

Botswana Global Health Program Anesthesia and Critical Care Residents and Fellows

We are so excited to have you joining us at Scottish Livingstone Hospital (SLH)! This document should give you a little more detailed information on the day-to-day activities you will be involved in. This rotation will fluctuate in terms of its composition. The time spent in the operating theatre versus ICU will vary based on the hospital's volume as well as the resident's interests. Learning objectives are listed at the end of this document.

Operating Theatre:

The theatres at SLH are covered by anesthesiologists and nurses. There are three theatres available but due to continuing limitations on resources, one of them is usually closed at any given time. The surgeries are composed of pediatric eye operations, general surgery bread-and-butter cases (pediatrics and adults), and OB/GYN (cesarean sections as well as some bigger gynecological) cases. The vast majority of cases are done under spinal, and all cases are done open--as laparoscopy is still in its nascent stages here.

There are also ophthalmology and cardiac campaigns that intermittently rotate through SLH. If they are in Botswana during your time, you are more than welcome to be involved in the perioperative care of their patients.

ICU:

The ICU is a closed unit comprised of six beds, which includes two isolation rooms. The commonly encountered medical conditions include HIV/AIDS (along with its complications such as cryptococcal meningitis), tuberculosis, chronic lung disease (such as severe fibrosis in miners), heart failure, brain injuries (hemorrhage, embolic events, trauma) and diabetes. Residents will learn how to manage very sick patients with minimal resources, and will also develop their teaching skills while working with the medical officers in the unit. The ICU team also has an increasingly greater reach into the rest of the hospital as well. Assessing sick patients on the wards and emergency department will further the participants' exposure to the types of illness seen at SLH.

General Schedule:

General surgery is usually done on Mondays and Wednesdays, and OB/GYN and ophthalmology book the operating theatres on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Working in the operating theatres here, getting comfortable with the different anesthesia machines, drugs, and general environment allows participants to see the myriad of ways in which a safe anesthetic can be provided.

The resident will be able to see the daily schedule and choose the cases in which they would most like to be involved. If there are no cases, or the theatres end early, the resident will then move to the ICU and join rounds or help with consults and teaching sessions. Fridays will be spent in the ICU or helping with emergency cases.

If the resident is interested, the possibility exists to spend a few days at Princess Marina Hospital in Gaborone, where there are subspecialist surgeons, more complicated cases and the opportunity to do a wider range of regional anesthesia.

Projects/Presentations:

You are encouraged to participate in research and quality improvement projects while in Botswana. Dr. Clune will touch base with you before starting your rotation to get an idea of your research interests and share what he has in the works.

You will also be assigned to lead an educational session for the medical officers, interns, students and/or nurses. The session is 60 minutes, so planning for a 45-minute talk will leave enough time for questions at the end. Topics for presentation will be discussed and decided with Dr. Clune. The format is most often a PowerPoint presentation, though is sometimes problem-based question-and-answer style.

Final Thoughts:

Please be sure to read through the Dropbox files thoroughly once you have been invited. The two most important ones are titled *“Resident’s guide to BIDMC BOTSWANA PROGRAM May 2018”* and *“Pre-Travel Logistics, Botswana Global Health Program”*. Botswana is quite strict with its required documentation for licensing, and the instructions in the latter document should be followed closely so that you can be up and running soon upon arrival.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns, and we will do our best to help you feel prepared for this elective month. We hope it will be an enjoyable and educational rotation!

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