Dermatology

Dermatology is the important branch of medicine dealing with skin problem. It also contributes to significant physical and psychological disabilities. Disfigurement and discomfort associated with skin problems make them among the main reasons people seek medical care, and are the cause of approximately 24% of primary care visits.

Training resident physicians for the practice of dermatology is a vital part of the Aga Khan University and section of Dermatology's mission. The residency program combines the virtues of compassionate care and sound clinical judgment with the technological resources of a major research institution. It provides a challenging, dynamic and multifaceted experience in an atmosphere that promotes intellectual stimulation and academic growth. Our talented faculty is leaders in dermatologic education and research, as well as experts in the care of skin disorders. While completing rotations in our various areas, residents gain exposure to diverse clinical settings, philosophies and patient populations. AKU Dermatology, residents discover a caring and supportive environment where teaching and learning is a foremost priority.

We are fortunate to recruit outstanding residents to train at Aga Khan University. The program will develop relationships that reach beyond the three-year training period and seek residents who will proudly become part of our incomparable alumni group.

The Dermatology Residency Training Programme was approved by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan (CPSP) in 2012 and initiated in 2013 by the Dermatology division of the Department of Medicine.

The goal of the program is to provide trainees with the education and practical experience that will enable them to deliver superior specialized care to patients with diseases of the skin, hair, nails and mucous membranes. This experience will be varied, broad, progressive and systematic. The three-year program is designed to follow an initial training year in the fundamental clinical skills discipline. Training will include instruction in the pertinent basic sciences, all clinical areas that bear upon the specialty of dermatology, and training in research and teaching.

The programme prepares future dermatologists to provide broad-based health care and also contribute to the evolving knowledge base of the specialty of dermatology. In addition, it prepares them to assume leadership roles in developing and expanding Dermatology in universities, hospitals and communities across Pakistan.

Objective

At the end of residency, the resident will be able to;

- Acquire the ability of problem solving and to manage a wide range of dermatological diseases
- Perform thorough and comprehensive physical examination in an effective manner
- Document patient's history, physical examination and progress, clearly in the medical record in a coherent and precise manner.
- Formulate complete problem list from the initial data, and prepare an effective diagnostic and therapeutic plan.

Eligibility

- FCPS Part I or equivalent.
- Two years of training in internal medicine.
- Eligible for intermediate module, however strong preference will be given to those candidates who have already cleared their intermediate module.

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 dermatology faculty.
Duration of training

The Dermatology Residency is a three-year training programme.

Content

Mandatory Rotations

- Pathology
- Plastic surgery
- LASERS
- Leprosy centre

Educational activities

Journal Club, Histopathology sessions, Slide sessions, Clinical practice guidelines, Core lectures and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Updates: Research updates. These sessions are resident centered. The residents are required to participate in, lead the journal club and the core lectures and duly attend all CME sessions

Additional educational activities

Residents are required to attend all the academic activities of department of medicine like Grand round, morbidity and mortality meetings, research forum. Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG), Clinic pathological Conference (CPC) etc. The objectives of these sessions are:

- Develop lifelong learning skills and presentation skills;
- Critically appraise the literature in order to develop the skills to find and make sense of research evidence, helping them to put knowledge into practice;
- Exchange evidence-based ideas about the practice of dermatology with faculty.

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 Department of Medicine.

Assessment and evaluation

Continuous assessment and feedback between residents and the faculty is an essential feature of this training programme the evaluation forms are kept in the resident's permanent file. A resident may review that file any time he or she wishes. The verbal feedback regarding the evaluation by the faculty is also given. 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.

Positions available

One position of first year resident is available on open merit basis from January 1 of each year.
Administrative set-up

The residency is overseen by the Dr Sadia Masood, Assistant Professor and Residency Programme Director; Dr Saadia Tabassum, Assistant Professor and Residency Coordinator; the Chief Resident and the Academic Coordinator. The programme is assisted by Sara Ahmed, Program Officer.

Full-time faculty

Assistant Professors

Dr Sadia Masood
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan

Dr Saadia Tabassum
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan

Part-time faculty

Dr Nasima Kapadia
MBBS; FCPS Pakistan

Dr Azam Jah Samdani
MBBS; PHD UK