

Research Rotation

Medical Expert/Clinical Decision-Maker

Specialists possess a defined body of knowledge and procedural skills, which are used to collect and interpret data, make appropriate clinical decisions, and carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures within the boundaries of their discipline and expertise. Their care is characterized by up-to-date and whenever possible evidence-based, ethical, and cost-effective clinical practice and effective communication in partnership with patients, other health care providers, and the community. They arrange for the appropriate investigations recognizing the rationale, the strengths and limitations of each as well as the cost implications.

The role of medical expert/clinical decision-maker is central to the function of specialist physicians, and draws on the competencies included in the roles of scholar, communicator, health advocate, manager, collaborator, and professional.

The Research Rotation provides support to the resident as a medical expert/clinical decision-maker in a wide range of areas, depending on the nature of the research.

General Requirements

1. Establish and use knowledge and skills necessary to carry out scientific inquiry.
2. Apply research findings in a clinical setting.

Collaborator

Specialists work in partnership with others who are appropriately involved in the care of individuals or specific groups of patients. It is therefore essential for specialists to be able to collaborate effectively with patients and a multidisciplinary team of expert health professionals for provision of optimal patient care, education, and research.

General Requirements

1. Work effectively with colleagues and others such as statisticians and researchers in related fields, including appropriate responses to criticism, timely completion of all collaborative research activities and respectful reactions to conflicts and differences with others.
2. Understand the advantages and disadvantages of different research methodologies which may be used by colleagues.

Communicator

Communication skills are essential during this rotation. Residents must be able to elicit the information needed from their subjects and also need to communicate well with their preceptors, fellow researchers and other professional and administrative personnel.

General Requirements

1. Obtain, discuss and synthesize relevant information from subjects, their families, fellow researchers and other professional and administrative personnel, and the literature.
2. Present research results in an appropriate forum such as a professional meeting or journal.

Health Advocate

Specialists recognize the importance of advocacy activities in responding to the challenges represented by those social, environmental, and biological factors that determine the health of patients and society. They recognize advocacy as an essential and fundamental component of health promotion that occurs at the level of the individual patient, the practice population, and the broader community. Health advocacy is appropriately expressed both by the individual and collective responses of specialist physicians in influencing public health and safety.

General Requirements

1. Choose research topics that should provide data on which to base health advocacy.
2. Use the results of the research to promote health.

Manager

Specialists function as managers when they make everyday practice decisions involving resources, co-workers, tasks, policies, and their personal lives. They do this in the settings of individual patient care, practice organizations, and in the broader context of the health care system. Thus, specialists require the abilities to prioritize and effectively execute tasks through teamwork with colleagues, and make systematic decisions when allocating finite health care resources. As managers, specialists take on positions of leadership within the context of professional organizations and the dynamic Canadian health care system.

General Requirements

1. Prepare and follow an appropriate schedule, keeping to all deadlines and using proper time management skills to balance research and clinical work.
2. Creating and following a budget to pay the costs of the research.

Professional

Specialists have a unique societal role as professionals with a distinct body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of others. Specialists are committed to the highest standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct, and to continually perfecting mastery of their discipline.

General Requirements

1. Carry out all research following appropriate ethical guidelines applying to the patients, such as those involving their clinical needs, privacy concerns and consent.
2. Carry out all research following appropriate ethical guidelines applying to the fellow researchers, such as meeting deadlines, and treatment, interpretation and confidentiality of data.

Scholar (See also overall objectives)

General Requirements

1. To establish a suitable topic for research and supervisor committed to aiding with and overseeing the work
2. To develop a high quality research proposal that meets the approval of the research director and includes:
 - (a) Study background
 - (b) Study objectives
 - (c) Methods including complete statistical analysis
 - (d) Application to and approval of Human Investigations Committee
 - (e) Detailed study budget and planned source of funding including grant applications
3. To establish a study timeline with tangible goals and projected date of completion to be submitted to the research director
4. Evaluation of the research rotation shall be based on the fulfillment of the above objectives and the overall quality of the work as assessed by the Research Director as outlined in the research rotation ITER.

Specific Requirements

1. All residents will notify the Research Director at the beginning of their research rotation about their plans for the rotation.