MERCK FOUNDATION CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Postgraduate Diploma in Rheumatology

The aim of the course is to produce graduates who have a comprehensive understanding of Rheumatology. Healthcare professional enrolled in the program would be able to apply knowledge for direct clinical benefit and future study.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Rheumatology Epidemiology and Pathophysiology
- Multidisciplinary Treatment in Rheumatology
- Drugs and Therapeutics in Rheumatology
- Diagnosis and Management of Inflammatory Arthritis
- Connective Tissue Disease and Vasculitis
- Soft Tissue Disorders, Hypermobility and Other Rheumatology Conditions

Postgraduate Diploma in Rheumatology, University from UK	
Duration	1 - year online learning platform



Merck Foundation

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) with the aim to continue working in the public sector after graduation, in order to improve patient access to quality and equitable healthcare solutions
- 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 – Rheumatology Epidemiology and Pathophysiology

Aims of the module

- To develop a critical understanding and knowledge of Epidemiology, Pathophysiology, and the science in rheumatological disorders.

Synopsis of the module content

- This module highlights the evolution of rheumatology, epidemiology & economic impact, the pathophysiology of rheumatologic disorders including immunology, genetics, and biomechanics.

Module 2 - Multidisciplinary Treatment in Rheumatology

Aims of the module

To develop a critical understanding of diagnostics, treatment, and care of rheumatology patients, including the appreciation of the multi-disciplinary team involved.

Synopsis of the module content

- This module highlights the multi-disciplinary approach to the management, the role

Module 3 - Drugs and Therapeutics in Rheumatology

Aims of the module

- To develop critical knowledge and understand the scientific basis for therapeutic interventions available for the patient with a rheumatological disorder.

Synopsis of the module content

This module highlights management techniques with a wide range of drug and therapeutics in the secondary care setting, scientific rationale of new treatments, evaluate information on emerging treatment pathways including drug and non-drug therapies for rheumatology.

Module 4 - Diagnosis and Management of Inflammatory Arthritis

Aims of the module

- To critically analyse the diagnostic and management approaches in inflammatory arthritis

Synopsis of the module content

This module highlights the approach to a patient with rheumatology symptoms, arising differential diagnosis, diagnostic methodology, diagnosis & management of a patient presenting with joint pain or loss of function in the clinical setting.

Module 5 - Connective Tissue Disease and Vasculitis

Aims of the module

- To provide in depth understanding of the wide range of connective tissue disorders, their protein manifestations, and the approaches to patients with possible connective tissue disease, with an emphasis on diagnosis and management.

Synopsis of the module content

- This module highlights connective tissue disorders or vasculitis and their protein manifestations, differentiates between the various modes of presentation in the patient with possible connective tissue diseases, and their diagnosis & management.

Module 6 - Soft Tissue Disorders, Hypermobility and Other Rheumatology Conditions

Aims of the module

- To develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of soft tissue, hypermobility & connective tissue disorders, degenerative arthritis, and traumatic conditions.

Synopsis of the module content

- This module highlights in-depth knowledge of the complexities of a wide range of soft tissue disorders, their biomechanical principles and bone biochemistry, Hypermobility and associated connective tissue disorders, osteoarthritis/ degenerative disorders, traumatic conditions, crystal arthropathies with a critical approach to the diagnosis and management.

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%

English language requirements

- 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.

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)