

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

Background

The Dalhousie University Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine has worked with CASIEF to help build capacity for anesthesia education in Rwanda. An important component is the Rwandan resident elective in Halifax. Since 2010, eight Rwandan residents have completed the elective at Dalhousie University and are now working as staff anesthesiologists in Rwanda. In March, I arrived in Halifax, with my colleague Eugene Tuyishime, for a four month elective at Dalhousie University.

In this article, I talk briefly about my experience in Canada pointing on “**High level of responsibility for patient care, human factors and anesthesia, organization, scholar and social life**” during 6 weeks in Canada.

High level of responsibility for patient care

I do pre-anesthesia patient evaluation and explain every step and possible complications associated to any planned anesthesia. This helped me to build a patient centered care by increasing patient-healthcare provider relationship. In operating room, always WHO check list done before induction and recording of patient’s blood pressure every five minutes.

Organization

The Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine sends operating room lists for each hospital the day before, so each day is well planned and coordinated. Every resident works under close supervision by a staff anesthesiologist. This is a good opportunity to have personal supervisor to discuss aspects of the case and to cover program objectives. I receive feedback at end of day and I give feedback on supervisor as well.



The yellow cards outline objectives for the resident

Human factors and safe anesthesia

I participated in simulation sessions about leadership and communication in case scenarios in order to apply these skills in our daily activities. I daily learn how human factors (team-working, communication, leadership, decision-making, and planning and situation awareness) are essential to safe anesthesia.

Scholar

The anesthesia department organizes grand rounds, seminars and conferences, which are all at a high level. The anesthesia department has arranged for us to participate in Research Day at Halifax, Blood and Beyond Conference and CAS Annual Meeting. Through these experiences, I have learned that anesthesia delivery is evidence-based.

Social life

I have been having social events with other anesthesia residents at Dalhousie University. I have been playing curling game with other residents.



Ready for curling game at Canadian Base Forces (CBF) Curling Club

Conclusion

My experience during elective in Canada is contributing to my training as future Rwandan anesthesiologist. I hope that at the end of my elective I will be confident to apply leadership, new skills help in organizing and teaching residents so that we deliver safe anesthesia to our patients. I would like to acknowledge CASIEF, Dalhousie University and the Anesthesia, Pain Management and Perioperative Medicine to play a big role in this opportunity. I would like also, to thank staff anesthesiologists at Victoria General Hospital and Halifax Infirmary.

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