Neurosurgery

The residency training programme in neurosurgery was initiated in 1999 and is recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan (CPSP) for FCPS training.

Objectives

The programme aims to train neurosurgeons in all aspects of neurosurgery to the highest international standards.

Duration of training

We offer a structured training programme of four years duration that is monitored at several levels.

Eligibility

- MBBS or equivalent degree approved by the PM&DC
- One year internship with six months in Surgery and allied (preferably General Surgery) and six months in Medicine and allied disciplines
- FCPS Part I
- Two years of training in surgical disciplines, as required by CPSP (those who do not possess this training may be posted in AKU surgical rotation for two years before joining Neurosurgery)

Scope and content

Clinical training

There is supervised training in all areas of Neurosurgery. These include areas of neurovascular, spinal, paediatric, skull-base and neuro-oncology. In addition, the trainees deal with all neurosurgical emergencies including trauma, hydrocephalus and infections on a daily basis.

They are expected to become safe and competent practitioners in dealing with emergency situations in their first year and thereafter increase and expand their clinical skills.

The trainees get regular teaching in neuroradiology, neuropathology, neuro-opthalmology, neuroendocrinology and neurology.

Throughout the training, the stress is on developing critical thinking and evidence-based practice.

Incorporated in the programme is extramural training periods in Pakistan. Suitable residents could be sent abroad for sub-specialty training.

Educational content

The weekly conference schedule is as follows

- Monday Morning: Multi-disciplinary Neuro-Oncology Tumor Board
- Tuesday Morning: Neurosurgical topic presentation and tutorials
- Wednesday Morning: Surgical grand round; Afternoon: Neuroradiology conference
- Thursday Morning: Combined neurology, Neuro- surgical case presentations, followed by Neurosurgical grand round; Afternoon: Journal club or Neuropathology meeting
Friday Morning: Neurosurgical teaching, or Morbidity and mortality meeting

Evaluation

Written examinations are conducted every three months; six monthly individual interviews are held to get feedback from residents and to give them the evaluation of their performance by the faculty.

Research

There is a major emphasis on the trainees to do research in basic and clinical neurosciences under supervision of a faculty. Research projects are also carried out with other specialties.

On-call duties

The residents work on a one-in-four rota i.e. one night in four being spent on the premises. The weekends (Saturday and Sunday) are similarly worked.

Positions available

Two residents are accepted every year.

Administrative set-up

AKUH, Karachi is the only JCIA certified hospital in Pakistan offering European, US and Pakistani trained neurosurgeons, delivering service and education. The department comprises of six consultants - one professor, three assistant professors working full time, one geographical full timer and one part time consultant. We also have one position of an instructor for one year duration and usually the graduating chief resident gets this position to groom his surgical skills further in neurosurgical subspecialties.

This faculty, in combination with the strict quality control in AKUH Karachi, and a solid infrastructure of hospital-based practice, has raised the standard of neurosurgical practice and education.

Future plans

An expansion of clinical services to include stereo-tactic and functional neurosurgery and neuro-endoscopy is planned.

In addition, it is expected that the department will develop two fellowship programmes in two neurosurgical subspecialties soon.

Recently steps have been taken to expand and strengthen the research capacity of the department so as to make it a major Neurosurgical Research Centre.

Full-time Faculty

Professor

Dr Syed Ather Enam
MBBS Karachi; PhD US; FRCS Ireland; FRCS Canada; FACS USA
Diplomate American Board of Surgery
Assistant Professors

Dr Ehsan Bari
MBBS Punjab; FRCS Ireland
Section Head

Dr Gohar Javed
MBBS Karachi; FCPS Pakistan
Programme Director

Dr M Shahzad Shamim
MBBS Karachi, FCPS Pakistan, MCPS Pakistan MRCS, FACS, FRCS (SN),
European Certificate of Neurosurgical Societies
Programme Coordinator

Dr Aneela Darbar
MBBS Karachi, Diplomate American Board of Neurosurgery

Instructor

Dr Bilal Khan
Dr Saima Sheikh

Geographical Full Timer

Dr Rashid Jooma
MBBS Karachi; FRCS England; FRCS Edinburgh

Part-time Faculty

Lecturer

Dr Ahmed Ali Shah
MBBS Karachi; FRCS Edinburgh