

McMASTER UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY

GLOBAL SURGERY: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES for PEDIATRIC SURGERY FELLOWS

Goals:

Upon completion of training as a Pediatric Surgeon, the resident is expected to recognize that the surgical needs of children in low-resource settings are different than in North America. Residents may be given the opportunity to undertake an international elective, or to collaborate during their training with a colleague from a low- or middle-income country (LMIC). The resident will learn that there are many ways of including international surgery activities in their career aspirations, where they can find learning resources and how they might be involved.

Expected competencies at the completion of training:

Medical Expert:

- Understand the concept of DALYs and measurements of the global burden of pediatric surgical disease. Consider taking one of the online international surgery courses offered by UBC.
- Recognize some of the different pathologies and pediatric surgical approaches in LMICs.
- Be aware of Canadian surgical organizations involved in global surgery work (CNIS, CAGS, CAPS).
- If on elective consider teaching students, nurses and physicians surgical topics where need or desire is identified by the host institution.

Communicator:

- Seek opportunities to meet and learn from pediatric surgeons from LMICs, either locally or at meetings such as CAPS.
- Respect the diversity and cultural differences of children and families under their care who have immigrated from LMICs, and the impact on clinical decision making.
- Present or write-up a report of what was learned and gained from clinical international surgery elective experiences.

Collaborator:

- Care for patients cooperatively with surgical team members from other international backgrounds, appreciating differences in communication, work style and priorities.
- Consider working with international colleagues on a research project of mutual interest and benefit to the host country.

Manager:

- Consider organizing an international pediatric surgery elective.

Advocate:

- Look for opportunities to advocate for better surgical care for children in low-resource settings.

Scholar:

- Access the growing academic literature on international surgery.
- Consider attending and presenting a research paper on international surgery at a national or international meeting (ex. Bethune Round Table).

Professional:

- Recognize ethical considerations in international surgical work.