

Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine (PGDFM)

For recent MBBS Graduates working in secondary hospitals
towards expertise in secondary level care

INTRODUCTION

A unique and distinguishing feature of the Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) is its linkage with the large and widespread network of mission hospitals located mainly in semi-urban and rural areas and aiming to serve disadvantaged communities. With inpatient strength of between 20 and 200 beds, these hospitals deliver broad based clinical services to their local communities. The majority of students in CMC are sponsored by these hospitals and have undertaken to serve in them for two years immediately after graduation. CMC recognizes that its raw medical graduates face arduous challenges and difficulties during this service period but also that this can be an unusual learning experience for them. Graduates from other Medical Colleges also such as Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, St.John's Medical College Bangalore and Government Medical Colleges also work in rural Hospitals after their MBBS. The PGDFM course is for the recent MBBS graduates is CMC's response to the challenge of equipping the MBBS graduates, from CMC and other medical colleges working in secondary hospitals for competent and satisfying engagement with secondary level health care while also availing of its educational opportunities. At the professional level, the graduates need to become proficient in broad based multicompetent secondary level care including outpatient work and the handling of demanding emergencies. They need to be skillful in a variety of medical and surgical procedures in the diverse fields of medicine. At the same time they also need the distinctive orientation characteristic of Family Medicine. The graduates also face a variety of other problems such as academic and social isolation, lack of opportunity for learning, difficulty in translating learning from a tertiary care level to secondary level, lack of procedural skill competence and administrative problems.

The Course was started in 2007 as a one year Fellowship Programme, the Fellowship in Secondary Hospital Medicine and then upgraded to the Programme Diploma in Family Medicine in 2010.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All graduates completing MBBS including internship during or after 2010.

Selection Preference will be given to the following in order of preference:

1. Those completing both MBBS and internship at CMC and have a service obligation to their sponsoring bodies.
2. Those completing both MBBS and internship at CMC but do not have a service obligation.
3. Those who completed MBBS elsewhere but completing internship at CMC.
4. Those completing MBBS in other medical colleges

Under category of 2-4, all the students should have commitment of work a minimum of 1 year in either A. Mission hospitals B. Government sector C. Private hospitals. Preference will be given to students in that order. Applicants should not be currently doing a PG course and should not be planning to do a PG course in the next one year.

THE COURSE FORMAT AND CONTENT

Duration: The Integrated PGDFM is of 18 months duration. Candidates have to complete the course within three years from the date of enrolment.

Commencement: The course will commence as from April 1, 2012

THE CURRICULUM OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

1. Design

This course is designed as 13 Modules. An average of six hours per week will be needed to complete the booklets in the above time period.

2. Organization of booklets. The learning material is presented in a system-based manner. MBBS graduates have sufficient background knowledge to use the problem-solving approach employed in this course, starting with the presentation of the patient. The modules challenge the student to give answers, think of options, and to apply the knowledge that they have just learnt. The teaching module is followed by answers to the questions posed during the module. This instant feedback helps the student to go back over the material if he/she has doubts. At the end of each module, a tutor marked assignment has to be submitted as a form of continuous formative assessment. Suitable additions will be made to the above curriculum appropriate to the secondary level care. The student should periodically and promptly submit assignments according to the schedule. These are graded and are part of the assessment.

ASSIGNMENTS

Candidates will be required to complete the assignments which are based on the MCQs (Multiple Choice of Questions) and SSAs (Short Structured Answers) for each module of the course within the stipulated dates. The concerned Faculty of the

Module will evaluate the assignments for the purpose of awarding the Diploma.

CONTACT PROGRAMS

During the 18 months there will be three Contact Programmes:

S.No	Contact Program	Content	Dates	Venue
1.	Contact Session – I	Discussions on Approach to clinical problems / Case discussions / teaching to transfer skills such as ECG, X-ray interpretation/ discussions on ethics, / transfer of procedural skills.	August 2012 (7 Days)	CMC Vellore
2.	Contact Session – II	Content similar to contact session 1. In addition students perform examination – I Theory & Practical Examination	February 2013 (7 Days)	CMC Vellore
3.	Contact Session – III	Examination – II Theory, Practical exam and Project Presentation	August 2013 (3 Days)	CMC Vellore

Contact program timings: The scheduled timing for each day of the contact program is 8 am to 6 pm with a one hour break for lunch. Saturdays 8 am to 1pm and Sunday holiday.

The purpose of the contact programs

1. To see a wide range of clinical cases
2. Learn some specified skills (both procedural and clinical skills)
3. Imbibe attitudes which will improve professional conduct
4. To augment theory knowledge base
5. Clarification of doubts
6. To present project work and meet with project guide
7. Student networking and meeting with faculty

Skipping Contact sessions

A candidate who is unable to attend the contact session will have to complete the same session in the following year period.

EXAMINATIONS

1st Examination

This will be conducted during Contact Program 2 at CMC (February 2012).

Based on subjects covered in booklets 1 to 6 (see Appendix I)

- a) Theory MCQ: 100 marks
- b) OSCE: 10 stations: 100 marks

The following would be the content of the OSCE stations: X-rays/ ECG, pictorial material, patient management problems, instruments, communication skills, history -taking stations.

2nd Examination

This will be conducted during Contact Program 3 at CMC (August 2012).

Based on booklets 7-13 (see Appendix I) and video-lectures shown

- a) Theory: MCQ: 100 marks
- b) OSCE: 10 stations: 100 marks

The student will be permitted to take the respective examinations only after completion of following:

- 1) Full Attendance of preceding contact sessions
- 2) Submission of all assignments, and obtaining a satisfactory grade. (50%)
- 3) Submission of Project Plan and Final Project at the stipulated time

AWARD OF DIPLOMA

The Diploma will be awarded to candidates who fulfill the following criteria:

- A score of not less than 50% in theory and practicals separately.
- A minimum of 75% attendance in contact programs and completion of requirements
- Satisfactory completion of Project work
- Satisfactory completion of the tutor marked assignments with over all 50% of marks in the distance course

PAYMENT OF FEES

The total fee for the entire course is **Rs.10, 000/ payable in two equal installments.**

1st installment of Rs.5000 is to be paid on admission to the course the last date being **24 th March 2012**, but can be extended on request.

2nd installment of Rs.5000 is to be paid at the time of the Second Contact course in **Feb 2013**

Course fee, and any other payments, must be paid either by Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft drawn on a Vellore Bank in favour of 'Christian Medical College Vellore Association'.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

No. of seats - Maximum seats available: **60**

Application

The application form can be downloaded from the CMC website or can be collected in person from the Curriculum Office, ASHA Building or the Department of Distance Education, 4th Floor, IDTRC office above State Bank of India Building. **The selection process will greatly depend on the written application. Hence the candidates are advised to fill in the application carefully. The last date for submission of completed application is 10th March 2012**

Announcement of Selections and subsequent formalities

The list of selected candidates will be published on the CMC website on **15th March 2012**. Students should submit their acceptance letter and make payment of 1st installment of fees by March 21. Selected candidates will be called for a one day orientation program available on the **24th of March 2012, according to the candidate's preference. Those who cannot attend should make arrangements to participate through video-conferencing.** On admission, the candidates will be allotted a **unique admission number**. This number will be used as a unique ID of the candidate for all purposes related to the course. The candidates must quote their admission number in all their correspondence with the course office. After joining their respective hospitals of work, the candidate should send in the Needs Assessment form and the Project Work Form within 6 weeks. The last date for submission of these forms is **7th May 2012**.

CONTACT DETAILS

Email ID: fshm@cmcvellore.ac.in

Phone Nos. 0416-228 3617, 0416-228 2804

Mailing address:

The Course Coordinator (PGDFM)
Infectious Diseases Training and Research Centre (IDTRC),
4th Floor, SP complex, SBI building,
No.3, Ida Scudder road,
Vellore - 632 004, Tamil Nadu.

Change in address

Any change in your address or phone no. or email ID should be intimated to us immediately by email or post.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

Activity	Dates
Last date for submission of filled in application	10 th March 2012
Publishing of the list of selected candidates on the CMC website	15 th March 2012
Submission of acceptance letter and payment of fees (1st installment)	21 st March 2012
Orientation session	24 st March 2012
Submission of Needs assessment form and the project work form	7 th May 2012

Appendix - I

Contents of Distance Education booklets

Module #	Module name
1-1	Ambulatory obstetrics
1-2	Emergency obstetric care
1-3	Anaesthesia for obstetric emergencies
2-1	Common Paediatric problems & Paediatric emergencies
2-2	Neonatology
3	Surgery
4-1	Primary trauma care
Break for CC- I	
4-2	Orthopaedics
4-3	Rheumatology
5-1	Infectious Disease
5-2	Poisoning
6-1	ENT
6-2	Eye

7-1	Respiratory problems
7-2	Palliative care
8-1	Endocrine problems
8-2	Rational use of medicine
9-1	Psychiatric care
9-2	Preventive health
9-3	Medical ethics
Break for CC- III	
10	Nervous system
11-1	Cardiovascular
11-2	Renal syndromes
12-1	Gastroenterology
12-2	Haematology
13-1	Dermatology
13-2	TB
13-3	Geriatrics

COURSE FACULTY DETAILS

Name (Dr.)	Department		
Sara Ninan	Anesthesia	Abhilash	Med Unit 4
Ommen George	Cardiology	Natasha Edwin	Med Unit 4
Sunil Chandy	Cardiology	J.V. Peter	Medical ICU
Suresh David	Accident & Emergency	Shalini Anandan	Microbiology
Sneha Titus	Child Health - III	Binu govind	Neonatology
Leni Kumar	Child Health	Alice George	Obs & Gyn
Peter Prasanth	Child Health	Jiji Mathew	OG
Manish Kumar	Child Health	Aarthy Simha	Ophthalmology
Joy Mammen	Clinical Pathology	Smitha Jasper	Ophthalmology
Sujith Chandy	Clinical Pharmacology	Anil Ommen	Orthopedics
KR John	Community Health	Manish Nithyanath	Orthopedics
Daisy Singh	Community Health	Ebor Jacob	PICU
Jasmine Prasad	Community Health	Kala Ebenezer	PICU
Shanthi Dani	Community Health	Elvino Barreto	Plastic surgery
Reginald Alex	Community Health	KS Jacob	Psychiatry
Dincy Peter	Dermatology	Barney Isaac	Pulmonary Medicine
Leni George	Dermatology	DJ Christopher	Pulmonary Medicine
Sony	Endocrinology	Betty	Radiology
Simon Rajaratnam	Endocrinology	John Mathew	Rheumatology
George A Mathew	ENT	Kishore Pitchamuthu	SICU
Ajoy Mathew Varghese	ENT	Pritish John	SICU
Noel walter	Forensic Medicine	M.J Paul	Surgery
AJ Joseph	Gastroenterology	Amit Patel	Surgery
Uday George Zachariah	Gastroenterology	Jachin Velavan	Distance Education
Prince Christopher	LCECU	Course Organizers	
Venkatesh	LCECU	Anand Zachariah	Medicine 1
Kiruba Vasantha David	LCECU	Rashmi Vyas	Physiology
Anand Zachariah	Med I	Course Coordinator	
Alice Joan Mathuram	Med Unit 1	Yoga Priya	Medicine 1
Dilip Mathai	Med Unit 4		