WOMEN’S HEALTH
Program Director: Dr. Amy Thompson
Department Chairman: Dr. Arthur Evans

Synopsis

The enhanced educational experience in Women’s Health will provide medical students an opportunity to expand their knowledge in areas of sex- and gender-specific health care. Opportunities for either longitudinal or multi-disciplinary clinical experiences will be available. Students will also participate in a summer research project (clinical or basic science) relating to women’s health. This will culminate in either a poster or podium presentation. Students will participate in monthly department conferences on women’s health issues. On occasion, additional meetings will be held to reinforce learning objectives introduced in pre-clinical coursework. This educational track is ideal for students who are interested in careers in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine-Women’s Health, or OB/GYN.

Goal

The enhanced educational experience in Women’s Health will allow medical students to expand their knowledge in areas of sex- and gender-specific health care related to women. Several venues will be used to achieve the learning objectives – Women’s health specialty and preventative care clinics, scholarly research, and educational meetings.

Learning objectives

1. Demonstrate a growing understanding that health and illness are sex- and gender-specific in causation and response.
2. Understand the impact of gender-based societal and cultural roles on health care and women as specifically relates to
   a. Poverty
   b. Family care giver role
   c. Medical research
   d. Special populations
      a. Women with disabilities
      b. Immigrants
      c. Women of color
      d. Lesbians
      e. Veterans
3. Demonstrate a broadened knowledge of how medical care for women impacts society in regards to
   a. Prenatal care and infant/child mortality
   b. Family medical decision making
4. Participate in a clinical, scientific, or educational research project in Women’s Health.
5. Develop independent and creative thinking, intellectual curiosity, self-reflection and professional growth through the creation of an Educational Portfolio in Women’s Health.
General Description and Curriculum

The enhanced educational track will enroll 2 students per year. The students will have exposure to clinical, didactic and research arenas each year. The Blackboard program will be used to post relevant program materials. Students are encouraged to check this website frequently for program updates and resources.

*Year 1 – 2*

Clinical Experience

Students may select either a longitudinal or multi-disciplinary clinical experience. The student will generally spend 4 hours with a clinical preceptor every 4–6 weeks. Students will be responsible for contacting the preceptor to set up a mutually suitable time for shadowing. Students must also notify Emily Wagner Emily.wagner@uc.edu to insure that clinical time does not conflict with other pre-arranged student assignments. A log of clinical experiences will be a part of the Educational Portfolio which will be reviewed by Program Director every 6 months.

1. Hoxworth Center for Women’s Health
   a. Prenatal clinics (Academic OB clinic)
   b. Academic GYN clinic
   c. BABY-steps program
   d. MFM clinics (Diabetes and Pregnancy Program, Medical Complications of Pregnancy Clinic, Fetal Care, Ultrasound)
   e. Advance Practice Nurse clinic
2. Mid-life Women’s health
3. Pediatric/adolescent Gynecology
4. Community Women’s Health Clinics
5. Private OB/GYN offices – MAB or Westchester faculty practice, or community OB/GYN
6. Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility
7. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Clinics
8. Planned Parenthood
9. Family Planning Clinic at Cincinnati Health Department
10. Breastfeeding Medicine clinic at CCHMC
11. Women’s Mental health at Central Clinic (tentative pending patient volume)
12. General Surgery Breast Clinic
13. Colposcopy clinic
14. VA Women’s clinic (tentative pending security clearance issues)
15. Gynecologic Oncology

*1* Not all clinics may be available for a longitudinal experience. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis with consideration given to student interest and faculty availability.
Didactic Series

Starting in January of the 1st year, students are expected to attend at least 2 hours per month in didactic time related to Women’s Health. These may be Grand Rounds or resident/fellow lectures sponsored by the Department of OB/GYN or its divisions (REI, Pediatric/Adolescent GYN, Gynecology, Community Women’s Health, Female Medicine Reconstructive Surgery, GYN Oncology). These events are generally held on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Specific locations and times will be posted on the Blackboard site and distributed via email. Women’s Health topics presented by other groups (OB/GYN interest group, Med Students for Choice, American Medical Women’s Association, etc.) in the College of Medicine will also satisfy the monthly requirement.

An evening dinner meeting will be semi-annually with invited faculty to allow students more in-depth exposure to women’s health faculty.

Academic advising

The specialized educational track advisor will guide and counsel students on establishing their area of interest and find a suitable mentor for their summer research project. It is also intended that students will select an educational advisor with a particular interest in the area of women’s health. Students are to start keeping their Educational Portfolio regarding their experiences in this track. Dr. Amy Thompson will give a presentation to accepted students to explain and review the portfolio process.

Research – summer year 1

The summer experience between year 1 and year 2 will be dedicated to a research project that relates to Women’s Health. Each research mentor will be responsible for mentoring the student such that their experience will culminate into a final project worthy of poster or podium presentation. The students will receive a stipend for their summer research if the student is not otherwise supported by their research mentor. The stipend will be congruent with similar research pay and will be funded by the Department of OB/GYN. It is expected that the student will participate in an effort of 40 hours per week for an 8 week period. The research must be conducted with a member of the OB/GYN department (unless financially supported by a research mentor in another department related to Women’s Health). It is generally expected that the research will be conducted at the University of Cincinnati-College of Medicine, unless prior arrangements are made. Students are discouraged from taking other classes or jobs during this time period to focus on their research experience. Students are expected to complete CITI Research training in the spring of their first year in preparation for the summer experience. (https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp?)

Generally, the process for finding a summer research mentor starts in January prior to the research summer. However, students are welcome to contact faculty earlier in the academic year to discuss potential projects, write a grant, etc. Students may also participate in the Medical Student Research Program track as their summer research experience for the MSSP, provided the research area is in Women’s Health.

During the fall of their 2nd year, students will present their experiences and findings at an evening seminar attended by select faculty members and other students in the Women’s health MSSP. This will help the
student prepare for a more formal presentation of the research that is to be given later in the spring of the 2nd year. The student may continue to work on the research project into the second year of medical school to increase the data set or for manuscript preparation.

By the spring of the 2nd year, it is anticipated that the student will present their research in either poster or oral format. One possible venue for this is the OB/GYN Department Research day typically held in May/June of each year.

**Year 3 – Clerkship Year**

During the 3rd year, the student should continue to meet with faculty advisors on a regular basis to track their educational achievements. There are no formal requirements during this heavy clinical year. Students are invited to attend the evening seminars with faculty which will occur 2-4 times a year. On clinical clerkships, students are often asked to present short topics during ward rounds. They are encouraged to select topics that relate to Women’s health whenever possible. Examples might include topics related to female cardiac health on Internal Medicine, unique causes of abdominal pain in women on General Surgery, or management of eating disorders in Psychiatry. These topics can be included in the Women’s Health Educational portfolio. During the OB/GYN clerkship, it may be possible to assign the student to either an inpatient service or outpatient clinic that is most closely aligned with their interests.

As the clinical schedule permits, students may also attend any of the aforementioned weekly conferences and meetings. They are expected to attend the semi-annual evening meetings that are planned for WH-MSSP students.

**Year 4 - The Women’s Health Elective**

All students who participate in the specialized educational track in Women’s Health will participate in a minimum of two elective months related to Women’s Health. One of these electives must be at the University of Cincinnati. Away rotations are acceptable provided the student ultimately receives credit for the course and is able to document their experiences in the Educational Portfolio. This allows students the freedom to choose international rotations as well.

At least one of the electives will include the usual clinical experience with “special” emphasis to satisfy learning objectives of the Women’s Health Scholars curriculum. The specifics of that elective will be left to the discretion of the elective director in terms of a special presentation, project, or paper (i.e. a comprehensive case review during that month that results in a case report or divisional presentation). If appropriate to the project or previous research, the student can work on submission of the project for presentation and attend a regional or national meeting. These projects may also be discussed with the WH-MSSP Program Director.

As the clinical schedule permits, students may also attend any of the aforementioned weekly conferences and meetings. They are expected to attend the semi-annual evening meetings that are planned for WH-MSSP students.

A graduation dinner will be held in the late spring of the 4th year. Successful completion of the WH-MSSP program is noted at graduation as well in the Dean’s letter for residency applications.
Admission criteria

A maximum of 2 students will be admitted each year. Students must be full-time medical student at the University of Cincinnati-College of Medicine. Interested students will receive information during 1st year orientation. Applications are due October 1 of the 1st year. This will include a CV and personal statement. It is preferred that students have some evidence of previous research or have completed community service projects related to women’s health. Students will then be selected to interview with members of the Admission committee based on their application. The committee may include (but not be limited to) the Chairman of OB/GYN, the OB/GYN Education Chair, the Director of Medical Student Education, and WH-MSSP faculty.

Evaluation

The student’s progress will be evaluated based on participation in educational seminars, participation in clinical experience, progress in the summer research project and their personal Educational Portfolio. Students must maintain good academic standing with the College of Medicine to remain in the program. We consider the evaluation process to be ongoing at all times. The students can meet at any time to review their progress with the Program Director. Students should also meet regularly with their academic advisor regarding their academic and program progress, as well as their future career interests.

Students will also be evaluated by their research mentor. Feedback will be collected from the students regarding the seminars and outpatient clinics they attend. We encourage any type of feedback at all times as we want our learners to have a stake in the program and ongoing curriculum development.

At the end of the 4 years, each student will have presented their research project either locally, regionally or nationally. They will also have completed their personal Educational Portfolio. This will serve as documentation of their progress in readings, journal articles, patient encounters, literature reviews and reflections on their experiences.

Women’s Health Medical Student Scholars Program

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