

# Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada

*Canada's Voice for Excellence in Education and Research in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*

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## NEWS RELEASE

### APOG Position Statement on the Gynaecologic Oncology Crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador

**Ottawa, August 14, 2008:** The Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada (APOG) is concerned about the developing situation in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to services in Gynaecological Oncology. Gynaecological oncologists provide essential, advanced surgical care for women with ovarian, cervical, uterine and other cancers.

The loss of three gynaecological oncologists would be a major blow to health services for women in the province. Our concern is that the impact of these changes would affect more than just clinical services.

Gynaecological Oncology is a key subspecialty within the broader specialty of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Physicians in this specialty provide essential educational services to residency training programs in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in undergraduate medical education. The absence of training in gynaecological oncology could put a residency program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at risk in the accreditation process of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

The subspecialty of Gynaecological Oncology is both a highly sophisticated and extremely demanding professional occupation. In recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to recruit Canadian graduates into training programs in the subspecialty. This is because of both the extended period of training required (4 years medical school + 5 years specialty training + 3 years subspecialty), and the professional and personal demands placed on those individuals practicing in the subspecialty. It is essential that all provincial governments work to ensure that an adequate supply of gynaecological oncologists is educated and then that these physicians are supported in their practice with adequate resources and appropriate levels of support.

We would urge that the Ministries of Health and Education give priority to these considerations and pursue discussions to resolve this difficult situation.

The women of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve the best of care in Gynaecological Oncology. In addition, trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and in Gynaecological Oncology continue to need the high quality education provided by these important subspecialists.

Patrick T Mohide, MD, FRCSC

President

#### **ABOUT APOG**

The Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada (APOG) is a professional association that provides leadership in the development and promotion of the highest quality clinical care through education & research in academic programs of obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada.

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**



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