

Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Residency Program

The goal of Dalhousie University's Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Residency Program is to prepare residents to assume the role of subspecialists dedicated to excellence in clinical care, education, and research in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. The two-year program will develop the knowledge and clinical skills necessary for expertise in neonatal and perinatal care and will provide a solid base in research methodology. The program is fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and residents may also be eligible for certification through the American Board of Pediatrics.

An apprenticeship model used to facilitate education, with rotations in NICU, maternal-fetal medicine, and perinatal follow-up, as well as three clinical electives. There are several months of research time provided to facilitate the development of research skills and the completion of a scholarly project. Experiences in neonatal transport and antenatal consultation are incorporated longitudinally into the NICU rotations and on-call activities.

This Program offers an exposure to a wide range of medical and surgical neonatal problems. The program is based at the IWK Health Centre, which provides primary and secondary pediatric and obstetric care for the Halifax region, tertiary care for the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and tertiary surgical care for the province of New Brunswick. There are approximately 4800 births per year at the IWK, and 18,000 births throughout the Maritime Provinces. The IWK NICU has over 40 combined Level II and Level III beds and 800-1000 admissions annually. There is excellent access to all pediatric subspecialties, including pediatric cardiovascular surgery, as well as strong ties to a high-risk perinatology service. The Nova Scotia Perinatal Follow-Up Program (also based at the IWK) provides developmental follow-up of high-risk newborns for the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine includes seven full-time academic neonatologists, as well as several scientific members, all of whom are involved in research. The Division is also closely aligned with the Perinatal Epidemiology Research Unit (PERU) of Dalhousie University. Residents have access to a world-class population-based database, the Nova Scotia Atlee Perinatal Database, which is frequently used for epidemiologic research.

In addition to the clinical experiences, there is an established rotating curriculum delivered during a weekly protected academic half-day. Neonatal-perinatal residents share an office near the NICU. Each resident has their own computer, with e-mail and internet. They also have 24-hour access to the IWK Health Centre Library. The program provides funding for residents to attend at least one academic conference per year. Residents may attend a second conference in the same year if he/she has an abstract accepted for presentation.