



Cardiff University

School of Medicine

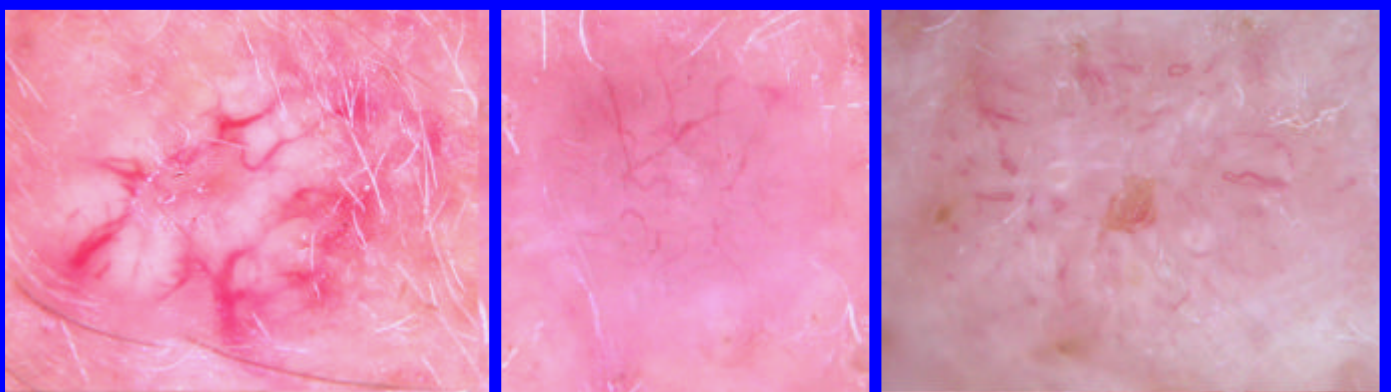
Dermatology Department



DIPLOMA IN PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY (DPD)

2009/10

www.dermatology.org.uk



DIPLOMA IN PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY 2009-10

The course leading to the Diploma in Practical Dermatology is designed specifically for general practitioners who wish to gain expertise in the practical management of patients with skin disease. This is a highly interactive online programme designed to equip the general practitioner with a sound knowledge of skin disease as it presents in practice and sufficient knowledge to competently and correctly manage the vast majority of problems relating to the skin at a primary care level.

Q: Who is the course designed for?

A: The course is open to all doctors who are currently working as general practitioners or clinical assistants in dermatology who wish to gain expertise in the practical management of patients with skin disease.

Q: Is the course run online?

A: Yes, the course is a highly interactive online programme run from our website: www.dermatology.org.uk allowing regular, rapid and efficient communication between colleagues, tutors and course administrators, reducing the isolation commonly associated with distance learning.

Q: What are the main aims of the programme?

A: To provide course participants with a basic understanding of primary care clinical dermatology and to enable GPs to successfully manage dermatological problems in patients presenting to their surgeries.

Q: How is the course delivered?

A: We have an area of our website completely dedicated to the Diploma in Practical Dermatology course. At the start of the course, participants are issued with a user name and password which allows them to access the secure area, available exclusively to course

administrators and course participants. Another important reason for using the website is to participate in discussion forums created by course participants on topics of academic or general interest. There is also the opportunity to communicate with other course members in online chat rooms.

Q: What does the in-course assessment consist of?

A: The in-course assessment consists of the following:

- Written work (four pieces throughout the course).
- Synchronised online tutorials with a dermatologist. Course members are informed of the discussion point one week before the meeting.
- Case histories: course participants are asked to select three patients from their own practice to be studied in detail and written up as case histories.
- Regular participation in online forum boards.
- Each semester there is one online group assignment (Med-e-Conference).

Q: What topic areas are covered during the course?

A: Module topic areas include the following:

- Assessment of Dermatological Skin, Acne, Atopic Eczema, Cryosurgery, The Elderly, Flexural



Dr David Jones, UK:

The opportunity to do the Cardiff Diploma in Practical Dermatology came at the right time. Its 'on-line', Web Based, interactive format was ideal - it meant studying from the comfort of home, with an international group of like minded colleagues whose enthusiasm for the subject mirrored that of the course organisers and the department at Cardiff. It also provided me with a structured learning package, something which I needed rather than the casual reading of articles that had been the mainstay of my post graduate education. One of the most informative and useful aspects of the course was the ability to interact with colleagues from all corners of the world, with a vast amount of experience from the anecdotal to the evidenced based. Computer skills, necessary to get the most out of the course, leave you not only a more skilful dermatologist at the end of the course but, also a competent IT 'geek'.

We lead and others follow...

Practical general practice dermatology is taught and not hospital based dermatology. The programme delivers high level dermatological teaching covering all subject areas of interest to those in general practice. 30 weekly modules have been written by leading UK dermatologists and provide up to date clinical information with relevant treatment and referral guidelines for the common skin conditions seen in practice.

Rashes, The Infant Skin, Leg Ulcers, Pigmentary Disorders, Bullous Disorders, Psoriasis, Sex and the Skin, Skin Surgery, Systemic Disease and the Skin, Urticaria, HIV and the Skin, Contact Dermatitis, Drug Eruptions, Facial Rashes, Hair Problems, Nail Problems, Insects and the Skin, The Pregnant Patient, Infections of the Skin, Skin Cancer - Pigmented Lesions and Melanoma, Skin Cancer - Non-Melanoma, Sun and the Skin, Photodermatoses, Topical Therapy, Tropical Skin Disease & Vasculitis.

Q: What are the entry requirements for the course?

A: The course is open to all doctors who are currently working as general practitioners or clinical assistants in dermatology. Course participants must see dermatology patients in their work place or be able to show how they will follow up patients, in order to complete the case histories. No previous specific experience or training in dermatology is necessary. Good English language skills are essential to undertake the course.

Q: What is the total cost of the course?

A: The fee for each semester of the course commencing in September 2009 will be £1,165; the total course fee is therefore £3,495 (subject to final confirmation). Once a doctor is accepted on the course, the first semester fee (one third of the total fees) is then payable immediately to confirm acceptance of the place on the course. The full fee for each subsequent semester must be paid before the start of each semester.

Q: Are there any other charges?

A: For non UK students there is an optional pre-exam course (held in the UK) for which there is a small charge. International students are given the option of taking the final year examination in Hong Kong for which there is an additional extra cost.

Q: I have gained sponsorship to fund the cost of the course, is this acceptable?

A: Yes. We will however, require an official letter from the sponsor to confirm this funding arrangement.

Q: What support is there during the course from the department?

A: The team includes Professor Andrew Finlay (Head of Department), Dr Maria Gonzalez (Reader in Dermatology and Postgraduate Courses Director), Helen Pugsley, (Lecturer and DPD Course Director), two Learning Technologists and five Postgraduate Course Co-ordinators. A team of over 150 tutors and examiners based around the world provide expertise in assessing and providing feedback concerning the regular assessed work.

Q: What accreditation does the diploma course hold?

A: The DPD course holds the following accreditation:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Quality Assurance and Continuing Professional Development Program has approved this Higher Education program for the 2008-10 triennium, Total 90 Category 1 points.

It is accredited by: the "Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP) 50 CME point (category 5.4) and 10 CPD points (category 3.14) for the 2008-09 course. It is also accredited by the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) 50 points 2008/9 course.

Accredited by the Royal College of General Practitioners Higher Professional Development Panel.

In addition the DPD is also quotable in Hong Kong and Singapore. The course is regarded as the course of choice for GPs with an interest in dermatology.

“Since we started the DPD course in 1989 it has improved beyond all recognition - today’s students benefit from 19 years heritage of experience. The DPD’s new format provides a fantastic, supportive, interactive and stimulating learning experience. Within weeks of starting the course doctors notice benefits in their daily patient care.”

- Professor Andrew Finlay, Head of Department for Dermatology, School of Medicine, Cardiff University.



Q: Where are the final year examinations held?

A: The final year examinations are held in Cardiff (Wales, UK). For International students, there is an option to take the final exam in Hong Kong for a fee. The final year examinations are held at the end of June.

Q: How many study meetings are held during the year?

A: For UK based students, there are two one day intensive study meetings held in major teaching centres across the UK. For international students there is a two day intensive study meeting held in Hong Kong (during the first semester).

Q: How long has the course been running for?

A: The programme has been running for nearly 20 years. It delivers high level dermatological teaching covering all subject areas of interest to those in General Practice via a user-friendly e-learning platform.

Q: When does the next course start?

A: The next academic year will start on the **7th September 2009** and is open to all general practitioners.

Q: What is the duration of the course?

A: The course runs from September to the following June (one academic year). This consists of three semesters.

Q: When is the closing date for applications?

A: We recommend that you apply as early as possible before the start date of the course. Demand for places is always high so apply early to avoid disappointment.

Q: How much study time is required to successfully complete the course?

A: You will normally need to spend about 10 hours each week studying for the course.

Q: What is the Dermatology Continuing Professional Development Society?

A: We have recently established the Dermatology Continuing Professional Development Society which all Diploma in Practical Dermatology holders are eligible to join. Members have access to a professional international online community and membership includes registration at the annual society meeting. There are currently 3,200 diploma holders signed up to the society.



Dr Ewen McPhee, Australia:

The Diploma in Practical Dermatology offered me an opportunity to enhance the skill set I have in dermatology. Dermatology accounts for a significant proportion of GP consultations, with patients having to travel a thousand kilometres to see a Specialist otherwise. Being an isolated rural General Practitioner in Australia I chose the course because of its reputation for excellence in delivery of online educational content. I remember being able to share experiences with doctors from all points of the globe and having the opportunity to appreciate the different medical and social environments that General Practitioners work in. My confidence in managing common dermatological problems has improved immeasurably.

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You can also apply online via the University's new online application service. It can be accessed via:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/general/applyonline/medicpgt.html>



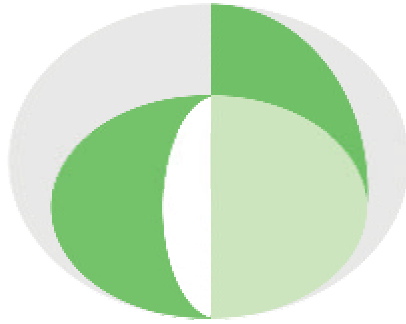
To discuss the Diploma in Practical Dermatology (DPD) further, please contact:

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