

**Resident Program Updates – Winter 2010**  
**University of Western Ontario Residents Program**  
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	Program Description
<b>Protected Academic Learning</b> (Half-day)	Every Wednesday afternoon following Grand Rounds, our pediatric classroom hosts 3 hours of topical lectures. Attendance is mandatory and has been made a priority by the program. Lectures are local or visiting staff members who lecture on their areas of expertise.
<b>Call or Night-float system</b>	Currently a graduated call system is in effect. First year residents average one-in-four calls per shift, while 4 <sup>th</sup> years have one-in-six to allow for exam preparation.  Next year we plan to implement a night-float system, the details of which are being worked out presently. The residents and administration are in favour of trying out the new system.
<b>Vascular Access</b> (opportunities, vascular access team)	On our three mandatory emergency months, opportunities for obtaining vascular access are plentiful. Each resident now spends one or two half-days per year with a pediatric anesthesiologist and has instruction and opportunity to practice gaining access.  A vascular access team is available during working hours for difficult IV starts, residents do not participate on this service yet.
<b>Resident Retreat</b> (protected, in our out of hospital, length)	2 days per year. Either a full day or evening plus overnight. Setting is varied based on weather. Two residents are excused from the retreat to cover the inpatients.  The retreats have been well attended and provided interesting opportunities to bond with others (e.g. cooking class followed by meal)
<b>Advocacy Projects</b>	Presently an area under review.  Certain education opportunities exist for residents to speak to high school and elementary school classes on topics of resident interest.

<b>International Electives</b>	Residents have the opportunity to use scheduled electives for international electives. A bank of contacts has been created and is added to whenever a resident heads abroad (most recently to Niger).
<b>Rural Experiences</b>	<p>A mandatory community pediatrics block for first and second year residents is in place.</p> <p>We are encouraged to visit the rural communities of Southwestern Ontario.</p> <p>Accommodation is provided.</p>
<b>Observed History and Physicals</b>	Scheduled to occur at least once per block, with feedback given immediately after. A log of the observed Hx's and PE's is placed in the residents file so progress can be tracked.
<b>Resident Research</b> (support, protected time, publications, presentations)	<p>Each resident is assigned a research mentor with whom they meet twice per year. This independent person helps the resident negotiate the hurdles of entering the research world.</p> <p>In the first half of the year, a proposal day is scheduled wherein residents present new plans for projects to staff and other residents for feedback.</p> <p>In the second half of the year a Research Day with awards is put on by residents and Master's and PhD students.</p> <p>Second and third years have research months of protected time.</p> <p>Encouragement and support are staff priorities.</p>
<b>Mock Codes</b> (frequency, use of simulators)	<p>One mock code per month is scheduled. A debriefing session occurs following completion of the scenario. This is a new program but has been met with enthusiasm and positive review thus far.</p> <p>We do not currently use a simulator.</p>
<b>Procedural Skills</b> (workshops, opportunities)	<p>The anesthesia half-days mentioned previously provide opportunities to practice real intubation in a controlled setting.</p> <p>First year residents perform an intubation lab and chest tube placement on sedated cats.</p> <p>NICU and PCCU rotations provide typically one to two opportunities for central lines per resident per block.</p>
<b>OTHER AREAS OF NOTE</b>	Teaching in clinical setting workshops, Crucial conversations workshop. Availability of many workshops through the Schluich School of medicine at the University of Western Ontario.