MERCK FOUNDATION NATIONWIDE DIABETES BLUE POINT PROGRAM

Postgraduate Diploma in Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine

The aim of the course is to provide an integrative view to cardiovascular preventative medicine, concentrating on implementing scientific concepts to direct patient care and establishing healthcare professionals who can individually evaluate, assess and disseminate the clinical evidence related to cardiovascular preventative medicine.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Principles of Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine
- Cardiovascular Risk Management
- Lipid Metabolism in Clinical Practice & its management
- Hypertension: Diagnosis and Management
- Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine in Special Situations



Postgraduate Diploma in Preventative Cardiovascular 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 • 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 - Principles of Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine

Aims of the module:

- To gain a basic understanding of the research underlying cardiovascular preventative medicine and cardiovascular risk assessment to implement in clinical practice.

Synopsis of the module content:

Candidates should gain an understanding of the definition of risk, and how it relates to conventional and emerging cardiovascular disease risk factors. They will research the science behind cardiovascular function, and how it applies to clinical practice and new risk assessment methods.

Module 2 - Cardiovascular Risk Management

Aims of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the nutrition and lifestyle factors in cardiovascular disease development.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Factors that could have a major impact on cardiovascular risk.
- Smoking, nutrition, DM, and physical activity are of special importance.
- The effect of these factors on cardiovascular disease should be extensively evaluated. Topical concerns such as dietary macronutrient and micronutrient quality will be analyzed, and their effects on cardiovascular disease.

Module 3 - Lipid Metabolism in Clinical Practice

Aims of the module:

- To understand importance of lipid metabolism and disorders, and understand how they present in clinical practice & their assessment.

Synopsis of the module content:

- The most common cause of inherited premature cardiovascular disease- Familial hypercholesterolaemia will be considered in detail, including the role of family cascade testing in clinical practice, including evaluation of molecular testing and modern biochemical analysis is enhancing our understanding in clinical practice.

Module 4 - Management of Lipid Disorders

Aims of the module:

- To recognize scientifically the treatment of inherited dyslipidemias, with specific attention to family hypercholesterolemia

Synopsis of the module content:

- Strategies for Lipid Disorders Treatment.There will be evaluation of specific non-pharmacological interventions for lipid disorders, as well as current and emerging pharmacological therapies.

Module 5 - Hypertension: Diagnosis and Management

Aims of the module:

- To develop vital understanding of pathophysiology & management of Hypertension.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Individuals can assess primary as well as secondary causes of hypertension. Diagnostic aspects such as the use of ambulatory monitoring and the use of tests for assessing secondary hypertension will be considered.
- Modern management of hypertension will be considered in detail, including resistant hypertension.

Module 6 - Preventative Cardiovascular Medicine in Special Situations

Aims of the module:

- To develop relevant understanding of preventative cardiovascular medicine in a wide range of clinical conditions.

Synopsis of the module content:

• Understanding the role of cardiovascular preventative medicine in situations where this is of particular or emerging importance. Examples of diabetes mellitus, renal disease and infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) will be discussed in detail. The importance of cardiovascular preventative medicine in people with mental illness and chronic inflammatory disorder, such as rheumatoid arthritis will be evaluated.



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%

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(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
  o 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.
  o 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)