

PGY-3 /4 International Surgery Malawi Elective Rotation – Goals and Objectives

Description:

Malamulo Hospital, in Malawi, Africa, is a rural tertiary-care facility with levels of care ranging from basic to critical care.

GOALS:

Malamulo Hospital will provide a learning environment for the understanding of global surgery and its role in not only tertiary care but in prevention medicine and public health without the luxury of subspecialty consultants. Experience in providing surgical care in an impoverished environment where resources are scarce and cases are generally more complex due to delayed presentation will be emphasized. Careful preoperative and postoperative care in a low-income environment using a logical clinical approach will be emphasized. In addition, residents will participate in weekly grand rounds to recognize how to better communicate with patients and provide compassionate quality care in a non-American culture and how to recognize that what is learned could be integrated into practice upon return to the United States.

OBJECTIVES:

Medical Knowledge:

1. Gain an understanding of the basic principles of diagnosis and preoperative evaluation (including indications for and timing of surgical intervention), surgical management, and postoperative management of surgical patients with tropical diseases
2. Gain the knowledge and ability to diagnose and treat surgical and obstetric cases in a resource-challenged environment
3. Learn about the risks and benefits of operative versus non-operative treatment in an environment where western teaching hospital assets are not available
4. Learn to consider patients' postoperative and follow-up logistical issues such as severe financial constraints, lack of food or western-standard sanitization, limited personal resources, and transportation difficulties
5. Exhibit knowledge of the anatomy, embryology, and physiology of the human body with special emphasis on tropical diseases, including those less often encountered in a General Surgery training program in the US.
6. Refine knowledge of surgical exposure of general surgical systems and be able to make intraoperative decisions.
7. Gain basic knowledge of surgical exposure of general, gynecologic, urologic, and orthopedic surgical systems.
8. Become aware of the issues raised by resource-challenged management of surgical problems in the out-patient and in-patient setting

Patient Care:

1. Perform an appropriate patient history and physical in both the inpatient and outpatient setting
2. Synthesize a logical feasible plan of management for new patient consultations
3. Demonstrate proficiency in the diagnosis, preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative management of any general surgical patient
4. Participate as a first assistant or primary surgeon in OR cases
5. Provide surgical care with local resources that are dissimilar to what is available in the US
6. Understand the basic principles of management of surgical patients with minimal availability of subspecialty consultants

Professionalism:

1. Demonstrate the ability to courteously and in a culturally-sensitive manner communicate information to patients, family members, and other members of the healthcare team
2. Show compassion and integrity in the care of patients
3. Respect patient privacy and autonomy
4. Maintain ethical and moral standards
5. Exhibit positive, kind, personal and interpersonal professional behavior
6. Abide by local codes of dress and conduct
7. Conduct oneself in a mature, professional manner
8. Pursue academic excellence with the same zeal as required in the United States.

Systems-Based Practice:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the resources that are available and effectively use these resources
2. Learn to utilize resources wisely to effectively treat the optimal number of patients
3. Understand how to develop a cost-effective mentality in patient care that could be integrated into practice in the US
4. Learn how to best access system resources in an unfamiliar medical environment

Practice-Based Learning & Improvement:

1. Actively seek out information to strategize patient treatment plans using resources available
2. Leverage previously gained knowledge to make it applicable in a resource-challenged environment
3. Find information to treat disease processes that are unfamiliar
4. Demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their own care of patients
5. Participate in the weekly didactic core curriculum teaching sessions.
6. Participate in patient and family education regarding the patient's disease processes in a cross-culture setting.
7. Keep a journal to record experiences, impressions, observations, and lessons learned during the Malawi rotation
8. Improve examination skills as diagnostic studies are limited
9. Improve on ultrasonography skills for diagnostic purposes

Interpersonal & Communication Skills:

1. Demonstrate a constant attitude of respect for every patient, patient family member, and staff.
2. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that allow for effective exchange of information with other health professionals, patients, and family members through any language barriers
3. Demonstrate cross cultural sensitivity and appropriateness
4. Understand that communication in a cross-cultural setting will require a more thorough thought process
5. Make every effort to speak clearly and ask follow-up questions to be certain information has been conveyed effectively
6. Seek the help of a translator if there is any question of the clarity of information that was communicated.
7. Present educational patient cases at Loma Linda University Medical Center Grand Rounds (via Skype) once a month