



NATIONAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF NIGERIA

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HANDBOOK FOR DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREE PROGRAMME

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Introduction

The National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria was set up by Decree No. 67 of 1979 (Now Cap N59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004) to train, examine, and award Degrees, Certificates, and Diplomas in all areas of postgraduate Medicine, Surgery, and Dentistry. It was set up with Faculties for the different Specialties and a Senate with powers to determine and establish additional Faculties. The College has concentrated on producing specialists in medical and dental specialties for service, teaching, and research for more than 50 years. The overriding philosophy of the College has been to provide continuing postgraduate medical training and skills to medical doctors in Nigeria. The specialists so produced are saddled with two main responsibilities which include the provision of specialist medical care for Nigerians in all the secondary and tertiary health institutions in the country and training the next generation of doctors as medical teachers in all the medical schools in Nigeria.

Ensuing from the activities of the College over the decades, the health system of the country and beyond has been strengthened especially through the production of high-quality personnel to manage the system and the conduct of global standard research which has contributed to the practice of evidence-based decision making in the health system.

In the quest to further consolidate the achievement of the College and in response to the needs of medical education and professionals in the academic communities, the College developed and obtained approval from the Nigerian University Commission, an affiliate of the Ministry of Education, to conduct training that will culminate in the award of doctorates in the various subspecialties of medical practice. This is in line with the enabling Law, Section 7 (b) that empowers the College to award degrees, diplomas, and such other qualifications as may be prescribed in connection with examinations held. The College, therefore, has the approval to train professionals and award doctorate

degrees in the sixteen faculties of the College.

The doctorate degree, Doctor of Medicine (MD), is a pre-fellowship award equivalent to a Ph.D. award in the university setting and it is only open to medical doctors who are either undergoing residency training or those that have completed their training. It is worth noting that the MD degree programme is not a substitute for the Fellowship programme of the College.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the MD programme is to develop highly knowledgeable and skilled manpower for teaching and research for the public, private, and international organizations in the field of medicine and related sciences.

Objectives

The objectives of the programme are to:

- a) Provide interested individuals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to function effectively as teachers, researchers, and professionals in the health and health-related industry.
- b) Ensure the acquisition of teaching, research, and skills in the practice of medicine are of global best practice.
- c) Produce graduates who are capable of applying scientific knowledge and principles to solve human and environmental health problems.
- d) Produce medical scientists who are socially responsible and mindful of accepted norms and ethics in the practice of medicine nationally and internationally.

Pathways to the programme

The programme was designed to have three tracks with varying eligibility criteria:

1. MD by Publication: This is available to Fellows of the National Postgraduate Medical College or our Sister Colleges. Prospective candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

- i. Register a Research proposal acceptable to the College under a specific theme in a specialized field of Medicine or Dentistry.
- ii. Conduct prospective Research and publish 5 manuscripts in PUBMED-indexed journals. Three (3) of the publications must be in journals with an impact factor of not less than 1.
- iii. The 5 publications will then be combined under the theme approved in the Research proposal with an introduction and a conclusion into the Thesis.
- iv. The Thesis will then be defended before a panel of Examiners as in the other categories.
- v. The minimum duration of the programme is four (4) semesters of dedicated research work while the maximum duration is nine (9) semesters.

2. MD by Thesis: This track is available to interested Fellows of both the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria or Fellows of other equivalent sister Colleges. Applicants in this track will be expected to submit a compact form signed by the intended Supervisor, a concept note of about 500 words describing the statement of intent, listing the title, and a brief justification for the intended research to the Faculty for approval. On admission, the candidate is expected to write a detailed research proposal in line with the approved concept note and proceed to thesis writing after approval of the proposal by the Faculty. An approved ethical clearance from the institution must be submitted along with the research proposal. The minimum duration of the programme is four (4) semesters of dedicated research work while the maximum duration is nine (9) semesters. During the training, a candidate is expected to go through the College's Medical Education online Course.

3. MD by Coursework and Thesis: the track is available to Associate Fellows of the College i.e. resident doctors undergoing residency training with the College in any of the accredited training institutions. The postings and short courses stipulated for residency training towards the award of fellowship will be considered as the coursework aspect of this track. Hence, a candidate is expected to partake in all College update courses (Advanced Research Methodology, Advanced Health Resources Management). In addition, the candidate has to attend a Medical Education short course and one faculty-based course. The applicants in this track should develop a concept note on the proposed topic which will be approved by the Faculty prior to proceeding to proposal writing. A compact form signed with the intended Supervisor(s) must also be submitted. The thesis is expected to be written in line with the approved proposal. Applicants in this track if successful at the MD examination will NOT write a dissertation for the award of Fellowship. Candidates are expected to attempt and pass the MD Examination at least 6 months prior to sitting for the Fellowship examination.

Frequency of enrolment

Enrolment for the programme will be on a bi-annual basis.

Admission Procedure

- i. The application is strictly electronic via the NPMCN eportal.
- ii. The application form will be accessible after payment of the prescribed application fee via Remita; the link for the payment is available on the portal after creating an account.
- iii. In addition to filling out the application form online, candidates applying for MD by Thesis and MD by Coursework and thesis must upload a 500-word concept note which gives an overview of the proposed project for the programme. Candidates are also expected to upload a compact form duly signed by the candidate and the proposed supervisor(s).

- iv. Only completed applications with the required documents will be considered for admission into the programme.

Eligibility criteria to be a Supervisor

The supervisor must be a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria or other equivalent sister Colleges who is a Professor (not an associate professor) or a Fellow with either Ph.D. or MD degree.

Note: Supervisors are expected to handle a maximum of 5 MD theses (at any point in time). This is irrespective of other Part 2 Dissertations being supervised.

Eligibility to be an Examiner

The Examiner for MD Programme must be a Fellow with a Ph.D. or MD degree. A Professor who is not an MD holder can also be nominated as an examiner

Institutional Eligibility

All health institutions with full accreditation obtained from the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria to train Part 2 resident doctors and have at least one supervisor as a full-time staff are eligible to train residents for the MD programme. The MD by thesis candidates working in other unaccredited institutions could however apply, but the candidate will apply under accredited training institutions. Non-University tertiary training institutions (Mono-specialist hospitals and Federal Medical Centres) MUST have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an accredited University Teaching Hospital.

Eligibility criteria to apply for an examination

1. MD by Coursework and Thesis

- Applicant must have spent a minimum of 6 semesters after the offer of admission into the Programme.
- Applicant must complete all the College courses (Advanced Research Methodology, Advanced Health Resources Management, and Medical Education) and one Faculty based course.
- The applicant must present at three Faculty seminars prior to the examination:
 - I. 2 credits – Proposal presentation
 - ii. 2 credits – Field experience and results
 - iii. 2 credits – Full thesis presentation before exam.

2. MD by Thesis

- Applicant must have spent a minimum of 4 semesters after the offer of admission into the Programme.
- Applicant must attend Medical Education Course.
- The applicant must present at three Faculty seminars as stated under the section for MD by Coursework and Thesis prior to the examination.

Constitution of Panel for Faculty Seminars

The MD Coordinator in the zone of the candidate will be the assessor of the seminar presentation in the absence of which the Faculty Chair will be the assessor. The panel should also comprise:

- Supervisor
- Head of Department in the training institution
- College appointed coordinator for the training institution
- Host department may appoint external examiner

Host faculty may appoint observer.

Fee Structure for Applicants

- All applicants are to pay a non-refundable application fee of fifty thousand naira (~~₦~~50,000)
- The yearly tuition fee for MD by coursework and thesis, and MD by thesis is one hundred and fifty thousand naira (~~₦~~150,000).
- The examination fee for MD by coursework and thesis, and MD by thesis is Two hundred thousand naira (~~₦~~200,000).
- MD by publication applicant who is a Fellow of National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria is to pay four hundred and fifty thousand naira (~~₦~~450,000) while Fellows of other Colleges will pay the equivalent of \$2,500 upon notification of the success of their application.

Note: The fee is subject to review by the college when the need arises.

Requirements for examination application

- Completed thesis duly signed by the Supervisor(s)
- Evidence of complete and up-to-date payment of tuition fee including that of the year of application and or intended examination for MD by Thesis and MD by Thesis and Coursework.
- Evidence of payment for the examination.
- Certificate of participation in the required course(s).
- Evidence of presentation of a Faculty seminar.

Composition of the MD thesis

A word count of 50,000 to 100,000 (from abstract to discussion) should be structured as follows:

Structured Abstract of 250-350 containing (Background, Aims, Methodology, Results, and Conclusion)

Introduction (including justification, objectives, etc.) to make up 5-

10% of the entire work

Exhaustive and Critical Literature Review particularly of Nigerian and Regional studies should constitute 30-40% of the total work.

Methodology (Subjects, centers, methods, etc) will constitute 10-15% of the total work.

Results appropriately presented should constitute 10-20% of the total work.

Discussion of the results in relationship with existing knowledge should constitute 20-25% of the total work

Appropriate Conclusion and Recommendations based on the candidate's work Referencing shall be by the Vancouver style.

Format of Dissertation

A. Preliminary Pages

- i. Title Page
- ii. Declaration
- iii. Certification/Attestation
- iv. Acknowledgments
- v. Dedication
- vi. Table of Contents
- vii. List of Tables
- viii. List of Figures
- ix. List of Abbreviations
- x. Abstract

N.B: Above to be in Roman Figures

B. Body of the Work

Chapter One

Introduction and Justification

Research Question(s)
Test of Hypotheses –Null and Alternate
Aim and Objectives
Chapter Two
Literature Review
Chapter Three
Subjects (Materials), Methods and Data analysis
Chapter Four
Results
Chapter Five
Discussion
Conclusion
Limitations
Recommendation
Contribution of chosen research to knowledge
Lines of future study (if any)
N.B: Above to be in Arabic Numerals

C. References

D. Appendixes

Ethical Clearance
Permission where needed
Consent Form
Questionnaire

Procedures for conducting an exam

Format of Thesis for MD by Publication

A. Preliminary Pages

- i. Title Page
- ii. Declaration
- iii. Certification/Attestation
- iv. Acknowledgments
- v. Dedication
- vi. Table of Contents

- vii. List of Tables
- viii. List of Figures
- ix. List of Abbreviations
- x. Abstract

N.B: Above to be in Roman Figures

B. Body of the Work

Chapter One

- Introduction and Justification
- Research Question(s)
- Test of Hypotheses - Null and Alternate
- Aim and Objectives

Chapter Two

- Literature Review

Chapter Three

- First Publication

Chapter Four

- Second Publication

Chapter Five

- Third Publication

Chapter Six

- Fourth Publication

Chapter Seven

- Fifth Publication

Chapter Eight

- General Discussion
- Conclusion
- General Limitations (if any)
- Recommendations (if any)

C. Appendixes

- Ethical Clearance
- Permission where needed Consent Form
- Questionnaire

a. Constitution of the examination panel

The Faculty Chairman/Secretary will nominate two Examiners per candidate and a Faculty representative while the MD Committee in conjunction with the College will nominate an MD /College representative who will join the Examiners to form a panel for the examination. The role of Faculty and College representatives is mainly for quality assurance and to ensure due diligence during the examination. The Faculty and College representatives are expected to participate in examining the candidate, however, they will not be involved in the grading of candidates. The supervisor of the candidate is allowed to be present during the dissertation defense.

b. Duration of exam

The defense of a thesis is expected to be for a minimum of 60 minutes but must not exceed 90 minutes.

c. Mode of presentation during the examination

The candidate is expected to showcase his/her project via oral presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint. The candidate will present the thesis uninterrupted in the first 30 minutes while the remaining 30-60minutes will be for feedback and questions from the panel.

Assessment of applications for MD by Publications

The assessment of candidates applying for MD via publication track will be based on the review of applications using the preset eligibility criteria. The applications will be reviewed by the Doctor of Medicine Programme Board. All or none principle will be applied in the review of applications. i.e., failure of an applicant to meet up with one of the preset criteria renders the applicant ineligible for the award.

Rubric for MD by coursework and Thesis and MD by thesis candidates' assessment

The thesis of an applicant will be shared with the two examiners nominated by the Faculty for their evaluation using a proforma (Rubric) developed by the College. The checklist specifies the maximum attainable score for each section of the dissertation. The overall maximum attainable score for the evaluation before a defense is seventy percent (70%) while the defense of the dissertation constitutes the remaining 30% of the score. Proformas for the assessment of a thesis and thesis defense are shown in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively

Table 1: Proforma for Dissertation Assessment



National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria Rubric for Assessment of MD Thesis

Research Title	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Accurate, Appropriate, Concise, Descriptive, Direct, Not Misleading	Absence of 4 components	Lacks 3 components	Lacks 2 components	Lacks 1 component	All components are present	5
Chapter 1: Introduction	Context, Rationale, Purpose, research questions/hypothesis, significance, indications are not provided. No clear definition of terms. Writing is not clear, concise, comprehensive and does not flow well. Poor use of proper grammar and spelling errors	Inadequate statement of context/supporting rationale for proposed study, statement of purpose, poor definition of terms. Poor statement of research questions/hypothesis, significance and limitations are adequate	Adequate statement of context/supporting rationale for proposed study, statement of purpose, clear purpose/statement of terms, list of research questions/hypothesis, significance and limitations are adequate	There is clear context/supporting rationale for proposed study, clear statement of purpose, comprehensive clear purpose/statement of terms, list of research questions/hypothesis, significance, and limitations	Provides clear context supporting rationale for proposed study, clear statement of purpose, comprehensive clear purpose/statement of terms, list of research questions/hypothesis, significance, and limitations clearly stated. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise and comprehensive. Uses proper grammar and spelling; clear transitions	5
Chapter 2: Critical Evaluation of Literature and Studies	Does not provide empirical research supporting topic. Synthesis and organization based on limited information. Limited or no connection with the thesis question. No mention of diversity (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Writing is not clear, concise, comprehensive, and does not flow well. Grammatical and spelling errors	The literature review is inadequate, and little mention of empirical sources and organization of the literature, there is a clear link to the thesis question. Diversity across groups is included (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Writing is not clear, concise, comprehensive, nor does it use proper transitions. Uses proper grammar and spelling	Adequate review of the literature and empirical sources. Good critique and organization of the literature, there is a clear link to the thesis question. Diversity across groups is included (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Writing is adequate and flows well. Is clear, concise and comprehensive. Uses proper grammar and spelling	Good review of relevant empirical sources, synthesis and organization of literature that is well linked to the thesis question. Diversity is mentioned but not specified (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Good writing skills; writing flows well, is clear and comprehensive.	Thorough review of relevant empirical sources, synthesis and organization of literature that is well linked to the thesis question. Specific attention to diversity issues pertaining to the topic (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language, etc.). Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise and comprehensive. Completely free of grammar and spelling errors	10
Chapter 6: Methodology	Does not provide statement of research design, sample/instruments, and/or procedures. Procedures are stated but with large degree of vagueness. Minimal or no mention of diversity (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Protocol is not stated. Statistics are inadequate to research question. Writing	Provides poor statement of research design, sample/instruments, analysis. Procedures are stated but with large degree of vagueness. Minimal or no mention of diversity (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.). Protocol is not comprehensive or vague, provides only	Provides adequate statement of research design, sample/instruments, analysis. Procedures with some degree of vagueness. Mention of diversity (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language etc.), but not clearly linked to the topic. Protocol is adequate but not	Provides good statement of research design, sample/instruments, analysis, and procedures with little degree of vagueness. Some attention to diversity issues pertaining to topic (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language, etc.). Protocol is clear and comprehensive. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise,	Provides clear and descriptive statement of research design, sample, instruments, analysis, and procedures pertaining to diversity issues. Specific attention to diversity issues pertaining to topic (e.g., gender, culture, religion, language, etc.). Protocol is clear and comprehensive. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise,	15



National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria Rubric for Assessment of MD Thesis

	does not flow , grammar and spelling errors	Reporting of results is not related to research question and hypothesis. Minimal to no use of diagrams and tables. Poor writing that may not flow well, be clear, concise, comprehensive grammatic and spelling errors	descriptive statistics. Writing is generally poor and does not flow well: is not clear, concise, comprehensive nor does it use proper transitions. Uses proper grammar and spelling.	Reporting of results is clearly related to research question and hypothesis. Adequate diagrams and tables. Adequate to poor writing that may not flow well, be clear, concise neither comprehensive no grammatic and spelling.	Reporting of results that are clearly related to research question and hypothesis. Adequate diagrams and tables. Adequate writing that flows well: clear, concise, comprehensive, and use proper grammar and spelling.	comprehensive. Appropriate analysis. Adequate writing that flows well: clear, concise, and comprehensive. Uses proper grammar and spelling.	Descriptive reporting of results that are clearly related to research question and hypothesis. Excellent use of diagrams and tables. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise, comprehensive. No grammatic and spelling.	Protocol is adequate. Appropriate and good analysis. Good writing that flows well: clear, concise, comprehensive. Minimal spelling errors	Descriptive reporting of results that are clearly related to research question and hypothesis. Excellent use of diagrams and tables. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise, comprehensive. No grammatic and spelling.	comprehensive. No grammar and spelling errors
Chapter 4 Data Presentation and Results										15
Discussions /Summary, Recommendation and Conclusion	Fails to provide adequate summary, recommendations and conclusions. Poor grammar		Poor summary, critic, and recommendations for implementation and further research. Grammar is appropriate	Adequate summary, critic, and recommendations for implementation and further research. Grammar is appropriate	Adequate summary, critic, and recommendations for implementation and further research. Well written: No grammatical errors	Good summary, critic, and recommendations for implementation and further research. Well written: No grammatical errors	Sophisticated summary, critical recommendations for implementation and further research. Exemplary writing that flows well: clear, concise and comprehensive. No spelling errors			10
References Vancouver style & format	Minimal or no conformation to Vancouver format / style		Many substantial consistent errors	Some minor consistent errors	Few consistent errors	Consistent Exemplary conformation with the Vancouver style throughout the paper				5
Ethical considerations	Little or no application of standards. Failed to submit gain for conduct of research study		Substantial misapplication of ethical & legal standards. Submit appropriate form for conduct of research study	Some misapplication of ethical or legal standards. Submit adequate request for conduct of research study	Adequate application of all ethical & legal standards. Submit proper request for conduct of research study.	Exemplary application of ethical & legal standards. Submit exemplary request for conduct of research study				5
Total score/70										

Summary of decision:

- i. Acceptable as presented _____
- ii. Acceptable with minor editorial corrections _____
- iii. Acceptable with major corrections _____
- iv. Not Accepted _____

Table 2: Proforma for Oral Examination Assessment

TITLE OF PRESENTATION: NAME OF CANDIDATE: REGISTRATION NUMBER:							
Grading		Excellent	V. Good	Good / Average	Poor	V. Poor	Candidate's Score per row
Personality	Appearance-dressing appropriate and well groomed	2.5	2	1.5	1	0.5	
Communication /composure	Nervous, ill-prepared, distractible mannerisms	-	-	-		0.5	
	At ease with a flawless introduction to the topic	1	0.8	0.6	0.4	-	
	Speech-audible and inexpressive	1.5	1.2	1	0.8	0.5	
	Language-simple, clear, fluent, and in-depth information	2	1.5	1	0.8	0.5	
Delivery	Mastery of content-clear,concise, adequate, complete	3.5	3	2.5	2	1	
	The sequence of information-appropriate and orderly	2	1.5	1	0.8	0.5	
	The information was relevant and useful	2	1.5	1	0.8	0.5	
Question and Answer	Satisfactorily address ed questions from the audience	15	12.5	10	7.5	5	
Total/30							
Overall Assessments MAXIMUM SCORE	Pre-oral + oral	100	SCORE OBTAINED _____				

PASS: A = 80 to 100 B = 70 to 79 C = 60 to 69 D = 50 to 59 E = < 50 FAIL (TO REPEAT

Table 3: Rubric for Seminar Assessment

National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria

Grading performance at Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree Research Seminars

S No		Max Score	Earned Score
1	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Content</u></p> <p>Excellent: Complete; no omissions of importance Very good: Few omissions of minor importance Good: Fairly complete: one omission of major importance Below average: Incomplete; more than one omission of major importance Poor: Numerous omissions of major importance</p>	20 16 12 08 04	
2	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mastery of subject</u></p> <p>Excellent: Handled all major and all minor issues expertly Very good: Handled all major and most minor issues expertly Good: Handled most major and most minor issues expertly Below average: Uncertain about many major issues Poor: Unsure about most issues</p>	20 16 12 08 04	
3	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Quality of delivery</u></p> <p>Excellent: Masterful delivery of all major and minor details Very good: All major details and most minor details clearly delivered Good: Most major details and most minor details clearly delivered Below average: Many major details poorly delivered Poor: Most details not clearly delivered</p>	20 16 12 08 04	
4	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Quality of slides</u></p> <p>Excellent: clear content, contents of slides well spaced Very good: clear content, contents of slides mostly well spaced Good: mostly clear content, contents of slides mostly crowded Below average: generally unclear content, many crowded slides Poor: generally unclear contents, generally crowded slides</p>	10 08 06 04 02	
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Response to questions</u></p> <p>Excellent: Handled all major and all minor questions expertly Very good: Handled all major and most minor questions expertly Good: Handled most major and most minor questions expertly Below average: Uncertain about many major questions Poor: Unsure about most questions</p>	10 08 06 04 02	
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Communication</u></p> <p>Excellent: Effective communication; very clear and fluent expressions Very good: Effective communication; negligible fluency challenges Good: Effective communication; noticeable fluency challenges Below average: Poor communication; obvious lack of lucidity or fluency Poor: Poor communication; profound lack of lucidity or fluency</p>	10 08 06 04 02	
7	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Composure</u></p> <p>Excellent: Very composed and self-assured Very good: Very occasional of composure challenges Good: Composed with frequent composure Below average: Obvious lack of composure Poor: Nervous, ill-prepared, distractive mannerisms</p>	10 08 06 04 02	
Total Max score		100	

PASS: A = 80 to 100 B = 70 to 78 C = 60 to 68

FAIL (TO REPEAT PRESENTATION): D = 50 to 58 E = < 50

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a medical doctor not under residency (Medical Officer) training apply?

Response: No, the MD degree is only open to resident doctors and Fellows of the College or equivalent sister colleges

2. Can a Fellow from one Faculty apply for an MD degree in another Faculty?

Response: No, a Fellow or resident doctor can only apply for an MD degree in the same faculty of specialization chosen during residency training

3. Can a resident doctor who did not sit for the Part 1 exam of the College apply for the MD Programme?

Response: No! The applicant has to have passed the Part one fellowship examination.

4. How do I select supervisors?

Response: Any Fellow who has attained the status of a Professor or obtained the MD degree could supervise candidates. A list of Fellows that are eligible to supervise candidates and their institutions can be accessed on the MD website and this may not be exhaustive.

5. What is the qualification of the Faculty representative in the defense of a dissertation?

Response: A Fellow with either a Ph.D./MD degree will be nominated by the candidate's Faculty to monitor the quality of the exam.

6. How long does it take to get feedback from the College on the MD application Response: Candidates will get feedback on the concept notes submitted within two weeks of submission while the feedback on the proposal will be within four weeks after submission of the document.

7. How many Supervisors must a candidate have to be eligible for the programme?

A minimum of one eligible supervisor in the area of study is sufficient.

8. Question: Why can't the MD examination be conducted on another date, rather than doing it at the same time as the Fellowship examinations?

Response: This may be considered in the nearest future. However, for logistic reasons and convenience the best option, for now, is to do the MD Examination along with the Fellowship Examination.

9. Question: Where should residents seek additional Supervisors for the MD Programme?

Response: Residents can seek supervisors from anywhere in the world if none is available in their training centres, provided such supervisors have the requisite qualifications approved by the College. Similarly, candidates can go to any institution for laboratory work if facilities in his/her/their centre are inadequate, provided such other places can sustain the methodology of the approved proposals.

10. Question: What happens when a Concept Note is rejected?

Response: If the concept note is rejected, candidates that have registered with unapproved concept notes will be allowed to submit another concept note to continue without paying another application fee.

11. Question: What is required for the Concept Note?

Response: A one-page note with a maximum of 500 words is required, giving an overview of the proposed study. It is expected to comprise a brief introduction, the objectives of the study, the justification and methods that will be adopted

12. Question: Which Training Institution is allowed to participate in MD training?

Response: Any training institution with full accreditation for the Part 2 Fellowship programme with at least one supervisor is allowed to participate in MD training. provided the institution has at least a supervisor who is a Professor or MD holder in the relevant Faculty.

13. Is MD a stand-alone degree? If yes, can a resident on this basis decide not to complete the programme?

Response: Yes, MD is a stand-alone degree. Therefore a candidate with MD degree may decide not to complete the Fellowship Programme

14. Can a candidate who is referred in the MD thesis apply for the next Fellowship examination?

No. A candidate on MD by Coursework and Thesis must pass the MD Examination before he/she can apply for the Fellowship Exam.

15. Can a professor, a fellow of the College who has no MD, examine an MD candidate?

The Examiner for MD Programme must be a Fellow with a Ph.D. or MD degree. A Professor who is not an MD holder can also be nominated as an examiner.