Master of Family Medicine (Full-time and Part-time)
Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine (Part-time)
Diploma in Family Medicine (Part-time)

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Introduction
With the growing prevalence of chronic illnesses in Hong Kong, and the increase in health care expenditure, effective community-based care is one of the best solutions to providing holistic and comprehensive care to meet the needs of our population. To deliver quality primary health care, it is essential that we train up a large pool of capable physicians who have knowledge and skills in family medicine. However, only a small proportion of local physicians have received structured training in family medicine, and hold higher qualifications in the discipline.

At The Chinese University of Hong Kong, we aim to rectify the situation. Our School of Public Health and Primary Care (SPHPC) aims at providing leadership in teaching and research on topics of family medicine and public health concern. Over the years, we have acquired considerable expertise in various areas of public health and primary health care, such as the epidemiology of common chronic diseases, the health of special client groups (including children and adolescents, women, and the elderly), evidence-based medicine, health promotion and education, occupational and environmental health, and health services delivery. This is the knowledge we wish to disseminate to local physicians through the training programmes we offer.

Why Study in CUHK
The Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM) programme was launched by CUHK in 1985 to meet the challenge of developing quality primary health care. This programme has always been very popular among primary care physicians. The Master of Family Medicine (MFM) programme, introduced in 2003, aims to equip physicians with more advanced knowledge and skills that can be applied to their clinical practice. To cater for the physicians who wanted more in-depth training than that offered by the Diploma. The MFM provides doctors with the skills required for teaching, research, organizational management, and administrative leadership in family medicine, on top of a solid theoretical foundation.

Our programmes are essential for the evolution of family medicine, which should develop from a sound factual base, together with robust processes for seeking new scientific knowledge.

Recognition of the Programmes
The Master of Family Medicine (MFM) and the Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM) have been recognized by the Medical Council of Hong Kong, and have been included in their list of quotable qualifications. The Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine is pending inclusion on the list.

CME credits for non-specialists or members of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians (HKCFP) can be obtained from The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Who Should Apply
Our target candidates are Medical graduates.
Programme Structure

Master of Family Medicine (MFM)
This is a twenty-months (full-time) / two-year (part-time) programme for medical practitioners with an interest in family medicine, in which the work of family practice is examined from multidisciplinary perspectives. The programme comprises 7 core modules (25.5 credit units) and elective modules (4.5 credit units). Course participants have to accumulate a total of 30 units before they are awarded the Master’s degree.

The full-time MFM programme includes four intensive weeks teaching in Hong Kong. Part-time students will attend at least two sessions per week.

Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine (PgDFM)
This is a one-year, part-time programme for medical practitioners with an interest in family medicine. The programme comprises 3 core modules (9.5 units) and elective modules (8.5 units). To obtain the Postgraduate Diploma, candidates must gain a total of 18 units.

Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM)
The programme covers 41 weeks of lectures, tutorials, seminars, self-directed learning, and clinical demonstrations. It is comprised of three core modules taken from the Postgraduate Diploma and Master’s courses, so that candidates who possess the Diploma can be exempted from these modules if they pursue further studies through the PgDFM or MFM programmes. Students taking the Diploma may be invited to supply material on real cases for discussion, such as audiotapes or videotapes of actual consultations.

Aims and Features
• To enhance participants’ understanding of the principles and practice of family medicine;
• To equip participants with knowledge and skills in specialised areas, and thus meet their ever-expanding roles as family physicians;
• To help participants take a judicious approach to their daily practice, by closely examining their own and others’ work procedures;
• To develop participants’ abilities to critically appraise the literature, in order to improve their professional performance; and
• To provide participants with training in research methods, with an appreciation of the existing body of research findings, so that they can undertake their own research independently.

Course and Unit Exemptions
Graduates of the Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine of CUHK can transfer 9.5 units they earned to the Master of Family Medicine programme.

Graduates of other postgraduate programmes in SPHPC, who wish to undertake further studies in the MFM or PgDFM programmes, may apply for unit exemptions.

Programme participants who have satisfactorily completed the related Diploma or Postgraduate Diploma programmes may apply for unit exemptions in fulfilling the requirements of the Postgraduate Diploma or Master’s programmes respectively. In some circumstances, participants’ prior learning (e.g. a Diploma or Master’s degree on relevant subjects, from institutions of good standing) or professional qualifications in family medicine may be recognized and taken into account. Unit exemptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Teaching Format
Teaching format includes lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshops, and clinical demonstrations. Students need to undertake self-directed learning, and may have complete research projects, or go on clinical attachments for practical experience. The medium of instruction is English or Bilingual (English supplemented by Chinese).