Merck Foundation
Capacity Advancement Program

Postgraduate Diploma in Respiratory Medicine

The aim of the course is to advance the knowledge of Respiratory Medicine and other associated conditions that will facilitate decision-making in unpredictable and/or complex situations among healthcare professional in both primary and secondary care establishments.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Respiratory anatomy and physiology
- Impact of Lung Diseases, its burden and epidemiology
- Asthma, Allergy, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Thoracic oncology and pleural disease
- Diagnosis & Management of Respiratory Infections
- Wider Respiratory Horizon (interstitial lung disease, pulmonary vascular disease and other disorders)

Postgraduate Diploma in Respiratory 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.

The course is developed by taking note of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance on Respiratory Medicine, the curriculum subjects of the Specialty Certificate Exam of the Royal College of Physicians and that of the Royal College of General Practitioners (Respiratory).

Module 1 - Symptoms, Signs and Investigations

Aims of the module:

- To establish an understanding of Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology & to apply this understanding to the clinical assessment and investigation of common respiratory symptoms.

Synopsis of the module content

- Impact of Lung Diseases, its burden and epidemiology
- Anatomy and Physiology of the Respiratory systems
- Clinical Diagnosis & Examination
- Breathlessness and Wheeze, Cough and Sputum.
- Spirometry
- Other Respiratory Investigations (X-rays, blood tests and more complex lung function tests).

Module 2 - Asthma and Allergy

Aims of the module:

- To Create a comprehensive understanding of Asthma and Allergy and its effect on patient life.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Asthma Diagnosis and Investigation
- Allergy and anaphylaxis
- Pharmacological management
- Non-pharmacological / self-management
- Co-morbidities (obesity, OSA, bronchiectasis, rhinitis, depression)



Module 3 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Aims of the module

- To gain the understanding of the presentation, treatment and management of COPD patients

Synopsis of the module content:

- Early and accurate diagnosis
- Pharmacological management (including oxygen therapy)
- Non-pharmacological management (smoking cessation, pulmonary rehabilitation and assisted technology)
- Management of exacerbations (acute and chronic, ICS debate, NIV, ceiling of treatment)
- Co-morbidities (osteoporosis, heart disease and depression)
- End of life care, palliative care and advance care planning

Module 4 - Thoracic Oncology and Pleural Disease

Aims of the module:

- To develop a detailed understanding of the presentation, investigation and management of thoracic malignancy and pleural disease.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Lung cancer – screening, red flags, solitary pulmonary nodules
- Lung cancer – diagnosis and staging
- Lung cancer - treatments
- Asbestos related pleural disease
- Pleural effusion and pneumothorax
- The interface and ethics (MDT, working across boundaries, communicating difficult diagnoses, when to stop treatment)

Module 5 - Respiratory Infections: Diagnoses and Management

Aims of the module:

- To develop a comprehensive understanding of pulmonary infection, its investigation and management.

Synopsis of the module content:

- Tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacterial disease
- Pneumonia (including community acquired and hospital acquired)
- Respiratory tract infection (bronchitis, URTI, bronchiolitis)
- Bronchiectasis and Cystic Fibrosis
- Infections in the immunocompromised patient (HIV, immunomodulatory drugs, atypical infections)
- Antibiotic guardianship

Module 6 Wider Respiratory Horizon

Aims of the module:

- To have a detailed understanding of interstitial lung disease, pulmonary vascular disease and disorders that contribute to respiratory failure

Synopsis of the module content:

- Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Other interstitial lung diseases
- Venous thromboembolic disease and pulmonary vascular disease
- Lung disease in my environment (occupational lung disease, children, flying and diving, dysfunctional breathing)
- Lungs at the extremes (age, obesity, illegal drugs)
- Sleep disordered breathing and ventilatory failure

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)