

EDITORIAL

Medical (Clinical) Toxicology Education in Asia Pacific Region

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We previously showed that Medical Toxicology (MT) educational opportunities were very limited in Asia Pacific Region in 2008 (1). As a result, developing MT courses as an integrated part of the medical core curriculum across the continent was recommended. Modeling and marketing of existing MSc and PhD programs were also suggested (1). The current study is being designed to re-evaluate the status after 3 years.

A pre-designed questionnaire was sent out to the participants of the 10th Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) congress. A roundtable discussion was also held during the meeting on 14th Nov. 2011 to finalize the findings.

The results are summarized in Table 1. As can be seen, MT courses are available to health, medical, nursing and pharmacy students in 2011. These courses should further integrate to the core curricula across the region to maximize the care provided to poisoned patients. Provision of Distance Learning Program (DLP) can also be effective for capacity development. MSc and PhD degrees by course and research or research alone are other available options.

Some of the projects in terms of the management and study of natural toxins, organophosphate poisoning and drug abuse are unique in Asia Pacific. Designing centralized accreditation process to evaluate existing training projects or poison centers via APAMT is suggested. Multicentre projects should be stressed. Wikitox is likewise available.

Based on the previous experience of the panel, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), Commonwealth commission and Islamic Development Bank were suggested as potential sources for PhD multicentre grants.

An education task force will be formed by Chen-Chang Yang, Reza Afshari, Andrew Dawson and Rahmat Awang with the co-operation of all other scientists affiliated with APAMT.

The kind co-operation of the following scientists is acknowledged for providing information and volunteering to give further information for those who are interested in participating in these courses. Tackling missing data and addresses has probably contributed to increased information from 2008 to 2011.

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Table 1. Available Medical Toxicology educational opportunities in Asia Pacific region.

	Undergraduate Courses ¹	Postgraduate Courses ²	Residency ³	Availability ⁴
Australia	--	MSc, PhD,	E	S, O, G,
Bangladesh	M, N	--		S, G, F
Malaysia	H, M, P	MSc, MSc (R.), PhD, PhD (R.), F		S, O, G
New Zealand	M, N, P	MSc, PhD		O, G
India	M	-		-
Iran	H, M, N, P	MSc, PhD, PhD (R.)	I, E, F	S, O, F
Philippines	H, M, N	F		S, O, G
Seri Lanka	M,	D, MSc (R.), Msc (OL), PhD (R.),		O, F
Singapore	M, N	MSc (R.), PhD (R.), F		O, F
South Korea	M, N	MSc (R.), PhD (R.), F		O
Taiwan	M, T	MSc, PhD, F		D, S, O
Thailand		F	I, E, P	
Vietnam	H, M, N, P	MSc (R.), PhD, PhD (R.), F		S, O

(1) M: Medical, N: Nursing, E: Environmental, H: Health, P: Pharmacy, T: Medical Technology.

(2) MSc: Master of Sciences (needing both course and research), MSc (R): MSc by Research, MSc OL (on line course), PhD: Philosophy Doctorate, PhD (R.): PhD by Research, F: Fellowship, Diploma (D)

(3) I (Internal Medicine), E (Emergency Medicine), P (Pediatrics), F (Forensic Medicine).

(4) S: Short courses, O: Open to foreign applicants, G: Grants, F: Free of Charge Education.

Reference

1. Afshari R, Balali-Mood M, Dawson A, Gawarammana I, Temple W. Medical Toxicology Training in Asia Pacific Region. Proceeding of 8th Annual Congress of the Asia Pacific of Medical Toxicology, Beijing, China, 20-22 October 2009, pp 151 (OP17).