DIPLOMA COURSE IN CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND TRAVELER’S HEALTH

The Diploma Course program prepares health professionals with clinical backgrounds to deal with the important public health problems of tropical developing countries. This program prepares physicians to define the epidemiologic, biologic and social aspects of tropical diseases; it also prepares the participants to evaluate and plan disease prevention and control programs. The Diploma course is a 4 month program for health care professionals intended to prepare them for the Certification Exam in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health offered every other year by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTM&H).

PROGRAM COMPETENCIES

- Students should be able to describe the clinical aspects of the major tropical infectious diseases, including their descriptive epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnostic methods, and treatment. Tropical infectious diseases include parasitic, bacterial, mycobacterial, viral, fungal, rickettsial, and HIV/AIDS-related infections. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6330, TRMD 6360, TRMD 6050, TRMD 6070
- Students should be able to demonstrate the clinical approach to specific disease syndromes commonly seen in the tropics, such as fever, hepatosplenomegaly, and altered sensorium. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6360
- Students should be able to describe the diagnosis and management of nutritional deficiencies in both children and adults. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6360
- Students should be able to perform routine diagnostic tests for tropical diseases using a microscope, including hematologic, bacteriologic, and parasitologic studies. Competence must be demonstrated with hands-on laboratory experiences. They should also be familiar with appropriate use of specialized diagnostic tests, including culture techniques, antigen detection tests, serologic tests, and clinically relevant molecular techniques. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6340, TRMD 6090
- Students should be able to diagnose and treat non-infectious diseases or conditions common in the tropics, including food and venomous creature intoxications, heat disorders, high-altitude illness, and tropical dermatological problems. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6360
- Students should be able to describe the basics of pretravel counseling and disease prevention, including immunizations, malaria prophylaxis, and diarrhea management. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6360
- Students should specify the appropriate use of radiologic studies in the management of tropical diseases, including plain X-rays and more sophisticated techniques (ultrasound, CT, MRI, contrast studies). Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6360
- Students should be able to train and supervise paramedical personnel such as nurse practitioners and health promoters in the management of common tropical disease syndromes, identification of ill or at-risk children through neonatal examination and growth monitoring, basic follow-up of pregnant women with criteria for referral, and immunization programs. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6310, TRMD 6350
- Students should define and be able to describe the principles of infectious disease transmission in communities, as well as strategies for outbreak control at the community and regional level. Pertinent courses/activities: TRMD 6320 or 6350