

A fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, under EBCOG auspices

Brussels, 29th of March, 2011

Introduction: EBCOG (the European Board and College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) agreed to award fellowships to trainees in their basic training in order to stimulate the mobility of trainees across Europe. EBCOG hopes in this way to contribute to the harmonisation of training standards in Europe. The project has been set up jointly by EBCOG and ENTOG (European Network for Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology). This pilot project will be evaluated on conclusion and the program either discontinued or maintained in a similar or different form.

Implementation: An interim working group has been established and is constituted by professor Holzgreve (Chair), dr Nuno Martins (ENTOG) and dr Erica Werner. It is planned that SCTA will take over the organization of the fellowship-program in due course. Three fellowships of 3000 euro each have been approved. Guidelines will be made widely available (including via EBCOG/ENTOG websites and the respective newsletters). Applicants may apply until September 30th 2011. The fellowships will then be rewarded before October 15th. The fellowships will have a three-month duration and should start latest January 1st 2012. Selection criteria will be agreed inside the working group according to the number and variety of applications.

Setting: Trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology, who have started but will not have finished their basic training before the end of the fellowship, from any of the EBCOG member countries, are welcome to apply. Scope of the fellowship is basic ('general') obstetrics and gynaecology, jointly with exposure during basic training to the four recognized subspecialties (perinatal medicine, reproductive medicine, gynaecological oncology and urogynaecology). All EBCOG accredited training centres and all nationally accredited training centers (in countries with a national visitation system recognized by EBCOG) can host the fellowship program. The selection criteria will be agreed inside the working group according to the number and variety of applications.

Obligations: EBCOG is expected to offer a list of accredited training centres to the applicants and countries with their own national accreditation program, EBCOG will assist and can use its influence to help a trainee rotate to a centre of his/her choice but will not be able to guarantee the availability of a hosting centre for the fellowship program. On selection of the training centres the trainee will be given contact-details for the department.

The hosting centre is asked to appoint a tutor for this period, establish a rota and inform the trainee regarding the department/country requirements where the fellowship takes place. The hosting training centre will together with the trainee decide on the learning objectives for the period

Trainees are expected to send the working group before the deadline:

- a) personal data: full name, date of birth, year and department of training, field of interest if applicable, 3 strong and 3 weak points in training up to that point, mean number of working hours per week

- b) a *curriculum vitae* (maximum two pages)
- c) a letter of endorsement (written by their head of department)
- d) a motivation letter for the fellowship
- e) department/ country of choice and motivation for this choice

On receipt of a contact person mail address in the selected hospital, the trainee takes contact personally.

A trainee joining the fellowship-program is expected to send a final report of activities to EBCOG (mandatory) and to share their experience at the ENTOG/EBCOG websites within two months after finishing the fellowship.

Information for trainees:

- You are personally responsible for planning your fellowship, including arrangements for travel and accommodation.
- Additional expenses will not be covered by EBCOG.
- Some, but not all, hospitals might be able to negotiate a salary. Enquire beforehand.
- Check in your own department/country if the fellowship recognised (i.e. time spent abroad included as part of your training program).
- Enquire at the hosting centre about language barriers (e.g. would English be enough?) and national requirements in order to be more than an observer (e.g. Recognition of medical title (e.g. at 'GMC' in the UK). Realise these administrative procedures cost time.
- Confirm the need for liability insurance, and whether the hospital takes care of this.
- Check for specific health requirements in a given country (such as MRSA, hepatitis, BCG)