A  OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The number of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases has been rapidly increasing in the past decades. Infectious disease and related problems are faced by clinicians in every specialty. Many of these problems arise as complications of the patients’ underlying medical or surgical illnesses and their treatment. The management of infectious diseases is now more than merely prescribing antibiotics; other modalities of management including active and passive immunization, the use of immunomodulators, and infection control measures, are of increasing importance. This programme is the first formal postgraduate course in Hong Kong on clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, which is open to all clinically qualified persons who are interested in this specialty.

The purpose of the programme is to provide understanding of, and practical experience in infectious diseases management for physicians, surgeons, clinical microbiologists, other clinicians and health care workers who are actively involved in the daily management of patients suffering from infectious diseases. Special emphasis would be put on those infections that are major health problems locally or globally.

The contents of the programme include:

1  The clinical approach to bedside problems, understanding of the pathogenic microbes, and reactions of the host in the pathogenesis of infectious diseases.
2  The laboratory resources used to solve the problems arising from the bedside.
3  The epidemiological approach to tackle outbreaks of infectious diseases.
B ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

The programme is organized by the Carol Yu Centre for Infection, and members of the Departments of Microbiology, Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, and the Department of Health of Hong Kong.

C ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases, a candidate:

1. Shall comply with the General Regulations;
2. Shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
3. Shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of this University, or a degree or other qualification of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
4. Shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required;
5. For a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).

An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

D STRUCTURE

1. Duration.
   The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

2. Curriculum.
   a. Lectures.
      • Six 2-day weekend courses (each of at least 10 hours).
      • Lectures will cover a wide range of topics in various fields of infectious diseases. The themes of the courses include (topics may be revised in the future):
Course 1  Emerging infectious diseases
Course 2  Infectious disease emergencies, indwelling device and surgical infections
Course 3  Common problems in infectious disease
Course 4  Imaging in infectious disease and sexually-transmitted infections
Course 5  Travel-related infections
Course 6  Infections in immunocompromised hosts

b  Clinical attachment.
   • Two bedside infectious disease consultations.
   • One clinical microbiology laboratory round.
   • Three infectious diseases rounds.
   • Two presentations (one case presentation + one project presentation).

c  Project and dissertation.

d  Literature review.

3  Medium of instruction: English.

4  Programme fee.
   The provisional programme fee for the September 2023 intake is HK$28,000 (subject to the University’s approval).

5  Assessment.
   a  Format of continuous assessment.
      Performance of the PDipID candidates in the quizzes, clinical attachment, literature review and project will be the basis of assessment.

   b  Clinical attachment.
      Each candidate will spend 60 hours of clinical attachment in the format of the following four items.

      i  Three Friday infectious diseases (ID) rounds. Each candidate has to attend 3 ID rounds. Attendance can be made in person or via video conferencing with prior arrangement with the course secretariat. The ID rounds are normally held on Friday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (except public holidays) at the Conference Room, 17/F, Block T, Queen Mary Hospital. (Link to map:
ii Presentations.
- One case presentation and a presentation on the completed project are required. The presentations will be conducted during the Friday ID rounds. Please confirm the dates of presentation with your supervisor and contact our course secretariat for arrangement. The project presentation should include the background, study objectives, methodology, results and discussion.
- Submission of PowerPoint files presented at Friday ID rounds. Soft copy of the presented PowerPoint files MUST be sent to course secretariat for record after your presentation.

iii Two bedside infectious diseases (ID) consultations.
Candidates are required to attend two sessions of ID consultations with the supervisor. The purpose is to learn the clinical format and skills in managing hospitalized patients with ID. The exact dates of bedside consultations will be agreed between the candidates and their supervisor. Students should contact their supervisors for arrangement of the bedside ID consultations in advance. Students may choose to have the bedside consultations on the days of their ID round presentations.

iv One clinical microbiology laboratory round.
Each candidate has to attend one clinical microbiology laboratory round. It consists of laboratory tour and demonstration of some commonly used laboratory techniques. This is intended to provide the candidate with exposure to some common tests (e.g. bacterial stains and cultures) conducted in the microbiology laboratory. Students should contact individual supervisors for arrangement of laboratory round in advance. Students may choose to have the clinical microbiology laboratory rounds on the days of their ID round presentation.
c Project.
A clinical- and/or laboratory-based project (at least 2000 words) should be conducted over a period of at least 3 months within the candidate’s own institute or practice so that the candidate can understand the skills of epidemiological or clinical studies. The candidate is responsible for working out the exact topic and study population with the supervisor.

4 Literature review of important topics in ID.
Each candidate is required to write a literature review on a topic concerning infectious diseases or clinical microbiology. The candidate has to perform a literature search and extensively review all the relevant medical publications and submit a signed hard copy of a comprehensive summary of at least 1500 words (word count does not include the reference list) before the deadline. The document should be fully referenced according to the format of “uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals.” Candidates are reminded not to choose topics already covered in the course lectures for review.

E PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

CME point accreditation*

Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine
College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine
Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong
Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons
The Hong Kong College of Pathologists
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
Hong Kong College of Physicians
The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists
Hong Kong College of Radiologists
The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

* Subject to approval by Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong.