
Experiences from being a FM trainee in Moi University, Kenya

Presenter: Patrick M Chege

Beginning the programme

- Jan 2005: Reported to the Late Peter Manscot in Eldoret to start FM training in MUSOM, from Wesu District Hospital (480 km from Nairobi), where I was working as a medical officer.
-

Beginning of the training

- 5th Jan 2005 to early April 2005 in MUSOM, Eldoret doing introductory courses
 - April 2005 reported to PCEA, Chogoria Hospital, my training hospital (250 km from Nairobi) in eastern province of Kenya
 - My mentors / supervisors : Scott Shannon and Barbara Oolman (program coordinator) both Family Physicians
-

Challenges in Chogoria

- Barbara Oolman was the manager of out patient care and I was expected to work with her all the time
 - The curriculum specifies that the first year clinical experience was to be mainly in inpatient care.
-

Challenges in Chogoria

- Barbara and I start admitting patients and managing them with the FM approach i.e. surgical, obstetrics, paediatrics, adult male and female medical cases.
 - The specialists in the above mentioned disciplines, who also doubled as their heads, object to our invading their territories.
-

Challenges in Chogoria

- After discussion, these senior docs insist that I should rotate in their disciplines before they could feel comfortable allowing Barbara and I to continue what we had started.
 - We concur but these bullies insist on treating me as inferior to the interns who they had known and worked with since the beginning of that year.
 - The distance to MUSOM, where I was expected guidance for my research
-

Challenges in Chogoria

- While this was going on, a different battle at a much larger scale that pitted the medical director against the local and national church leadership was going on
 - The program suspended by Moi University because my program coordinators and other missionary staff had opted out of Chogoria. I transfer to a different mission hospital
-

AIC kijabe Hospital

- I report to Kijabe Hospital on 2nd Jan 2006
 - The hospital is welcoming and most of the senior doctors are aware of the FM program
 - I find Peter Mwaka and Emmanuel Wanjala
 - Each FM registrar is assigned an American FP to run a 'service' with.
-

AIC Kijabe Hospital

- This a 235 bed hospital which also takes pride in rehabilitative paediatric neurological urogenital and gastrointestinal surgery
 - It also has 4 -5 (sometimes more) general surgeons, and an almost equal number of trauma/ orthopaedic surgeons
-

Kijabe Hospital

- In 2006 / 2007, the FM registrars worked as the primary care specialists with medical students and interns constantly referring cases for discussion and guidance
 - All general surgical and trauma cases coming to the hospital would have to be evaluated by the FM registrars
 - Six day-week ward rounds, calls (nights and weekends) was quite something!!!!
-

Challenges in Kijabe Hospital

- 2006 / 2007:
 - Workload too much
 - FM registrars crying for protected study time
 - Surgeons insisting on reviewing all cases that required surgical intervention (even minor ones)
 - Medical officer interns scrubbing in on surgical emergencies at the expense of the overworked FM registrars
-

Challenges in Kijabe Hospital

- Later 2007 to date
 - Graduate training surgical programs start in General surgery, Trauma, Paeds surgery
 - The surgical experience for the registrars shrink significantly but
 - Obstetrics and gynecology emergencies are still handled by the FM registrars (hospital has 3 resident Obstetricians)
-

Challenges

- Long term faculty and program coordinators urgently needed
 - Nearly all the foreign faculty lack research backgrounds. This leads to registrars having to make frequent visits from their rural training hospitals to MUSOM for direction. This translates to increased expenses and disruption at work stations
 - Distance to MUSOM for guidance on research conduction and writing
-

Way forward

- Hope that the newly qualifying Kenyan FPs will take up positions as teachers and coordinators of the program
 - Attention focused on getting more long term faculty than the many frequent short termers seen in our missionary teaching sites (Kijabe and Tenuiek)
-

Way forward

- The MoH, Moi University and the Aga Khan University, Nairobi, working towards establishing a second rural district teaching site in Kangundo District Hospital (~60 km east of Nairobi)
 - Head of faculty working towards availing more research support for the students in their training sites
-

- Thanks
