

## International Medical Graduate Orientation and Assessment (IMGOA) Program Overview

### Introduction

The International Medical Graduate (IMG) Orientation and Assessment is a mandatory program for individuals who completed their undergraduate medical training outside Canada prior to commencing a residency program at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Dates:** Between May and June every year (6 weeks)\*

\*An abridged version, tagged as 'mini-orientation' is provided for IMGs in special circumstances such as those who start residency out-of-cycle.

### Program Aim and Objectives

**Aim:** To provide curriculum to prepare potential trainees (IMGs) for residency at the University of Saskatchewan. The expectation to be met during the orientation is simply **preparedness of IMGs to begin Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) level training.**

**Objectives:** At the completion of the IMG Orientation and Assessment Program, each trainee will be able to:

- Demonstrate working familiarization with nuances of communication, including written and verbal communication skills within the context of Canadian health care.
- Provide an introduction to the expectations of medical practitioners in Saskatchewan.
- Provide an outline of the structure and day to day functioning of the Canadian medical system; define the role of the resident in the system; provide a structural framework of how the resident fits in the day-to-day operations of the health care system.
- Demonstrate working familiarity with commonly used medications and test procedures, including how to prescribe, order, and obtain results.
- Explain the roles and expectations of postgraduate trainees at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Demonstrate the administrative roles of residents as they relate to the Residency Program Committee, Postgraduate Medical Education Office, Curriculum renewal, and Chief Resident.

## **Program Format**

### **Curriculum:**

The 6-week program consists of:

1. Interactive sessions during which professionals in the health care system present on a comprehensive variety of topics.
2. Practical sessions with volunteer, standardized and simulated patients.
3. A “buddy” and “allied buddy” phase with an increasing hands-on role as the assessment/orientation period progresses.

### **Assessment Process**

The assessment includes but is not limited to the trainee's ability to undertake the responsibilities of a beginning year 1 trainee. Multi feedback assessment is employed as trainees are assessed by faculty, senior residents, patients, and peers. Assessments are carried out during sessions on Communication and Physical Examination Skills and during buddying activities. In addition, at the end of the orientation period, trainees have to take a web-based examination. Each trainee's performance is summarized at the end of the assessment period into a final evaluation report to determine whether or not the trainee can progress to the first year of residency.

### **Possible outcomes**

**Pass** - Upon the successful completion of the assessment/orientation period the trainee will be eligible to begin residency training program at the PGY1 level. A Letter of Appointment covering the first year of the residency training program will be issued at that time.

**Fail** - If the trainee fails the assessment/orientation period he/she will not be admitted for residency training and the University will have no further obligation to the trainee. There is no course of appeal should a trainee fail the assessment/orientation period.

**Extension** - If it is determined that difficulties encountered by the trainee could be resolved with an extended assessment period, the College of Medicine has the option to extend the assessment period for up to an additional four weeks. A trainee who is successful in completing the extended assessment period will move into residency training program at the PGY1 level. If a trainee is unsuccessful in completing the assessment/orientation period, or should a trainee decline a recommended extension period, that trainee

will not be admitted to residency training and the University will have no further obligation to the trainee. There is no course of appeal should a trainee be unsuccessful in completing the extended assessment/orientation period.

### **Terms and Conditions**

Specific terms and conditions of the Assessment/Orientation include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Successful applicants must be available to commence the assessment/orientation period mid-May.
2. Trainees receive a stipend while they are completing the assessment/orientation.
3. Trainees are required to obtain and maintain eligibility for the appropriate educational license with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan; and will be registered as a member of the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) for which eligibility must be maintained.
4. The duration of the assessment/orientation program for each IMG trainee may be affected by previous relevant training as determined by the Postgraduate Medical Education Office.

### **Program Evaluation:**

The program undergoes continuous review from feedback provided by trainees, faculty and other health care professionals.