MERCK FOUNDATION MORE THAN A MOTHER

Postgraduate Diploma in Sexual & Reproductive Medicine

There is an increasing need for knowledge in the treatment and management of fertility issues at primary care level with increasing in the demand for fertility services and IVF treatment in the hands of the specialist with time. The aim of the course is to advance the knowledge of healthcare professionals in sexual and reproductive medicine that will facilitate decision-making in unpredictable and/or complex situations at primary care level.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- The Reproductive System, Fertility and Pregnancy
- Sexual Function
- Male Subfertility and Infertility
- Female Subfertility and Infertility
- Initial Management of the Infertile Couple
- Assisted Reproduction and Ethics



Postgraduate Diploma in Sexual & Reproductive Medicine, University from UK	
Duration	1 - year online learning platform
Eligibility	• Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (Primary Medical Qualification) (e.g.: MBBS or MBChB) • Candidates working within a public sector clinical setting (Preferably) • Recommendation from the Ministry of Health or Office of The First Lady (For Asian Countries- Recommendation letter from The Ministry of Health or Vice Chancellor/Dean/Rector of the Medical University or President of respective Society or Medical Association) • Proof of English language proficiency(details provided below) • Accessibility to stable Internet connection

Course Structure

The online course lasts one calendar year and is a part time distance learning course. It consists of 6 modules per year, each of 6 weeks duration.

Module 1 - The Reproductive System, Fertility and Pregnancy

Aims of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and endocrinology of reproduction and to develop an awareness of normal physiology in relation to conception, implantation and pregnancy.



Synopsis of the module content

- Female reproductive physiology
- Male reproductive physiology
- Fertilization, pregnancy
- Embryogenesis
- Placental function

Module 2 - Sexual Function

Aims of the module:

- To gain in-depth understanding of the physiological and psychological mechanisms underlying sexual function & to develop functional understanding of the pathophysiology of sexual disorders.

Synopsis of the module content:

- The psychology of sex, attraction and orgasm
- Female psychosexual dysfunction
- Erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation
- Hypoactive sexual disorder
- Psychosexual counselling
- Medical management of sexual disorders



Module 3 - Male Subfertility and Infertility

Aims of the module:

- To develop critical understanding of the underlying mechanism & pathophysiology of male infertility & to develop knowledge on the therapeutic options related to male infertility.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Interpretation of semen analysis
- Pathophysiology of semen generation
- Primary hypogonadism
- Secondary hypogonadism
- Medical management of male infertility

Module 4 - Female Subfertility and Infertility

Aims of the module:

- To gain an in-depth knowledge of the causes of female infertility and an understanding of the clinical management of female subfertility/infertility.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Menstrual abnormalities
- Primary and Secondary ovarian failure
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome
- Structural abnormalities leading to female subfertility
- Medical management of female subfertility

Module 5 - Initial Management of the Infertile Couple

Aims of the module:

- To develop an understanding of the investigation and management of the couple presenting with fertility issues, including the epidemiology and definition of infertility & to develop an awareness of the diagnosis and investigation of recurrent miscarriage.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Defining infertility
- Counselling of the infertile couple
- Referral to fertility services
- Recurrent miscarriages
- Genetics and genetic counselling



Module 6 - Assisted Reproduction and Ethics

Aims of the module:

- To develop a critical awareness of infertility treatments currently available & to develop an awareness of the ethical dilemmas surrounding assisted reproduction and broadly how it relates to different political and religious sensitivities.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Understanding IUI, IVF and ICSI, including basic embryological procedures
- Patient selection for assisted conception and treatment pathways bsed on the underlying physiological or anatomical disorder
- Understanding the complications of Assisted Reproduction treatments including the potential genetic abnormalities in the resultant offspring
- Appropriate use of donor eggs and sperm, in addition to the use of a surrogate & its indications
- Develop knowledge to understand treatment success rates depending on age, etiology of subfertility and how this relates to expectations
- Ethical considerations sur rounding Assisted Reproduction Selection/ Treatment and Subsequent Childbirth

Assessment

Assessments are done using clinical scenarios to enhance problem-solving, critical analysis and evidence-based care. Each of the 6 modules has the same assessment format. Due to the online nature of the course, students are expected to login and participate in the course regularly throughout the module.

- Academic Forum - 40%
- Individual learning portfolio - 10%
- Group/individual Assignments - 20%
- Case based examination - 30%

Eligibility Criteria

- Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (Primary Medical Qualification)(e.g.: MBBS or MBChB)
- Candidates working within a public sector clinical setting
- Recommendation from the Ministry of Health or Office of The First Lady (For Asian Countries- Recommendation letter from The Ministry of Health or Vice Chancellor/Dean/Rector of the Medical University or President of respective Society or Medical Association)
    - Proof of English language proficiency
      Proficiency in the English language is essential to completing courses. If English is NOT your first language, proof of competency during the application process is to be submitted.
    - An IELTS overall score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 for each band) or an equivalent qualification is required as proof of English Language Proficiency.
- Accessibility to stable internet connection

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- Copy of qualification certificates.
- English language qualification.
- Personal statement.
- Recommendation from the Ministry of Health or Office of The First Lady (For Asian Countries- Recommendation letter from The Ministry of Health or Vice Chancellor/ Dean/Rector of the Medical University or President of respective Society or Medical Association)
- Income proof (one month Salary/Pay slip or Salary Statement or 3 months bank statement)