

**POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF  
MEDICINE**

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

**PROSPECTUS**

IN

**CLINICAL ONCOLOGY**

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# **REGULATION AND GUIDELINES FOR MD CLINICAL ONCOLOGY**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The following is an outline of the in-service programme of training and examination leading to the degree of MD Clinical Oncology of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of the University of Colombo and to Board Certification as a Specialist in Clinical Oncology and allied specialities.

The programme will consist of four (4) supervised stages of training and two (2) examinations. Upon obtaining the degree of MD Clinical Oncology the trainee is eligible for Board Certification in Clinical Oncology after completion of two years as a Senior Registrar.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the training programme the trainee should have acquired adequate knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable him/her

- (a) to have a comprehensive knowledge in the field of Clinical Oncology and allied specialities
- (b) to be competent in diagnosing and managing Clinical Oncology problems in a global setting with special reference to malignant diseases relevant to Sri Lanka

For this purpose the trainee should:

- 2.1** have an understanding of and be competent in the principles and practice of clinical methods in order to be capable of identifying, analyzing and managing patients efficiently and humanely.
- 2.2** acquire competence in teaching and training undergraduates, postgraduates para-medical workers in Clinical Oncology.
- 2.3** be motivated to conduct clinical, laboratory and/or health system research.
- 2.4** be able to function as a member of a team delivering Clinical Oncology services and be competent to assume leadership when required.

### **3. SELECTION FOR TRAINING**

- (a) A medical degree registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council
- (b) One year of clinical experience after completion of the internship.

#### **3.2 Selection Procedure**

- (a) Selection will be by a competitive examination in the form of 60 MCQ type questions in all branches of medicine. The entrance examination is conducted by the PGIM.
- (b) Number of trainees – shall be determined by the Board of Study in Clinical Oncology and is subject to review annually.

### **4. TRAINING PROGRAMME**

#### **4.1 Stage I**

During this period a trainee is expected to learn clinical and intellectual skills of understanding and dealing with the problems of cancer patients as a Clinical Oncologist.

4.1.1 Eligibility to sit the MD Clinical Oncology Part I examination Satisfactory completion of Stage I of the training programme, certified by the supervisor and tutors, in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Study.

4.1.2 MD Clinical Oncology Part I Examination

##### **(a) Subjects**

- (i) Radiation physics
- (ii) Medical statistics
- (iii) Radiobiology
- (iv) Pharmacology
- (v) Pathology
- (vi) Cancer biology

##### **(b) Format of the Examination**

###### **(i) Two theory papers.**

Each paper will be of 3 hours duration.

Paper I – Physics and Statistics

Paper II – Radiobiology, Pharmacology,  
Pathology and Cancer Biology

###### **(ii) Oral Examination**

This will be a comprehensive examination to test the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes of the trainee.

4.1.3 Eligibility to enter Stage II

Successful completion of Stage I within the specified period of 12 months after commencement of training

(b) Completion of Stage II of the training programme

- (c) Submission of the casebook to the Director, PGIM.

Note: Successful completion has to be certified in the trainee's logbook by his/her tutors.

#### **4.2 Stage II**

- (a) Continued in-service training at Cancer Institute, Maharagama or at other cancer centres to be decided by the Board of Study, for at least two years.
- (b) Further lectures and demonstrations in specialised clinical subjects to expand the trainee's competence.
- (c) Every trainee during this stage will prepare a casebook containing the records of 20 cancer cases managed by him. The casebook will be assessed at the MD Part II examination. One copy of the casebook must be submitted 3 months before the examination.

##### **4.2.1 Eligibility criteria to sit the MD Clinical Oncology Part II examination**

- (a) Successful completion of Part I Clinical Oncology examination.
- (b) Completion of Stage II of the training programme
- (c) Submission of the casebook to the Director, PGIM.

Note: Successful completion has to be certified in the trainee's logbook by his/her tutors.

##### **4.2.2 MD Clinical Oncology Part II Examination**

- (a) Subjects  
Clinical Oncology  
(includes: Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology, Paediatric Oncology, Haemato-Oncology, Gynaecological Oncology, Immunotherapy, Molecular Targeted Therapy and Palliative Care)

##### **(b) Format of the Examination**

- (i) Two theory papers  
Each will be of 3 hours duration
- (ii) One theory paper of 2 hours duration
- (iii) Clinical, Practical and oral examinations
  - (a) Clinical – (1) Long case  
(2) Short cases
  - (b) Radiation treatment planning practical
  - (c) Viva voce examination.

(iv) Assessment of the casebook

(c) Award of a Medal

The Dr.H.K.T.Fernando Medal will be awarded to the best candidate at the MD Clinical Oncology Part II examination, concluded in a given calendar year, provided the candidate has

- (a) passed the Part I and Part II examination at the first attempt
- (b) obtained the highest mark
- (c) obtained a minimum mark of 60% in the written components
- (d) followed the entire local training programme

The Board of examiners would recommend the award of the medal to the PGIM.

In the event of a tie the marks of the clinical component will be taken into consideration as the deciding factor.

#### 4.3 Stage III and Stage IV

(a) Stage III

A one year period of supervised training to be spent at a centre overseas, approved by the Board of Study. A report in writing of this experience should be submitted from his supervising consultant.

(b) Stage IV

Completion of a year's service as Senior Registrar in Clinical Oncology on rotation in an approved hospital/cancer centres in Sri Lanka.

**Note: Stage III and IV may be interchanged**

#### **4.3.1 Eligibility criteria to enter Stage III and Stage IV**

Successful completion of the MD Clinical Oncology Part II examination.

### **5. BOARD CERTIFICATION**

#### 5.1 Eligibility criteria for Board Certification

##### **5.1.1 Successful completion of Stage I, II, III and IV**

##### **5.1.2 Submission of a dissertation**

Completion of a dissertation in a field of Oncology based on a trainee's original observations, preferably having relevance to problems in Sri Lanka.

One copy of the dissertation should be typewritten and submitted in unbound form 3 months prior to the date of the Part II examination, to be forwarded to the foreign examiner for assessment. Once the unbound copy is returned to the candidates any corrections should be made and 3 copies in bound form should be submitted to the Director, PGIM, for submission to the Board of Study for evaluation.

Format of the dissertation should conform to the approved guidelines.

### **6. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXEMPTIONS FOR THOSE WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS**

A person who holds any postgraduate qualification equivalent to the MD Clinical Oncology of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka may apply to the Board of Study in Clinical Oncology for exemption from the MD Clinical Oncology Part I examination. Originals of the certificates pertaining to the foreign qualifications should be submitted.

**6.1** If the Board of Study in Clinical Oncology ratifies the application, the candidate will be eligible to sit the MD Clinical Oncology Part II examination.

**6.2** If successful in the MD Clinical Oncology Part II, he/she will be required to complete one year of service as Senior Registrar in Clinical Oncology on rotation in hospitals/cancer centres in Sri Lanka, approved by Board of Study in Clinical Oncology.

**6.3** He/she will also be required to present a dissertation in a field of Oncology, based on original observations, preferably having relevance to problems in Sri Lanka, to the Board of Study.

**6.4** On satisfactory completion of the above the person will be eligible for Board Certification as a Specialist in Clinical Oncology.

## **7. INTERPRETATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

In any matter relating to the above regulations, the decision of the Board of Study duly approved by the Board of Management of the PGIM will be final. The Board of Study shall have the right to amend any provision in the above regulations with the approval of the Board of Management of the PGIM from time to time.

## **8. GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE PGIM**

General regulations of the PGIM, which are applicable to all postgraduate trainees on all course conducted by the PGIM, are in a separate booklet. All trainees are expected to buy a copy and make themselves familiar with the General Regulations in addition to the specific regulations in this booklet.