transforming women’s health in the 21st century: progress towards a unified Department
Ambitious initiatives like the Greater Toronto Area-Obstetrics (GTA-OBS) Network have taken off, enabling unprecedented collaboration on grant applications, database development and quality initiatives. We are working towards a common, exceptional learner experience across all sites for our students at all levels, and are moving toward integrating meaningful evaluation models for all learners. We have elevated health equity issues internationally and at home; and we have begun to create the shared quality and safety protocols that will ensure women and babies across the GTA receive the best possible care.

Our Executive and Strategic Planning Group meets annually on the morning of Remembrance Day, November 11th, to review our successes and goals. Here, we summarize what has been accomplished at the close of 2015, and our goals for 2016 and beyond.

I would like to thank all of our Faculty, especially our Strategic Priority Leads, together with our Trainees and our Administration Team, for their active participation in the implementation and continuous refinement of our plan. Many of you express a feeling that Obstetrics & Gynaecology has begun to rediscover its true potential in the 21st century. We have a vibrant new website, projecting the evidence of our great endeavors together. At this mid-point of my 5 year term as your Chair, I am proud to state that we are making great progress in working together with a common purpose.

Dr. John CP Kingdom
Gordon C. Leitch Chair
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
University of Toronto
our vision is to achieve a unified Department transforming women’s health

five priorities developed to advance the Department’s vision are

1. collaborative research
2. advancing quality and standards of care
3. advocacy and public awareness
4. creating a lifelong learning community among faculty and alumni
5. preparing the leaders of tomorrow through education

guiding forces to drive these priorities are

unity  
equity  
avocacy  
collaboration  
leadership  
excellence

in 2013, we commenced a Strategic Planning process that culminated in the launch of our 2014-2019 Plan for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, http://www.obgyn.utoronto.ca/strategic-plan
here, we present the 2015 Update

strategic priorities

research ........................................................................................................ 4
quality improvement and patient safety ................................................ 6
advocacy .................................................................................................... 7
continuing professional and faculty development ............................... 8
education .................................................................................................. 9

Table of contents

strategic priorities

research ........................................................................................................ 4
quality improvement and patient safety ................................................ 6
advocacy .................................................................................................... 7
continuing professional and faculty development ............................... 8
education .................................................................................................. 9
enhanced collaboration is making a difference
we are now in a strong position to take advantage of major
grant opportunities and build research capacity across the
Department

1. research

Actions and Progress:
Implement and enhance opportunities to promote
trans-disciplinary research
• Implemented changes to Research Day
to promote research collaborations;
• Promoted several collaborative Canadi-
ann Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
team grant applications in Maternal-
Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics;
• Two successful Faculty in the first CIHR
Foundation Scheme;
• Success in the first National Institutes of
Health Human Placenta Project;
• Made further developments around the
Ontario Birth Study and Ontario Family
Health Study.

Creating collaborative research around the GTA-
OBS Network
• Formed and initiated regular meetings
of the GTA-OBS group, which has now
been extended to include 14 organiza-
tions supporting various initiatives.

Establish harmonized database platforms to facili-
tate cross-institutional studies
• Appointed the Director of Clinical Re-
search to enhance clinical research su-
ppervision of trainees and junior Faculty.

Develop and promote young clinical investigators in
our Department
• Launched the 3-year Junior Faculty
Award program;
• Protected academic time for all new
faculty in Clinician-Investigator, Clini-
cian-Educator, and Clinician-Quality
Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS)
job descriptions;
• Dedicated funds for the support of
an annual Summer Student Program
and the support of Faculty supervising
CREMS scholars and CREMS summer
students;
• Introduced sessions on grant-writing
and publishing strategies at the Faculty
Professional Development Day;
• Introduced interactive sessions where
Resident research proposals are vetted
by Faculty;
• Launched the Department Clinician
Investigator Program branded as the
"Women's Health Scholar Program";
• Launched a comprehensive 3-day
research-training course for Residents
and sub-specialty Fellows.

Our focus for 2016:
• Launch of the 2-year (renewable) Merit
Award program;
• Position the Department to take advan-
tage of branding opportunities and build
trans-disciplinary research capacity;
• Host 2 workshops annually on specific
topics to promote new research collabo-
ations across the University of Toronto;
• Create a working group to address har-
monization of database platforms;
• Establish a committee to provide pre-sub-
mission feedback for grant applications;
• Establish a GTA-wide Reproductive Endo-
crinology & Infertility group as a platform
for research collaboration, coordination
of educational needs and activities and
advocacy;
• Continue to expand the activities of the
GTA-OBS network;
• Increase associate and full professor
School of Graduate Studies appointments
among faculty to enhance understanding
of the appointment process and partici-
pation in graduate training;
• Enhance our partnership with the Insti-
tute of Health Policy Management and
Evaluation, including cross-appointments
and participation in Master's programs.
quality improvement and patient safety

Actions and Progress:

Quality Improvement & Patient Safety (QIPS) Committee is now established with regular meetings
• Leads for Obstetrics and Gynaecology have been identified;
• A comprehensive list of OB/GYN QIPS experts and interested participants is soon to be completed.

Utilize the GTA-OBS Network to promote patient safety and quality care, through evidence-based care, shared records, and seamless referral safety and quality care, through evidence-based.

Focus for 2016:
• Continue to build shared protocols and guidelines for obstetrics across the GTA;
• Create the same kind of momentum witnessed in GTA-OBS Network in various sections of Gynaecologic Surgery;
• Develop the concept of GTA-GYN Networks to drive quality, patient safety and surgical innovation in the various subspecialties across Toronto and surrounding areas.

advocacy

Actions and Progress:

Strong infrastructure to support advocacy across the Department
• Renewed a substantial gift from the Pur- pleville Foundation;
• Organized regular Advocacy Committee meetings which focus on strengthening relationships with the Office of Strategic Communications and External Relations (OSCER) at the University of Toronto;
• Created an improved and updated website with blogging capabilities;
• Currently planning a CME opportunity in Toronto on “glocal” and global women’s health focusing on equity issues that affect women locally as well as globally.

Focus for 2016:
• Enhance sustainability and funding of AMPATH-RH Program, including strengthening of relationships with Advancement and Alumni offices at the University of Toronto;
• Begin developing a Division of Global Health and Equity, including exploring avenues of how to ensure that new hires have a focus on global women’s health;
• Develop a Global Health Fellowship for North American trainees;
• Increase involvement of alumni for mentorship, as well as financial and other contributions;
• Enhance the profile of the impact of our global work;
• Expand the understanding of advocacy to include local vulnerable populations, including indigenous health, sex workers, etc.

our commitment means that a steady stream of Medical Students, Residents, Fellows and Faculty are able to make bi-directional exchanges to foster concepts of improved care and equity into their global and local work.

our goal is to improve public understanding and advocacy for issues related to obstetrics and gynaecology.

2. quality improvement and patient safety

3. advocacy

our Global Initiative in Women’s Health and Advocacy is having a profound impact on the quality of care for women in Kenya.
4. continuing professional and faculty development

Actions and Progress:

- Developed a shared Moodle platform for online learning for our trainees;
- Held the first Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) Faculty Retreat in June, 2015, as well as obtained data on Faculty’s needs assessment.

Focus for 2016:

- Focus Faculty Professional Development Day 2016 on Mentorship and Wellness;
- Increase participation of community-affiliated and non-affiliated hospital physicians;
- Commence a pilot web-based educational tool using the Moodle platform;
- Enhance OB/GYN education through collaboration with the Wilson Centre, University of Toronto;
- Continue to support CBME activities and its eventual implementation;
- Create a collaborative process amongst GTA sites when planning Continuing Professional Development activities;
- Create a fully-functioning Mentoring and Wellness Program for our Faculty;
- Provide consistent support and resources to Faculty for career development;
- Increase number of faculty members being nominated for internal and external awards.

5. education

Actions and Progress:

- Offer equal access to learning opportunities at all levels;
- Increased community-affiliated hospital staff participation;
- Preparing for the launch of the LInC Program at the Fitzgerald Academy;
- Enhanced simulation and e-learning programs for knowledge and skill acquisition across several levels of training;
- Ensure equity in teaching responsibilities at all sites and all levels;
- Encouraging educators to take the Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) course.

Support the University of Toronto mission of developing empowering educational programs to support equitable, high quality, universal experience.

Focus for 2016:

- Expand the dissemination and shared understanding of CBME, focusing on enhancing Faculty capacity to conduct evaluation through narrative, timely, effective feedback and direct observation;
- Create an electronic version of the CBME assessment tool with IT presence and support;
- In undergraduate education: create a clear plan of educational responsibilities by site, establish centralized e-learning, continue to integrate more community partners, and expand and refine faculty terms of appointment;
- Continue to adapt to Faculty shifts regarding LInC and Surgical Foundation;
- Continue to bridge differences between education approaches at different sites to ensure a universal experience.
Dr. John CP Kingdom
Gordon C Leitch Chair
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
University of Toronto

123 Edward St. Suite 1200
Toronto, ON M5G 1E2
Canada
Tel: 416-978-2668
Fax: 416-978-8350

obgyn.deptadmin@utoronto.ca
obgyn.utoronto.ca
f/uoftobgyn
@uoftobgyn
#uoftobgyn

Photo credits: Joseph George