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Appendix 1

WHAT INFORMS THE UCT MBChB CURRICULUM

INTRODUCTION

The UCT MBCHB programme aims to produce a competent generalist doctor with the attitudes, knowledge, skills and professional values to enter the healthcare field with confidence. This entails a balance between preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care, in a primary health care setting. It promotes communication skills, teamwork, professional values and competent clinical practice, in the context of the primary, secondary and tertiary health care settings in within the Primary Health Care Approach. The educational approach equips students with critical thinking and lifelong learning skills.

This approach is encapsulated in the principles of Primary Health Care Approach (PHC). The PHC philosophy incorporates:

- Integration of basic sciences with clinical practice and population health;
- A team approach to health care involving the various health disciplines;
- Interfaculty and intersectoral collaboration;
- Application of individual and population perspectives in teaching, research and health care delivery;
- A comprehensive approach at all levels of health care namely: quaternary, tertiary, secondary and primary; and
- An awareness of complementary and informal health systems in South Africa.

Due regard is afforded to the cultural, economic, political, social and scientific context within which our graduates will work. The University of Cape Town and the Faculty of Health Sciences have clearly defined their role in participating in the reconstruction of the country. There is a stated commitment to contribute to redressing past imbalances of race, gender and class and to developing a culture of human rights.

THE PROFILE OF THE UCT MBCHB GRADUATE

This profile has been adapted from the Global Minimum Essential Requirements of the International Institute of Medical Education and has 7 Competency Domains

1. **Professional values, attitudes, behaviour and ethics**

- Recognition of moral and ethical principles and legal responsibilities in medicine
- Professional values such as excellence, altruism, responsibility, compassion, empathy, accountability, honesty and integrity, and a commitment to scientific methods
- Commitment to constructive relationship between the health care professional, the patient and the family with respect for patient's welfare, cultural diversity, beliefs and autonomy;
- An ability to apply the principles of moral reasoning and decision-making to conflicts within and between ethical, legal and professional issues including those raised by economic constraints, commercialization of health care, and scientific advances
- Self-regulation and a recognition of the need for lifelong learning with an awareness of personal limitations including limitations of one's medical knowledge;
- Respect for colleagues and other health care professionals and the ability to foster a positive collaborative relationship with them
- Plagiarism, confidentiality and ownership of intellectual property

- Recognition of ethical and legal issues in medical issues &patient documentation,
- Commitment to effective planning and time management
- Flexibility to adapt to uncertainty and change

2. Scientific foundation of medicine

The graduate must possess the knowledge required for the solid scientific foundation of medicine and be able to apply this knowledge to solve medical problems. The graduate must understand the principles underlying medical decisions and actions, and be able to adapt to change with time and the context of his/her practice. In order to achieve these outcomes, the graduate must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of:

- Normal structure and function
- Molecular, cellular, biochemical and physiological mechanisms that maintain the body's homeostasis
- Abnormal structure, function and disease
- Normal and abnormal human behaviour
- Important determinants and risk factors of health and illnesses and of interaction between man and his physical and social environment
- The human life cycle and effects of growth, development and aging upon the individual, family and community

Clinical medicine

- The etiology and natural history of acute illnesses and chronic diseases;
- Relevant biochemical, pharmacological, surgical, psychological, social and other interventions in acute and chronic illness, in rehabilitation, and end-of-life care.
- The principles of drug action and it use, and efficacy of varies therapies;
- Epidemiology, health economics and health management;

3. Communication skills

Communicate effectively with patients and families

- Listen attentively to elicit and synthesize relevant information about all problems and understanding of their content
- Willing and able to instruct others
- Interact with other professionals through effective teamwork
- Communicate effectively with colleagues, the community, other sectors
- Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and personal factors that improve interactions with patients and the community
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
- Synthesize and present information appropriate to the needs of the audience
- Create and maintain good medical records

4. Population and health systems

- Important determinants and risk factors of health and illnesses in rural and urban South Africa.
- Interaction between man and his physical and social environment
- Graduates should understand their role in protecting and promoting the health of a whole population
- They should understand the principles of health systems organization and their economic and legislative foundations.
- They should also have a basic understanding of the efficient and effective management of the health care system.
- Recognise important life-style, genetic, demographic, environmental, social, economic, psychological, and cultural determinants of health and illness

- The ability to use the required public health skills to conduct a community health "diagnosis", develop an appropriate management plan and evaluation thereof, relevant to disease, injury and accident prevention
- Local and global trends in morbidity and mortality, the impact of migration, trade, and environmental factors on health and the role of international health organization
- Understanding of the need for collective and integrated responsibility for promotion of public health

Understanding of the basics of health systems with particular reference to South Africa

- Laws, policies & design
- Organization & management
- Financing and cost containment
- Health care delivery
- A willingness to accept leadership when needed and as appropriate in health issues
- An understanding of the mechanisms that determine equity in access to health care, effectiveness, and quality of care
- Use national, regional and local surveillance data as well as demography and epidemiology in health decisions

5. **Clinical skills**
   - Take an appropriate history including social issues such as occupational health;
   - Perform a physical and mental status examination;
   - Apply basic diagnostic and technical procedures, to analyze and interpret findings, and to define the nature of a problem;
   - Perform appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic strategies with the focus on life-saving procedures and applying principles of best evidence medicine;
   - Exercise clinical judgment to establish diagnoses and therapies taking into account physical, psychological, social and cultural factors;
   - Recognize immediate life-threatening conditions;
   - Manage common medical emergencies;
   - Manage patients in an effective, efficient and ethical manner including monitoring and evaluation of outcomes
   - Advise patients regarding health promotion and disease prevention;
   - Understand the appropriate utilization of human resources, diagnostic interventions, therapeutic modalities and health care facilities.
6. **Management of information**
   - Search, collect, organize and interpret health and biomedical information from different databases and sources;
   - Retrieve patient-specific information from a clinical data system;
   - Use information and communication technology to assist in diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive measures, and for surveillance and monitoring health status;
   - Understand the application and limitations of information technology;
   - Maintain records of his/her practice for analysis and improvement.
7. **Critical thinking and research**
   - Demonstrate a critical approach, constructive skepticism, creativity and a research-oriented attitude in professional activities;

- Understand the power and limitations of scientific thinking based on information obtained from different sources in establishing the causation, treatment and prevention of disease;
- Use personal judgments for analytical and critical problem solving and seek out information
- Identify, formulate and solve patients' problems using scientific thinking based on obtained and correlated information from different sources;
- Understand the roles of complexity, uncertainty and probability in decisions in medical practice;
- Formulate hypotheses, collect and critically evaluate data, for the solution of problems.

BECOMING A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

The foundations for developing professional values, attitudes, behaviour and ethics as stated in above, that capture the qualities that underpin what can be referred to as the "Integrated Health Professional", begin to be laid when first year MBChB students join their Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Audiology colleagues in the first and second semesters of their training in the Faculty of Health Sciences and participate in the multi-professional educational courses Becoming a Professional (BP) and Becoming a Health Professional (BHP). Through BP and BHP, students explore the themes of interpersonal skills and primary health care within a framework of developing knowledge, empathy and reflection in their journey towards becoming Integrated Health Professionals.

By the end of BP and BHP, students:

- Have experience and a working knowledge of how groups evolve and function
- Have a working knowledge of how people interact and what facilitates good interpersonal skills between individuals and in groups
- Are able to demonstrate basic interpersonal and interviewing techniques
- Have a basic understanding of Primary Health Care- its origins, and philosophy and implementation in practice
- Begin to value the contribution of different health professionals in the promotion, maintenance and support of health and health care of individuals, families and communities
- Have basic knowledge and experience of qualitative research
- Have practical experience in applying the above knowledge, skills and values within a community oriented project
- Are aware of the importance of professionalism in their interactions with colleagues, clients and the public
- Reflect an understanding of and respect for diversity/difference
- Have a basic knowledge of the concepts of health and human rights and their implications for practice as a health professional
- Have developed basic information literacy (IL), information technology (IT) and academic literacy (AL) skills

From their second year, students divide into their distinct professions to further explore the broad aspects of Professionalism in authentic clinical practice and with the guidance of courses such as those offered by the Bioethics Centre.