Clinical Haematology

Clinical haematology is an allied medical subspecialty that was introduced by the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSP) Pakistan in 2011 with intent to train physicians in both clinical and diagnostic haematology so that they can handle haematological disorders more efficiently. It is a specialty that integrates the diagnostic and clinical aspects of haematology. It also encompasses the basics of blood banking and haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Clinical hematologists', at the end of the training will be able to diagnose and treat common benign and malignant haematological conditions independently.

Clinical haematology is an emerging field and its importance can by no means be undermined particularly when not many centers across the country provide health care facilities to the patients of acute leukemias and bleeding disorders.

Aga Khan University (AKU) residency programme in clinical haematology was recognized by CPSP in January 2013 and AKUH is so far only the third institution in Pakistan that has been recognized for residency training. AKU residency program, through its highly qualified faculty, professional nursing care and state of the art BMT unit is one of the best centre in the region for the management of haematological diseases and looks forward to achieving excellence in patient care through continued medical education sessions, seminars and conferences.

Objective

The goal of the programme is to train individuals in the field of diagnostic as well as clinical haematology. Residents will undergo rotations in haematology/oncology ward, clinics and daycare. Residents will also be trained in diagnostic haematology so that they may have a holistic approach towards patients. They will be rotated in blood bank and BMT unit for attainment of basic knowledge about these vast areas of the specialty. At the end of the training, residents will have sufficient understanding of benign and malignant haematological disorders as well as sound knowledge of general medicine to handle commonly encountered medical problems in patients with haematological diseases.

Eligibility

- MBBS or equivalent degree approved by the PM&DC (preference is given to those with 60 per cent and above marks in the final professional examination)
- One-year internship with six months in Medicine and allied and six months in Surgery and allied disciplines
- FCPS Part I, two years mandatory training in internal medicine and intermediate module exam, however, preference is given to candidates with FCPS Part II internal medicine

Candidates are required to sit for a generic residency written exam which is used as an entrance screening test. The final selection is based on interviews with the haematology faculty.

Duration of training

The Clinical Haematology Residency is a three-year training programme.
Content

Year 1 and 2

General Medicine

Year 3

During third year of training residents will be rotated in haematology/oncology ward and consulting clinics where they will take patient's history, perform clinical examination, make differential, provisional and final diagnosis and interpret investigation to reach diagnosis of common hematological disorders (anemias, acute and chronic leukemias, lymphomas, myeloma and bleeding disorders) while working under supervision. Residents will also be encouraged to spend time in clinical laboratory to learn basic laboratory techniques and procedures (bone marrow aspiration/bone trephine biopsy) and interpretation of basic haematological investigations.

Year 4

During fourth year of training the residents are required to strengthen their clinical approach and knowledge acquired during third year. Residents will be given broader exposure of clinical laboratory to cover the diagnostic part of the curriculum including blood sampling, peripheral smear examination, and interpretation of bone marrow aspiration/trephine biopsy, hemoglobin studies, coagulation studies and blood banking under supervision.

Year 5

During this important year the residents will be expected to integrate their clinical and laboratory skills acquired during third and fourth year of training. During final year residents will also be rotated in bone marrow transplant unit where they will acquire basic knowledge regarding indications and types of BMT, conditioning, bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell harvest and pre- and post-transplant patient care.

Educational activities

Core curriculum

The core curriculum is a mandatory training criterion. It provides a forum for the residents to gain structural knowledge and skills regarding the essentials of clinical haematology. It is organized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan and is designed to highlight relevant and important aspects of benign and malignant haematological disorders and their management.

Additional educational activities

Journal Club, slide sessions, M & M meetings and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Updates: The objectives of these sessions are:

- Develop clinical and communication;
- Build knowledge and skills relevant to the practice of clinical haematology through presentations and case discussions;
- Critically review the medical literature in order to develop the competences to find and helping them to put knowledge into practice;
- Able to discuss evidence-based medicine about haematological disorders.
Mandatory workshops and courses

The residents are required to attend and actively participate in the courses and workshops mandated by CPSP and those arranged by the PGME and Clinical Haematology faculty.

Assessment and evaluation

Continuous assessment and feedback between residents and the faculty is an essential feature of this training programme. Feedback is bi-directional, from resident to faculty and vice versa on a six-monthly and annual basis, taking into account resident performance, faculty performance, continuous assessment and in-house annual exam. Promotion to the next level is based on fulfilling established criteria.

Other highlights of the programme

Ample time for education and research activities

- Teaching of undergraduate medical students and post graduate residents
- Administrative opportunities

Positions available

One position of first year resident in clinical haematology is available on open merit basis from January 1st of each year.

Administrative set-up

Administrative set up like formation of departmental residency committee is in process

Full-time faculty

Prof. Mohammad Khurshid
MBBS; FRCP; FRCPath (Hematology); FCPS Pakistan
Chairman
Department of Oncology

Associate Professors

Dr Salman Naseem Adil
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan (Hematology)

Dr Mohammad Usman Shaikh
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan (Hematology)
Section Head, Clinical Hematology and bone marrow transplant

Dr Bushra Moiz
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan (Hematology)

Assistant Professor

Dr Munira Shabbir Moosajee
MBBS; MD Haematology/Oncology
Senior Instructor

Dr Natasha Bahadur Ali
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan (Hematology)