

PAG Training program of Ghent University Hospital

Requirement for training

- Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Speaking English and Dutch

Purposes of the program

- To train gynecologists with comprehensive and deep knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for managing pediatric and adolescent patients with gynaecological disorders.
- To increase general PAG education for medical students, trainees in OBGYB and for public health care
- To provide extensive local and national consultancy service to other specialized clinics and to public health care
- To increase scientific research in the pediatric and adolescent gynecology

Objectives

This program involves 2 years of clinical, surgical training (if appropriate) and research. At the end of the training period the subspecialist in PAG should have

- **Thorough knowledge of**
 - Anatomy and physiology and development of the reproductive organs, endocrinology of the menstrual cycle, normal and abnormal puberty including precocious and delayed puberty
 - Common and less common prepubertal conditions (such as vulvovaginitis, labial adhesions, lichen sclerosus, vaginal bleeding including accidental trauma, ambiguous genitalia, congenital hymen anomalies, pelvic mass)
 - Common adolescent conditions (such as menstrual disorders - including primary and secondary amenorrhea, heavy menstrual bleeding, irregular bleeding, dysmenorrhea-, hirsutism, PCOS at risk, abdominal and pelvic pain)
 - Adolescent sexual health and contraception
 - Teenage pregnancy (counselling, care, and legal issues)
 - Gynecological conditions in adolescents (such as vulvovaginal conditions, ovarian masses, endometriosis, STD's, PID)
 - Ultrasonography of reproductive organs in PAG patients, special emphasis on abdominal US skills
 - Diagnostic imaging possibilities in common gynaecological disorders
 - Gynaecological and sexual health in adolescents with other chronic illness (eating disorders, diabetes, kidney failure, cardiological and haematological disorders), including childhood cancer survivors (premature ovarian insufficiency and fertility issues) and genetic syndromes (e.g. Turner syndrome and other less common syndromes)
 - Congenital gynaecological anomalies including Disorders of Sexual Development (Intersex)
 - Psychosocial aspects of pubertal development and sexuality
 - Special concerns on disabled adolescent with mental and physical disabilities

- Hormonal treatment of transgender adolescents
 - Fertility preservation possibilities in pediatric and adolescent population
 - Legal aspects of forensic medicine in children and adolescents and interpretation of clinical findings in sexual abuse.
 - Principles of surgery in PAG such as adnexal tumours, obstructive Mullerian anomalies cases and gonadectomies.
- **Clinical competence in the following**
 - To diagnose and manage pediatric and adolescent gynecologic problems
 - To provide PAG consultancy service
 - To perform forensic examination in children and adolescents
 - To collaborate in the education of undergraduates, trainees in OBGYN and public health care at the national level in this subspecialty
 - To conduct scientific research in PAG, present findings at national and international congresses and submit a manuscript for publication

Weekly program*

Monday

- Morning: childhood endocrinology outpatient clinic together with pediatric endocrinologist
- Afternoon: research

Tuesday

- Morning: pediatric urology surgery, or antenatal clinic
- Afternoon: research
- Weekly gynecology staff meeting; protocol discussion or journal club

Wednesday

- Morning: FGM and PAG outpatient clinic
- Afternoon: PAG outpatient clinic

Thursday

- Morning: hysteroscopy clinic
- Afternoon:
 - Childhood endocrinology outpatient clinic – 1x/month DSD consultations, together with pediatric endocrinologist
 - SARC (sexual assault reference center) meeting
- 1x/month DSD meeting: Multidisciplinary team (gynecologists, pediatric endocrinologists, pediatric urologists, geneticist, psychiatrist, psychologists)

Friday

- Morning: gynecological surgery (including vaginoscopy, IUD placement/removal, hysteroscopic and laparoscopic surgery, vulvar surgery, vaginal reconstructive surgery, transgender surgery)
- Afternoon: gynecological surgery, or pediatric urology consultations together with pediatric urologist

Additionally:

- On call for consultation and clinical evaluation for suspected sexual abuse in children and adolescents together with pediatrician
- Attending relevant staff meetings related to PAG

(*The program listed above serves as a draft. It will be set on individual basis.)

Requirements to graduate from the programme

1. Supervised clinical activities according to weekly program above
2. During training the fellow will be evaluated regularly and will receive feedback on the progress through workplace-based assessment tools (OSATS, mini-CEX and Cbd)
3. Completion of the PAG clinical case logbook
4. Patient's write-up – one every month
5. After 2-year full-time training, the fellow will be able to apply for the International Fellowship examination of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (IFEPAG), Part I +/- II organized by the Federation Internationale de Gynecologie Infantile et Junvenile (FIGIJ).