

Global Surgical Scholar Program (GSSP)

The Global Surgical Scholar Program is designed to provide postgraduate trainees in the Department of Surgery with an opportunity to learn about health equity, disparities and health care delivery through a surgical lens, focusing on underserved populations at both a local and global level. The Program combines didactic teaching, programmatic opportunities, networking and real-world experience in the fields of global health and surgery. Scholars work with a surgical mentor within the Department of Surgery to design a longitudinal, individualized program that meets their learning needs and career objectives.

The GSSP has the following objectives:

1. To enhance the trainee's CanMeds competencies as they pertain to global health
 - a. Leadership – address the impact of economic, social, political and environmental factors on health and surgical outcomes, advance surgery within global health and development goals, health system strengthening, innovative health service delivery models, innovation and technology, program planning and evaluation
 - b. Communication – cross cultural communication
 - c. Scholar – develop research and teaching skills/projects in the field of global surgery and health disparities; needs for education and training of local personnel
 - d. Advocate – health equity, policy, economics
 - e. Professional - health and human rights; ethics
 - f. Collaborator – as part of health care delivery, research and teaching teams in local and international settings
 - g. Medical expert – clinical & surgical skills, humanitarian emergency response; explore paradigms for establishing sustainable surgical infrastructure in resource limited environments
2. To support trainees in acquiring global surgery skills and exposure to enhance their contribution to improving the health of populations in low and middle-income countries and local communities.
3. To introduce trainees to the university Global Health community, across Departments and disciplines and international agencies (e.g. WHO)
4. To prepare trainees for clinical, teaching, research, programmatic and policy work in low and middle income environments
5. To foster a lifelong commitment to health equity and the achievement of the highest possible global health outcomes, with a particular focus on surgical care

The GSSP is a longitudinal experience comprised of two components:

- i) Participation in the Global Health Education Initiative (GHEI) certificate program, led by University of Toronto Postgraduate Medical Education; which is typically completed over 1-2 years depending on your schedule and timeline. The GHEI, offered to all programs and specialties is a structured, evidence-based curriculum delivered in a small group format. GHEI sessions typically take place weekday evenings (6pm-9pm) with some weekend (9am-3pm) options.

The University of Toronto is home to one of the largest concentrations of Global Health leaders in the world. As GHEI participants, you will have access to these individuals who have committed to sharing their expertise and passion for global health with you. The GHEI also provides significant opportunity for networking with others in the global health community and so provides a very important foundation for those considering a career with an academic focus in global surgery.

- ii) A minimum of four weeks of field work organized as a global health elective with one of several mentors in the Department of Surgery. Opportunities at the local level should also be considered including exposure to rural/remote & indigenous communities. Trainees should identify mentors prior to enrolling in the GSSP. As arranging a global health elective can be challenging, PGME has developed a step-by-step process to guide you. Options for electives at international agencies (e.g. WHO) might also be considered.

These components of the GSSP do not need to be completed concurrently but the first year of the GHEI should be started no later than the PGY3 year.

The 4 weeks of field work can be performed anytime over the course of your residency, and is dependent upon approval from you Program Director. You will receive a certificate from GHEI at the completion of the curriculum and be recognized as having completed the GSSP when both the GHEI curriculum and the field work have been completed.

Global Surgical Scholar program participants will be encouraged to attend and contribute to global health educational events at the Departmental and University level (i.e. Global Surgery Journal Club, Global Surgery Symposium and Research Day, PGME Global Health Day), as well as national and international workshops, conferences and partnership programs where appropriate.

See details on the GHEI program and Global Health Electives from <https://gh.pgme.utoronto.ca>

For more information on the Global Surgical Scholar Program, the Global Health Education Initiative and Global Health Electives please contact j.kopelow@utoronto.ca



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