

Higher Education
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Skaberia
AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

EAST AFRICA

MASTER OF MEDICINE IN ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY (M.Med. Anatomic Pathology)

CURRICULUM

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Department of Pathology
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NAIROBI

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1.2 Rationale for M. Med in Anatomic Pathology (AP)

Pathology as a discipline is the core in medicine and there can be no clinical medicine without pathology. Currently there is an acute shortage of medical specialists and sub-specialists in Kenya and within the East African region and especially in pathology. There are only 0.1 pathologists per million population in Kenya as compared to 10 pathologists per million population in South Africa. There is a particular shortage of all sub-specialists in pathology namely haematology, chemical pathology, immunology, microbiology and anatomic pathology. Furthermore, the national capacity for training anatomic pathologists is limited in Kenya and within the region. It is important to note that, histological and cytological services form the basis of diagnosis and management of a vast majority of cases especially in cancer patients, a service required in a 100% of the cases. With the advent of HIV/AIDS, diagnosis of opportunistic infections of respiratory tract and other systems relies heavily on these services. There is also an acute shortage of pathologists who are trained in forensic medicine. The ever increasing road traffic accidents and homicidal cases makes this service extremely essential for the legal rights of the community.

It is important to further note that cytology services are not only an important diagnostic service, but are essential in cancer screening and especially in cancer of uterine cervix which is the number one cancer in many developing countries. Autopsy services form an essential part of clinical audit, research and teaching of gross pathology. There is therefore need to train anatomic pathologists who are well trained in surgical pathology, cytopathology, autopsy pathology and forensic pathology. The AKU (EA) in collaboration with AKHS (EA)

have therefore decided to establish the Master of Medicine in Anatomic Pathology and the Master of Medicine in Clinical Pathology. The Aga Khan Network has a well established hospital in Nairobi which trains doctors at the intern, senior health officers and registrar levels.

The government and other countries within the region have identified the need for training in various specialties. The AKU (EA) is therefore responding to identified national and regional needs in starting Master of Medicine in Anatomic Pathology and Master of Medicine in Clinical Pathology programmes.

1.3 Vision and Mission of AKU (EA)

The establishment of the Master of Medicine in Anatomic Pathology is in line with the vision of AKU-EA in making a significant contribution to social development and particularly in the fields of health and education and which focus on enhancing the quality of life of individuals in Kenya and within the East African region. The programme will also contribute to the achievement of the mission of AKU (EA) which is to become a premier centre of learning by providing continuing and higher medical education. Its purpose is to develop individuals for competence and leadership in their field of education and training. AKU is committed to excellence in education and health services and to the full utilization of modern communication and information technologies.

The university strives for quality, international standards and relevance in all of its programmes. The University's mission will be achieved by using innovative curricula, adult teaching and learning strategies, and by developing individual capacities to utilize and conduct relevant health-related research.

1.4 Mission of the Section of Anatomic Pathology at AKU (EA)

The mission of the Section of Anatomic Pathology at the Aga Khan University is to strengthen the discipline of anatomic pathology, which positively impacts on the diagnosis, treatment and control of diseases affecting the populations it serves. The section is committed to excellence in postgraduate medical education. Presently it serves the needs of the Aga Khan Hospital and the peri-urban hospitals in Kenya by providing efficient and timely histopathologic, cytopathologic and autopsy services.

3.0 PROGRAMME GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Programme Goal

The main goal of the Master of Medicine in Anatomic Pathology is to develop graduates with the highest level of competency in patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, teaching, training and interpersonal and communication skills in working with patients and colleagues.

3.2 Programme Objectives

The four year training and educational programme is designed to enable the graduate be able to:

1. Acquire knowledge and technical skills that are essential in recognizing, interpreting and explaining pathological processes in the clinical practice of all branches of anatomic pathology.
2. Demonstrate ability to communicate pathologic findings to colleagues and provide consultative information regarding patient management.
3. Demonstrate ability to carry out investigative pathologic processes and procedures for individual patients and the general patient population.
4. Demonstrate ability of establishing good relationship with patients and team work with colleagues.
5. Demonstrate ability to manage pathology laboratory services in different settings

6. Demonstrate ability to undertake research independently and with colleagues in anatomic pathology.
7. Demonstrate ability to provide leadership in education and training of different categories of medical consultants and other health professionals.

4.0 ADMISSION CRITERIA

4.1 Eligibility

Applicants for the program must hold the MB ChB degree or an equivalent medical qualification that is acceptable to the Aga Khan University and the Medical Practitioners Board of Kenya. They must be registered or registerable with the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. They must have completed a one-year internship plus one year working experience.

4.2 Selection process

The residents for M. Med in Anatomic pathology will be selected in accordance with the regulations and guidelines as presented in Appendix I.