clinical Attachments:

Each student will be assigned to one of the following Hospitals as your primary base for the six-week rotation: Rotunda, Coombe, National Maternity or Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda. Each campus has RCSI members of staff present to assist you while you are there. Parking facilities are not available for students. On the first day of each rotation students must present, on time, as follows:

<u>Rotunda:</u>	Meet Prof. F. Malone, RCSI / HARI Unit, at 9am
<u>Coombe:</u>	Meet Ms. Marie Greene, Tutorial Room 1, Education Centre at 9am
<u>NMH:</u>	Meet Ms. Miriam Shanley and Prof. D. MacDonald, Hospital Library at 8.45am
<u>Drogheda:</u>	Meet Ms. Mary Lenehan, Ms. Alice Carroll and Dr. M. Milner, RCSI Office, Main Entrance at 9.00am

Please note that the start day of clinical attachment for the first rotation is Tuesday October 31st 2006, and for the fourth rotation is Tuesday March 20th 2007, due to official bank holidays on Monday October 30th and Monday March 19th. The start date for the second and third rotations is Monday December 11th 2006 and Monday February 5th 2007 respectively. All students should be already aware of these start dates. Therefore, it is your responsibility to ensure that if you have any scheduled foreign travel prior to these start dates that you have solved all travel, visa and other practical issues in advance. Problems with visas or travel plans are not acceptable reasons for delayed attendance.

Initial Clinical Skills Course:

At 1.30pm on the afternoon of the first day of your clinical attachment, all students must attend an intensive clinical skills foundation course which will be held both at the Pillar Room at the Rotunda Hospital, or at the RCSI academic centre at Coombe Women's Hospital. National Maternity Hospital and Drogheda students will be informed which of these sites they will be required to attend for their clinical skills course. This course is intended to provide you with the basics of obstetric and gynaecologic history and examination technique, communication skills specific to obstetrics and gynaecology, and the fundamentals of case presentation.

Community Attachments:

Students who are assigned to the Rotunda Hospital will rotate for one week to St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny under the direct supervision of Dr. Ray O'Sullivan. Students assigned to the Coombe

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Women's Hospital will rotate for one week to Waterford Regional Hospital under the direct supervision of Dr. Eddie O'Donnell. Students assigned to the National Maternity Hospital will rotate for one week to Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar under the direct supervision of Dr. Michael Gannon. Accommodation will be provided and this is arranged by Ms. Corriena Brien in the RCSI Student Services Department. Transportation is the responsibility of the student. All queries regarding accommodation should be addressed to Ms. Brien directly. Failure of attendance at the entire community attachment is grounds for being disbarred from sitting the end-of-attachment OSCE.

Students who are assigned to the Rotunda Hospital will also rotate out periodically to the Gynaecology outpatient clinic and Gynaecology theatre at Connolly Memorial Hospital in Blanchardstown, under the direct supervision of Dr. Carole Barry-Kinsella and also to the Gynaecology outpatient clinics and Gynaecology theatre at Beaumont Hospital, under the direct supervision of Dr. Paul Byrne and Dr. Barry Gaughan. Students who are assigned to the Coombe will also rotate out periodically to the Gynaecology outpatient clinic and Gynaecology theatre at the Tallaght Hospital, under the direct supervision of Prof. Walter Prendiville. It will be your responsibility to arrange transport from these hospitals and to be back in sufficient time for your other scheduled duties at your base hospital.

Professionalism:

Professional behaviour from students is expected at all times. This includes courteous interactions with patients and all hospital staff, and professional physical appearance. You must wear a clean white coat and stethoscope at all times, (except when in the NICU where a white coat is not allowed), and you must ensure that your hospital identity badge is visible at all times. Hospital scrubs are not to be worn outside of the Labour Ward or the Operating Theatre.

During your time with us you will be integrated into the hospital clinical environment. This means that you will function as members of a healthcare management team in which you will have personal responsibility for helping admit and manage patients on the wards, as well as in the outpatient setting. You will function under the immediate supervision of Senior House Officers (SHOs) and Registrars, together with considerable exposure to Consultant management. Your duties will include writing admission histories and physical examinations, ward management work, conducting deliveries and assisting in surgery in theatre. (Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a surgical specialty. All students will be expected to attend in the operating theatre in appropriate theatre-approved clothing and be able to surgically scrub to the level of the elbow. Religious restrictions are not acceptable reasons for non-attendance in theatre, not scrubbing in theatre or failing to wear theatre-approved clothing.)

No absences will be tolerated from any part of the six-week course for any reason. If any student has an unexpected absence they must contact the RCSI Head of Department at their clinical centre, as well as Prof. Malone's office at the Rotunda Hospital, immediately to explain the

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absence, and they must provide written confirmation of the absence (i.e. a doctor's sick note). Please note that religious observances are not accepted as a reason for failure of attendance. Additionally, due to the abbreviated schedule available for teaching this specialty, we regret that we are unable to support one-week absences for college sporting or extracurricular activities. Suboptimal performance during the six-week clinical course, such as unapproved absences or poor academic progress, may result in the student being summoned to a formal hearing with Professor Malone and Vice Deans before appropriate action is decided. In exceptional circumstances, if it appears that an absence may occur, it is incumbent on the student to contact Prof. Malone's office IN ADVANCE to discuss the situation.

Continuous Assessment:

As well as the eleven core introductory lectures on the OBGYN section on Moodle, there are an additional 41 lectures covering the OBGYN curriculum on Moodle. All students are expected to have reviewed each of these additional 41 lectures at appropriate times during their six-week attachment, and are expected to have completed the Quiz attached to each lecture prior to completing their six-week attachment. Failure to complete these reviews and quiz material by the time of the end-of-attachment OSCE is grounds for being disbarred from taking the OSCE examination. Since the OSCE now counts for 30% of the final examination mark, and since this is a required part of the final assessment process, non-completion of the OSCE will also lead to an automatic failing grade in the final examination and a requirement to sit the final examination as a repeat candidate in August.

Additionally, you are required to write a number of case histories reflecting patients that you personally encountered during your six-week attachment. These case histories must include the patient's initials and hospital medical record numbers to facilitate supervisory hospital staff review, and each case history must be uploaded to Moodle on a daily basis during your six-week attachment (i.e. it is not acceptable to upload all required cases during the last week of attachment). The following are the minimum number and type of obstetric case histories required:

- Three normal vaginal deliveries
- One caesarean section
- One operative vaginal delivery (forceps or vacuum)
- One preeclampsia case
- One case of preterm labour or preterm premature rupture of membranes
- One case of multiple gestation
- One case of antepartum haemorrhage
- One case of diabetes mellitus in pregnancy

The following are the minimum number and type of gynaecologic case histories required:

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- One abdominal hysterectomy for benign disease
- One abdominal hysterectomy for malignant disease
- One total vaginal hysterectomy
- One diagnostic or operative laparoscopy
- One diagnostic or operative hysteroscopy
- One case of ectopic pregnancy
- One case of infertility
- One case of surgical management of urinary incontinence or prolapse

It is your responsibility to find these cases. It is highly likely that each student will encounter all of these cases at some point during your six-week attachment. However, if you are having difficulty finding one or more specific cases, you must discuss this in advance with the RCSI Tutor Lecturers and seek their assistance in identifying relevant cases. For example, if you fail to encounter a case of operative vaginal delivery during your Labour Ward week, you must identify such a patient postnatally. Similarly, if you are not personally involved in the surgery for a patient with prolapse, you must identify such a patient postoperatively.

On a weekly basis, RCSI administrative staff will compile a report on each student summarising the number of core lectures and quiz material completed, and the number of case histories uploaded. Inadequate performance will be readily identified and you will need to justify your progress. Additionally, at least one of the end-of-attachment OSCE stations may involve a review of your personal case history portfolio where you will be questioned regarding the management of your own patients.

End-of-Attachment Assessment:

The Obstetric / Gynaecology OSCE will be held on the final Friday morning of the six-week attachment at 8.00am in the Pillar Room, Rotunda Hospital. Students from all four clinical sites must attend at this location. This OSCE examination now accounts for 60 marks (30%) out of the 200-mark-total available for the final Obstetric and Gynaecologic Professional Examination. Additionally, at least one of the end-of-attachment OSCE stations may involve a review of your personal case history portfolio where you will be questioned regarding the management of your own patients.

Details regarding the end-of-attachment neonatal written and clinical assessments can be obtained from Ms. Sarah Gettings in the Examinations Office.

Unacceptable attendance record or unsatisfactory performance throughout the course, as deemed by Professor Malone or Vice Deans, is grounds for being disbarred from taking the end-of-attachment OSCE examination.

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The RCSI teams at each hospital campus are committed to helping you get the most out of this clinical attachment, introducing you to this remarkable specialty, and preparing you for the final examinations in this subject. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact them. These teams include:

Rotunda: Consultants: Prof. Fergal Malone, Dr. Paul Byrne
Tutor Lecturers: Dr. Fionnuala Breathnach, Dr. Soha Said
Administrative Staff: Ms. Karen McMahon, Ms. Suzanne Kehoe

Coombe: Consultants: Prof. Walter Prendiville, Dr. Bridgette Byrne, Dr. Carmen Regan
Tutor Lecturers: Dr. Xavier Carcopino, Dr. Reem Akkawi
Administrative Staff: Ms. Marie Greene, Ms. Fidelma Kavanagh

NMH: Consultants: Prof. Dermot MacDonald
Tutor Lecturers: Dr. Karen Boland
Administrative Staff: Ms. Miriam Shanley

Drogheda: Consultants: Dr. Maire Milner
Tutor Lecturers: Dr. Tayyaba Hassan
Administrative Staff: Ms. Mary Lenehan, Ms. Alice Carroll

Communication and feedback to Departmental staff is encouraged at all times. In particular, if you are having any difficulties in any aspect of the rotation it is best to bring this to the attention of RCSI staff as soon as possible, and not wait until nearing the end of the attachment. We hope that you enjoy this rotation and find it personally and professional rewarding.

Prof. Fergal Malone