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AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

EAST AFRICA

MASTER OF MEDICINE IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY (M.Med. Clinical Pathology)

CURRICULUM

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

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1.4 RATIONALE FOR M.MED. IN CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

Pathology as a discipline is at the core of medicine and there can be no medicine without pathology. The demand for pathology services continues to rise exponentially worldwide but without a corresponding increase in the number of pathologists. The problem is much more acute in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and South America. These countries are experiencing a substantial increase in the amount of pathology as the prevalence rates of diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to escalate and are associated with significant increase in morbidity and mortality.

Kenya is estimated to have only 0.1 pathologists per million population compared to South Africa at 10 pathologists per million population or United Kingdom at 45 pathologists per million people. It is clear that as the total number of pathologists remain inadequate, the need to accelerate and to embark on appropriate pathology training programmes becomes paramount. One important feature in the Kenyan situation is that the population is predominantly rural and the demand for pathology services is therefore greatest in the district and peripheral health institutions. The training of single-discipline pathology experts would therefore be unsuitable for the rural settings. It is therefore critical that in order to attain the desirable numerical targets for the ideal pathologists for the rural areas, training programmes in Kenya must be focused towards the production of multi-skilled specialists in pathology such as clinical pathologists.

This is the background that has led AKU (EA) and AKHS to establish a four-year programme in Clinical Pathology that covers training in the three pathology sub-specialties of, namely – chemical Pathology, Haematology (to include immunopathology) and Medical Microbiology (to include virology).

2.0 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GRADUATES

The roles, functions and responsibilities of the graduate of Master of Medicine in Clinical Pathology have been identified taking into consideration the current and future health needs and working environment of pathologists in Kenya and also within the East and Central African region. Therefore the graduates of the programme will be adequately prepared to undertake the following roles and functions:

1. Provide expertise and consultant service in Clinical Pathology relevant to the sub-specialties of Chemical Pathology, Haematology and Microbiology.
2. Manage Clinical Pathology services in different settings,
3. Initiate Quality Assurance programmes and to ensure cost-effective utilization of laboratory procedures/services.

4. Maintain relationships with health institutions/organizations and all clinical disciplines in the provision of laboratory services.
5. Perform duties competently, fairly and decisively in all interactions with laboratory staff and other health care workers from different working situations.
6. Apply ethical standards in the performance and undertaking of their professional responsibilities.
7. Continue to develop lifelong habits of self-directed learning and critical self-evaluation that will allow for a very satisfying career whether in community practice or in the academic setting, maintaining the highest qualities for the profession.
8. Play an important role in teaching and training in the laboratory, hospital or academic setting, in order to enhance technical skills and knowledge within health professions.
9. Provide lifelong commitment to teaching and research in the practice of pathology.

3.0 PROGRAMME GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Programme Goal

The main goal of the Master of Medicine in clinical pathology is to achieve the highest level of competency in patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement in interpersonal and communication skills in this field.

3.2 Programme Objectives

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

1. To provide Consultant Service in Chemical Pathology, Haematology, Medical Microbiology and Immunopathology.
2. Provide skills in the Principles of Laboratory Management and administration.
3. Be competent to initiate research and also collaborate with clinical colleagues in undertaking research.
4. To take responsibility for his/her continuing professional development and also for his own colleagues and staff.

5. Have knowledge, skills, ethics and compassion with a sound orientation toward the community.
6. Acquire knowledge of good principles and practices of laboratory medicine.
7. Understand the role of internal and external quality control.

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 Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. They must be registered or registerable with the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. They must have completed a one-year internship and candidates who have one year working experience after internship have added advantage.