

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

This Proposal was approved
by the Commission for
Higher Education on
19th March 2004
Skabera
AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

MASTER OF MEDICINE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE (M.Med. Internal Medicine)

CURRICULUM

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Department of medicine
Aga Khan University (Nairobi)
P.O. Box 30270
NAIROBI

March 2004

1.2 Rationale for M.Med. in Internal Medicine

There is a serious shortage of medical specialists and sub-specialists in Kenya, including those in medicine, surgery, pathology, anaesthesia, obstetrics and paediatrics. In medicine, for example, there are only approximately 200 consultant physicians for a population of 30 million. There is a particular shortage of certain sub-specialists, including cardiologists and neurologists. Furthermore, the national capacity for training internal medicine specialists is small, at present comprising only the M.Med Programme of Nairobi University with an average intake of less than 10 students per year. Therefore AKU Kenya, whose parent university in Karachi has a vast experience in PGME, can make a very important contribution to Kenya and the region by introducing PGME Programmes.

Since the Aga Khan Network has a well established hospital in Nairobi, in which postgraduate doctors have been receiving training for many years at the intern, SHO and registrar level, it was natural for the Aga Khan University to begin medical education in Kenya at the PGME level.

In discussion with the Ministry of Education, the particular need for anaesthetists and pathologists was emphasized, and the University plans to start Programmes in these disciplines as soon as possible. Meanwhile, general medicine, general surgery and

radiology were felt to have in place most of the prerequisites for residency Programmes to begin in 2003.

Internal Medicine was felt to be a particularly appropriate Programme with which to commence PGME, since general internal medicine is the fundamental medical discipline, and having this residency in place will facilitate the introduction of Programmes in other disciplines.

There are minimal opportunities for (fellowship) training in the medical subspecialties (eg neurology, cardiology, gastroenterology, etc) in Kenya. We anticipate that graduates of the general medicine residency Programme will have the opportunity to compete for admission to the subspecialty fellowship Programmes available at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, and in due course AKU expects to develop subspecialty fellowship Programmes in Kenya.

2.0 PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The main goals and objectives of the Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine is to train and develop general physicians who have in-depth knowledge, competencies and attitudes for the management of patients with various types of health problems. Therefore the main objectives of the programme are as follows:-

- Assess, diagnose, treat and manage patients with various problems in the various settings.
- Develop skills to access and interpret medical information using electronic media, computer information systems and the principles of evidence-based medicine.
- Develop ability to manage health care services in an efficient and cost effective approach.
- Develop ability to treat patients humanely and make ethical decisions regarding patient care and conduct oneself in a professional manner.
- Develop competence to undertake relevant research in biomedical sciences.

3.0 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GRADUATES

Upon completion of the training programme, the graduates will be able to:

- (i) Evaluate and manage general medical problems particularly those involving non-specific symptoms, atypical presentations, multiple problems or system disorders including unselected medical emergencies.
- (ii) Manage patients in a holistic way, considering psychosocial as well as physical factors for enhancing quality of life.
- (iii) Provide clinical counselling, education, leadership and management services in an ethical and compassionate manner.
- (iv) To undertake relevant research in biomedical sciences for the benefit of the society.

4.0 ADMISSION CRITERIA

4.1 Eligibility

Applicants for the Programme must hold the MBChB degree or an equivalent medical qualification that is acceptable to the Aga Khan University and the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board. They must be registered or registrable with the Kenya Medical

Practitioners and Dentists Board. They must have completed a one year internship and a further one year experience may be desirable.

4.2 Selection Process

The residents for M.Med in Internal Medicine will be selected in accordance with A policies and guidelines (**Appendix I**).