



Welcome & Information Pack
for Trainees

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the specialist training of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM). This guide has been written to give you general information about the Academy and some useful and important information relating to your training and admission to HKAM Fellowship.

The Academy consists of 15 constituent Colleges through which the specialist training and examinations are conducted. The next six years will see you develop the necessary skills and knowledge in your chosen specialty required for becoming a Fellow of HKAM. Your College may have a number of important policies and guidance documents governing your training. Most of the information should be available on the College websites. You should keep an eye on the updates from time to time, as it will be your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the policies, rules and regulations of your College.

Prof. Raymond Liang
President
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine

May 2009

About the Academy

In recognition of the need for essential postgraduate medical education and training in Hong Kong, the Government appointed a Preparatory Committee in 1990 to prepare the formation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. In December of the same year, the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Foundation Fund was established to raise funds for the formation of the Academy.

The Preparatory Committee completed draft legislation and submitted it to the Executive and Legislative Councils in December 1991. The Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 419) was passed by the Legislative Council on 25 June 1992 and came into effect on 1 August 1992. An Inaugural Ceremony was held on 9 December 1993 during which over 2,000 Fellows were admitted. The Academy was formally established.

The Academy is a unique and independent institution with the statutory power to organize, monitor, assess and accredit all medical and dental specialist training and to oversee the provision of continuing medical education (CME). Since the implementation of Specialist Registration (SR) for medical practitioner in 1996 (SR for dentists started in 2006), the Academy has played a more active and significant role in the training, education and accreditation of specialists.

Objectives

- (a) to promote the advancement of the art and science of medicine;
- (b) to foster the development of -
 - (i) postgraduate medical education and continuing medical education;
 - (ii) the study and practice of medicine and its specialties; and
 - (iii) medical research;
- (c) to promote -
 - (i) the integrity of the medical profession;
 - (ii) ethical conduct in the practice of medicine and its specialties; and
 - (iii) the improvement of the standards of such practice through training programs approved by the Academy;
- (d) to promote the improvement of health care for Hong Kong citizens;
- (e) to foster a spirit of co-operation among medical practitioners; and
- (f) to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas in relation to all aspects of the art and science of medicine and matters connected with the medical profession.

Organizational structure

The Academy is managed by a Council consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Honorary Secretary, a Honorary Treasurer, an Editor, 15 College Presidents and 5 elected Council members. Committees such as Education Committee were set up under the Council to carry out the different functions for the Academy. Council and committees are supported by the Secretariat headed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Academy Colleges

Since its formal inauguration in 1993, the Academy has admitted 15 Academy Colleges covering around 60 specialties: -

Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine
College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine
Hong Kong College of Family Physicians
Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Hong Kong College of Ophthalmologists
Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Hong Kong College of Otorhinolaryngologists
Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
Hong Kong College of Pathologists
Hong Kong College of Physicians
Hong Kong College of Psychiatrists
Hong Kong College of Radiologists
College of Surgeons of Hong Kong

Academy Fellowship

Requirements

According to the HKAM Bylaw 2.4, Fellows shall have:

- (a) completed at least six years of supervised post-registration training in a manner approved by the Academy; and
- (b) where appropriate, passed a relevant intermediate examination accredited by the Academy; and
- (c) passed the exit examination or assessment conducted by the relevant College and accredited by the Academy.

Training structure

Training is divided into two parts - basic and higher. Individual Colleges will set their requirements for the trainings (please refer to training documents of individual Colleges). The total duration must be of at least six years. Training for some specialties may take longer.

College examination and appeal

Passing College examinations is a pre-requisite for Academy Fellowship. The Academy, based on the HKAM Ordinance, has required Colleges to have a review system for their examinations.

The Academy's Appeals Committee will consider appeals against a result in an examination conducted by an Academy College the passing of which is required for admission to Fellowship of the Academy. But no appeal may be instituted unless the appellant has requested the Academy College concerned to review the decision to be appealed against and the review at the College level has been concluded. And an appeal may be instituted only on

the ground that the process of an examination has been conducted improperly (such as procedural irregularity or bias), but not on matters of academic, clinical or professional assessment by the examiners.

Admission by nomination

According to HKAM Ordinance section 3(3)(a), the Academy will admit a member of its College to be an Fellow by recommendation. The Academy will not receive applications directly from trainees after they have completed the required training and passed the required examinations. Fellowship admission must be via nomination by an Academy College. An Academy Fellow must remain a member of his/her College after admission to the Academy.

Frequency of admission

Fellowship admission must be passed at a general meeting, after nominations are vetted by Membership Committee and approved by the Academy Council. The Academy admits Fellows twice a year, normally in June and December.

Specialist Registration

A Fellow of the Academy can apply to Medical Council of Hong Kong (or Dental Council of Hong Kong in the case of Fellows in Dental Surgery) to have his/her name included in the Specialist Register. According to the Medical Registration Ordinance and Dentists Registration Ordinance, only those whose names are included in the Specialist Register can quote themselves as specialist in a certain specialty.

Admission to Academy Fellows does not automatically enable one's name to be included in the specialist register of Medical Council or Dental Council. A Fellow must apply directly to Medical Council or Dental Council for SR status. The Academy's role is to certify whether an applicant has the standard required to be included in the SR.

Continuing Medical Education (CME)/Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

To maintain the Academy Fellowship and SR status, a Fellow must fulfill the CME/CPD requirements of the Academy, currently at 90 points per a 3-year cycle (no more than 75 points can be awarded for passive participation in a cycle).

Before you become a Fellow of the Academy, you may join the CME Programme of the Medical Council which is a voluntary programme for registered medical practitioners who are not taking CME programme for specialists (similar programme is offered by Dental Council for registered dentists).

Best Original Research by Trainees (BORT)

The Prize for BORT of HKAM recognizes excellence in research done by doctors who are in specialist training. The prize shall be awarded annually. However, the Academy shall only award the prize if it considers the research merits such recognition and thus reserves the right not to award the prize in any given year.

Applicants must be trainees of an Academy College at the time of application. Only the principal investigator of the research can apply. The application must be accompanied by a

declaration that the applicant is the principal investigator of the research. Trainees will receive notice from the Academy or via their hospitals when applications are invited.

The Academy Building

Situated at 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong island, the 10-storey building of the Academy occupies 4,300 m² of land area and 15,000 m² of gross floor area. Named after the Jockey Club, the Building contains a multipurpose grand hall, an auditorium, a lecture theatre, 2 function rooms, and 7 meeting rooms. There are also 13 examination rooms for College examinations. One level of the Academy has been earmarked for visitors. External examiners, visiting lecturers and conference speakers will be accommodated on this floor. Catering service is provided, including banquet up to 480 guests. Ample car parking space is provided at the basement level and nearby grounds for large-scale activities. The Dining Room on the 2/F provides lunch and dinner services for visitors.

The Academy Lounge

It is the objectives of the Academy to foster a spirit of co-operation among medical practitioners, and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas in relation to all aspects of the art and science of medicine and matters connected with the medical profession. To meet these objectives, the Academy has established an Academy Lounge on the 3/F of the Academy Building to provide facilities for its Fellows to relax in a harmonious setting to nurture the spirit of medical and dental friendship. It consists of a Fellowship garden, a fitness centre, sauna, and a small library. The Lounge is for use by Fellows and their guests only. Simple snacks, liquor and soft drinks are served at the Lounge.

Academy Publications

Hong Kong Medical Journal is the flagship publication of the Academy. Its first issue was published in March 1995. It was first printed as a quarterly journal, but subsequently changed to a bimonthly journal. In February 2000, the journal was indexed in *Index Medicus*/MEDLINE. The journal is also cited in *Biological Abstracts* and *Excerpta Medica*.

Academyfocus, first printed in 1994, is a quarterly newsletter of the Academy. Besides serving as forum for exchange among Fellows, it acts as a means of informing them of the latest news from the Academy.

HKAM Websites

Main Website

The Academy hosts its main website at www.hkam.org.hk where most information of the Academy can be searched.

HKMJ Website

The Hong Kong Medical Journal can be assessed in electronic form from the HKMJ website at www.hkmj.org

International Network for CME & CPD (iCMECPD)

In July 2001, Council resolved to establish a web-based system designed to provide members with access of e-Learning, online membership and CME profiles via the Internet. The e-Learning function will allow Fellows to further their CME online at times most convenient to them, thus reducing scheduling problems and restriction on venue capacity. Discussion

forum and chat rooms are also available to facilitate knowledge exchange among Fellows. Other features include an online CME profile allowing Fellows to check their current accumulated CME points, and online personal profile which allows Fellows to conveniently update their personal contacts via the Internet. The iCMECPD website can be assessed at www.icmecpd.hk. Doctors who are not Fellows of the Academy but have registered with HKAM as their Administrator for the Medical Council's CME Programme will also be given an account to use the network.

Useful Contacts

Organization	Email	Telephone	Website
HKAM	hkam@hkam.org.hk	28718888	www.hkam.org.hk
<i>College of:</i>			
Anaesthesiologists	office@hkca.edu.hk	2871 8833	www.hkca.edu.hk
Community Medicine	hkccm@hkam.org.hk	2871 8844	www.hkccm.org.hk
Dental Surgeons	info@cdshk.org	2871 8866	www.cdshk.org
Emergency Medicine	hkcem@hkam.org.hk	2871 8877	www.hkcem.org
Family Physicians	hkcfp@hkcfp.org.hk	2528 6618	www.hkcfp.org.hk
Obstetricians & Gynaecologists	admin@hkcof.org.hk	2871 8700	www.hkcof.org.hk
Ophthalmologists	cohk@netvigator.com	2761 9128	www.cohk.org.hk
Orthopaedic Surgeons	hkcos@hkcos.org.hk	2871 8722	www.hkcos.org.hk
Otorhinolaryngologists	info@hkcorl.org.hk	2871 8733	www.hkcorl.org.hk
Paediatricians	enquiry@paediatrician.org.hk	2871 8871	www.paediatrician.org.hk
Pathologists	hkcpath@hkam.org.hk	2871 8756	www.hkcpath.org
Physicians	enquiry@hkcp.org	2871 8766	www.hkcp.org
Psychiatrists	hkcpshy@hkam.org.hk	2871 8777	www.hkcpshy.org.hk
Radiologists	enquiries@hkcr.org	2871 8788	www.hkcr.org
Surgeons	info@cshk.org	2871 8799	www.cshk.org
MCHK	mchk@dh.gov.hk	2873 5131	www.mchk.org.hk
DCHK	dchk@dh.gov.hk	2873 5862	www.dchk.org.hk