

TASTER WEEK : FOUNDATION SCHOOL OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY



The aptitude of a newly graduated medical doctor towards a particular specialisation is usually the final result of various influences. Starting from the student days the candidate will experience an initial “taster” of the subject from both the theoretical input and clinical attachments. Increased exposure to the specialty will ensue if the medical graduate has had the opportunity to work in the discipline during the foundation years.

If the foundation doctor has had the opportunity to work in the Specialty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the individual may appreciate that this discipline has an intriguing mix of the many branches of Medicine. The speciality possesses attributes of both medicine and surgery, engaging not only the intellectual abilities of the individual but also manual dexterity. These abilities may initially appear daunting to the young doctor but the stepwise progression as for example from suturing episiotomies to performing minor operations to gradually performing more complex procedures should be within reach of most motivated trainees.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology also possesses a significant input of social and community medicine. It impacts the grassroots of the community in that it closely influences the health and well-being of the family, the basic unit of any society. As the renowned Obstetricians Ballantyne and Semmelweis have shown, these factors combined with improvements in both medical and surgical aspects of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, have gone a long way at improving pregnancy outcome. Improvements in pregnancy outcome led to the reduction in maternal mortality following which a decline in perinatal mortality ensued.

The future beckons the development of sub-specialisation. Obstetrics and Gynaecology may broadly evolve into sub-specialisations such as Feto-Maternal Medicine, Infertility/Reproductive Medicine, Oncology and Urogynaecology. These developments will open up more numerous career prospects in the Specialty. These developments also raise the possibility of the individual’s involvement in clinically significant audit and also scientific research ranging from epidemiology to experimental.

The “miracle of life” is experienced on a daily basis in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Moreover the Specialty’s interesting amalgam of medicine and surgery has its advantages at attracting well-motivated candidates. We therefore invite all interested foundation doctors to attend our Department and get a “*taste*” of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



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Weekly Programme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Tour of the Department Dr R. Galea Postgraduate co-ordinator	Prof. M. Brincat/ Mr. A. Vella/ Mr. Thake	Dr Y. Muscat Baron/Mr. A. Vella	Prof Savona Ventura/ Mr M Formosa/ Mr. J. Thake	Dr.Y. Muscat Baron/ Mr G Buttigieg	Prof. M. Brincat / Dr. Y. Muscat Baron
Labour Ward	Operating Theatre	Outpatients' Dept.	Operating Theatre	Labour Ward	Operating Theatre
Assisting Caesarean Sections	Assisting I Major operations	Outpatients attachment with Consultant	Assisting I Major/minor operations	Assisting Caesarean Sections	Assisting I Major/minor operations

Applicants interested in the Ob/Gyn taster please inform the Department one month in advance so that the necessary arrangements may be enacted.