

Title of elective – Lake Erie Pediatrics (Rural Community Academic Pediatrics)

Duration offered: 2 weeks, 3 weeks, or 4 weeks

Location (base): Delhi Community Health Center, Norfolk County, Delhi ON

Placement contact:

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Pre-requisites required: Does not require prior completion of core rotation in pediatrics

Blackout Periods: Last two weeks in August; Last week in December

Description of the elective – see below

Pediatrics on Lake Erie

This award-winning Pediatric teaching program at the Delhi Community Health Center (DCHC) offers an elective experience in an academic consultative clinic and urgent care clinic in Norfolk County, Ontario, located about an hour's drive from either London or Hamilton. Medical students and residents have the opportunity to lead the care of children and youth with complex longitudinal needs and urgent health problems in a rural outpatient setting. The clinic attracts diverse referrals for acute, chronic, and complex problems across the Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant region and surrounding areas. Some of the families are vulnerable and have limited access to primary or pediatric care. Several at-risk or isolated groups are also distinct and offer unique opportunities for trainees, such as children of Mennonite communities, Indigenous peoples, and migrant workers. A collegial and supportive learning environment is complemented by a rich and well-supervised learning experience, with emphasis on community-based child and adolescent health needs and continuity of care.

Management crosses from common pediatric conditions to complex or multi-system disorders and from acute to chronic presentations. Clinical themes include prematurity and neonatal issues, genetic disorders, pediatric syndromes, congenital conditions, feeding and growth problems, failure to thrive, adolescent issues, infant and child development, obesity, social health determinants, educational problems, mental health, seizure disorders, chronic gastrointestinal conditions, congestive heart failure (e.g., congenital heart defects, rheumatic heart disease), and post-hospitalization care. In the urgent care clinic, acute problems can include infectious and respiratory conditions, ENT disorders, ocular complaints, minor injuries, dermatological presentations, urgent referrals from family physicians, and follow-up of emergency or hospital care. The experience is particularly salient for students and residents planning careers in general or community pediatrics. If desired, residents can become involved in teaching and educational interactions with medical students and students from other professional programs.

If requested, in-hospital pediatric shifts with the preceptor can be included at Brantford General Hospital, a regional acute care centre and affiliate teaching site of McMaster University's School of Medicine. Pediatric coverage includes the Special Care Nursery (SCN), attendance at newborn deliveries (> 32 weeks), well babies in the post-partum ward, the inpatient pediatric unit, consultations from the emergency department, and the Pediatric Acute Referral Service (PARS). During call, the pediatric team completes consults and organizes admissions from the Emergency Department, as well as attends deliveries and manages ward patients with the preceptor.

After approval of the elective by their program, learners interested in this hospital work complete the Mac-CARE application form. Arrangements for hospital privileges can then be made through Shelley Friesen (Mac-CARE, shelley.friesen@bchsys.org).