OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The number of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases has been rapidly increasing in the past decades. Clinical problems arising from this trend have come down to the level of every clinical specialty. Many such 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. Currently, there are no formal postgraduate courses in Hong Kong on this branch of clinical medicine and microbiology, and there are no structured training programmes for postgraduates for MRCP and FRCS trainees in clinical infectious diseases. It is, therefore, timely for a Diploma programme to be run for the clinicians of Hong Kong. In part, this course is initiated to foster postgraduate training in the field of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and China.

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:

a. The clinical approach to bedside problems, the understanding of the pathogenic microbes, and the reaction of the host in the pathogenesis of infectious diseases.

b. The laboratory resources used to solve the problems arising from the bedside.

c. The epidemiological approach to tackle outbreaks of infectious diseases.

ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

The programme is organised 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, HKSAR.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
c) 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;
d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required;
e) 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.

STRUCTURE

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.

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 future):

- COURSE 1  Infectious diseases update and emerging infections
- COURSE 2  Infectious disease emergencies, indwelling device and surgical infections
- COURSE 3  Common problems in infectious disease.
- COURSE 4  Radiology and radionuclide imaging in ID, Genitourinary medicine and HIV problems
- COURSE 5  Tropical diseases in the developed world
- COURSE 6  Infections in immunocompromised hosts and common infective problems in general practice

b) Clinical attachment: 2 Bedside Infectious Diseases Consultations; 1 Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Round; 3 Infectious Diseases Rounds & 2 presentations (1 case presentation + 1 project presentation).

c) Project
d) Literature review
Medium of Instruction

English

Programme fee

The provisional programme fee for the September 2019 intake is HK$28,000 (subject to the University’s approval).

Assessment

1. Format of continuous assessment
   Performance of the Diploma candidates in the quizzes, clinical attachment, literature review and project will be the basis of assessment.

2. Clinical Attachment
   Candidates will be divided into groups of 2 to 4. Each candidate will spend 60 hours of clinical attachment within an assigned period of 3 months. The attachment would be in the format of the following 4 items.

   a) Three Friday Infectious Diseases (ID) Rounds
      Each candidate has to attend 3 ID rounds (Friday morning 10 am to 12 noon, Room 405, Department of Microbiology, 4/F, Clinical Pathology Building, Queen Mary Hospital) in the assigned period of 3 months.
      (Link to map: http://www3.ha.org.hk/qmh/qmfloorplan.htm)

   b) Presentations
      One case presentation and a presentation on the completed project are required. The presentations will be conducted during the Friday ID round. 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.

   c) Two Bedside Infectious Diseases (ID) Consultations
      Candidates are required to follow 2 sessions of ID consultations with his/her supervisor. The purpose is to learn the clinical format and skill in managing hospitalized patients with ID. The exact date of bedside consultations will be decided among the candidates and their supervisor.

   d) One Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Round
      Each candidate has to attend 1 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. Gram stain, bacterial cultures) conducted in the microbiology laboratory. Students should contact individual supervisors for arrangement of laboratory round in advance.
3. **Project**
   A clinical and/or laboratory surveillance project (at least 2000 words) should be conducted over a period of at least 3 months within the candidate's own hospital or practice so that the candidate can understand the skills of epidemiological surveys. The candidate is responsible for working out the exact topic and study population with his/her 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 ONE signed hard copy and one soft copy of a comprehensive summary of at least 1500 words (word count does not include reference list) before the deadline.

**Professional Accreditation**

*CME Point Accreditation*

Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists: 10.25 per course  
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine: 10 per course  
College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong: 10.5 per course  
Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine: 10 per course  
Hong Kong College of Family Physicians: 10 per course  
Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists: 5 per course  
College of Ophthalmologists of Hong Kong: 4 per course  
Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons: 8 per course  
Hong Kong College of Otorhinolaryngologists: 5.5 per course  
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians: 4 per course  
Hong Kong College of Pathologists: 10.5 per course  
Hong Kong College of Physicians: 4 per course  
The Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists: 10 per course  
Hong Kong College of Radiologists: 10 per course  
The College of Surgeons of Hong Kong: 10 per course  
Department of Health, Hong Kong Doctor Union, Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Hong Kong Medical Association: 1 point for each hour of completed course

Remark: Subject to approval by Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, HKU