

***THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
AND
THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL GENETICS AND GENOMICS***

***GUIDELINES FOR COMBINED TRAINING IN
MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE AND MEDICAL
GENETICS AND GENOMICS***

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A. INTRODUCTION

This document provides educational guidance to program directors of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) fellowships and Medical Genetics and Genomics (MGG) residencies interested in combined training in these areas. The goal is to develop competence and avoid duplicity in both MFM and MGG training.

Every program that plans to offer this combined training must apply to, and be approved by, **both** the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) and the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG). The current application can be found on either the ABOG or the ABMGG website. A copy of the proposed block diagram should be included with the application sent to both Boards. Once a decision is rendered, a letter will be sent from each Board to the director of the combined program. Each Board must review and approve the application before the program may admit trainees.

All program requirements for MFM and MGG, as described by the ACGME, apply to the combined training unless specifically modified in this document. Programs must be accredited by the ACGME and abide by all MFM Fellowship and MGG Residency program requirements and standards.

B. PROGRAM CRITERIA

1. *Sponsoring Institution*

The ACGME-accredited fellowship program in MFM and the ACGME-accredited residency program in MGG must be within the same sponsoring institution or the sponsoring institution must be a participant in an integrated multi-institutional program. The two programs must be accredited by the ACGME and be sponsored by the same ACGME sponsoring institution. The programs must be in geographic proximity within the same health system allowing for integration of conferences, faculty exchanges, and curriculum evaluation.

2. *Program Administration*

a. *Program Director*

The combined program must have one designated director who will be responsible for the administration of the program. The Program Director must be:

- Certified in MFM, MGG, or both; and
- Either the director of the MFM fellowship program or the director of the MGG residency program.

b. *Associate Program Director*

c. Each combined program must have a designated Associate Program Director. The Associate Program Director must be certified in MFM, MGG, or both. If the Program Director is certified in MFM, the Associate Program Director must be certified in MGG, and conversely, if the Program Director is certified in MGG, the Associate Program Director must be certified in MFM.

d. *Program Coordination*

The Program Director and Associate Program Director must meet at least quarterly to assure that the training is well coordinated, particularly in those

areas where the specialty and subspecialty overlap. In addition, regular meetings of the entire MFM and MGG teaching faculties should be scheduled to review the educational objectives of each training program.

e. Responsibilities

The Program Director and Associate Program Director are responsible for assuring all aspects of the program requirements are met. Together they should:

- Submit the initial application to both the ABOG and the ABMGG (approval must be granted by both Boards before enrolling any trainees);
- Provide notification should any significant changes occur in an individual trainee's program (e.g., extension of time, transfer, withdraw, etc.)

f. Appointment of New Directors

If a Program Director or Associate Program Director leaves, the ABOG and the ABMGG must each be notified of the departure, the name of the replacement, replacement's preferred email address, and the effective date. The new Program Director or Associate Program Director must be either the current Program Director of the MFM fellowship program or the MGG residency program, if available.

3. Trainees

a. Qualifications

A trainee entering a combined program must have met the requirements for participation as an MFM fellow and a MGG resident.

4. Training Time

a. Minimum Requirements

The duration of training is a minimum of 48 months.

b. Allocation of Time

Combined programs must ensure that each trainee entering the program is allocated the following:

- 1) Medical Genetics and Genomics
 - 18 months clinical, fulfilling all ACGME required experiences
- 2) Maternal-Fetal Medicine
 - 18 months MFM Core Clinical Experience, including at least:
 - 3 months of ultrasonography
 - 2 months of outpatient Maternal-Fetal Medicine
 - 2 months of Genetics and Genomics
 - Ultrasonography, Genetics and Genomics, and outpatient requirements can be fulfilled by block time (e.g., one-month blocks) or by the cumulative experience of shorter experiences (e.g., half- or full-day clinics over time)
 - 2 months in a supervisory position on a Labor and Delivery Unit

- Minimum block is 2 weeks
- Night and weekend call performed throughout the fellowship does not apply towards this time requirement
- 1 month of medical or surgical intensive care unit
 - Must participate in patient care
 - No MFM or OB GYN duties, including night and weekend call
- 6 months of electives
 - Focused on specific clinical and/or research areas
 - Selected at the discretion of the Program Director and fellow
 - Fellows may participate in non-subspecialty clinical activity or practice up to 10% of a workweek (Monday-Friday) or ½ day (4 hours) per workweek averaged over a 4-week period during all rotations. These allowances do not apply to moonlighting, weekends, or call. Fellows may not be assigned to weeks, months, or blocks of clinical assignments or rotations to meet this allowance.
 - Fellows may not be assigned to night float rotations to meet this allowance.
 - Fellows may not aggregate this allowance to complete training early or make up extensions in training for any reason.
- 3) 12 months protected research (counts as 6 months MFM and 6 months MGG)

**OB and/or MFM call may continue throughout the MGG training period but must be approved by the Program Director and Associate Program Director prior to the beginning of training. The amount of call must be no more than that described by the ACGME guidelines. The call schedule must be adapted so that it does not interfere with clinical genetics daytime responsibilities more than two weekdays per month.*

c. Rotations

- 1) The first three months of MGG residency must be consecutive with no more than 10% (one-half day per week) devoted to MFM continuity clinics.
- 2) Rotations appropriate for credit for both MFM and MGG may occur, but no more than six months of rotations within the MGG residency may be deemed “shared” with the MFM fellowship and must have supervision by instructors from both specialties.
- 3) Must be a minimum of two continuous weeks each in clinical biochemical genetics, clinical molecular genetics and genomics, and clinical cytogenetics and genomics laboratories during MGG, as described in the *ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Medical Genetics*.

d. Leave Policy

Leaves for any reason - including, but not limited to, vacation, medical, parenting, caregiver, or personal leave - must not exceed the following:

- 12 weeks (3 months) in any single year of fellowship
- 22 weeks (5 ½ months) total over the 4-year program

If this limit is exceeded, training must be extended for a duration of time equal to the excess leave. Such extensions of training must have an education plan outlined for the continued training with specific educational and clinical experience goals and objectives to be achieved.

Unaccrued personal time may not be used to reduce the actual time spent in fellowship, nor to “make up” for time lost due to medical or other leave. Time missed for educational conferences does not count toward the leave thresholds.

C. THESIS REQUIREMENT

A thesis must be submitted and presented to the MFM Fellowship Program prior to completion of training. Guidelines for the thesis can be found on the ABOG [website](#), as well as in the Subspecialty [Bulletin](#).

D. WITHDRAW

Withdraw from a Single Discipline within the Combined Program

1. Trainees who withdraw from a single discipline within the combined program will follow the regulations set forth by the continued training program and will need to meet all requirements for Board certification in that discipline.
2. Combined programs must inform the ABOG and the ABMGG of a trainee who leaves before completing the program. The number of months the program is giving credit for their training experience must be included.

E. ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION

1. Trainees must satisfactorily complete the requirements of both the ABOG and the ABMGG to be eligible for certification by each board. Note that certification in one specialty does not affect certification in the other. It is the trainee’s responsibility to apply for certification exams.