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Courses in Clinical Tropical Medicine, Worldwide Learning

Studying tropical medicine in different continents is possible since 1998 for master students within the TropEd network and for general practitioners in collaboration with partners abroad. The aim of the courses is to provide knowledge and skills in applied clinical tropical medicine in hospitals in low- and middle-income countries and to inform about health systems and numerous field projects.

Students of the TropEd network who participate in the optional module get an understanding of possible work places.

Universities and institutes with substantial work experience in different countries are partners in the Worldwide Learning Programme:

Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMC), Tumaini University, Moshi, Tanzania

The KCMC, established in 1971, is one of the three referral hospitals in Tanzania.

The hospital with departments of Internal Medicine, Mother and Child Health, Paediatrics, Gynaecology, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Urology, Anaesthesia, Ophthalmology, Ear-Nose-Throat Disorders, Dental Care and Oral Hygiene is equipped with 500 beds. The KCMC is strongly involved in graduate and postgraduate teaching activities (400 students/year).

Regional Dermatology Training Centre (RDTC), Tumaini University, Moshi, Tanzania

The RDTC is located at the area of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College. The RDTC was founded in 1991 and more than 100 Dermatology Officers from all over Africa graduate every year.

Faculty of Tropical Medicine (FTM), Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

The FTM was founded in 1960 and the 20-bed Hospital for Tropical Diseases was established. Today there are 11 departments and a 250-bed hospital. It provides diagnosis and medical treatment for various tropical diseases. In addition, research activities are directed towards the improvement of treatment: epidemiology of diseases, pathology, pathogenesis, mode of transmission, and immunology.

National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Calcutta, India

In 1962 a cholera research center at Calcutta was founded and started working on remedial and preventive measures. The Center was given the status "WHO Reference Center", in 1979 it was named "National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases" (NICED).

NICED conducts research on acute diarrhoeal diseases of diverse etiologies as well as typhoid fever, infective hepatitis and HIV/AIDS related epidemiological research and screening.

During ward rounds within collaboration institutions and excursions to outside hospitals participants get an understanding of the variety of diseases in all parts of health system: primary health center, district, private and referral hospital.

At the end of the module participants are able to differentiate major tropical diseases, to describe prevention, transmission, clinical aspects and treatment, to recognize and discuss problems around HIV/AIDS and its opportunistic infections, to compare different therapies of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Africa, Asia and Europe and to discuss health systems in the respective countries.