

Psychiatry Residency Training Program

Introduction:

The Psychiatry Residency Training at King Saud University is a four-year (4) structured program which was established in 1997. The key focus of the program is to train, educate and prepare the residents for careers in the field of Psychiatry. The main goals are to provide a comprehensive training in taking care of mentally-ill patients and to prepare our residents for a career with sound clinical and scientific basis, and with skills for continuous acquisition of knowledge. The curriculum being offered during the training is designed to both meet the minimum requirements of Saudi Commission for Health Specialties and to provide flexibility for exploration of interests toward the resident's individual career goals. We are currently approved to accept eight new residents each year in our residency program. Graduates are eligible to take the certifying examinations offered by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties Board of Psychiatry.

Mission

The mission of the Psychiatry Residency Training Program is to provide training for the undergraduates, postgraduates and other allied disciplines at the highest international levels of excellence.

The objectives of the Program

The Department of Psychiatry has established a comprehensive Residency Training Program which is designed to produce doctors who are:

- Clinically competent in the broad field of Psychiatry
- Highly effective in a variety of clinical settings
- Possess habits of life-long learning to allow for continued growth in knowledge, skills and other aspects of a professional career in psychiatry.

The four (4) year residency training program shall fulfill the following objectives:

- To educate doctors to become competent and sensitive psychiatrists capable of providing comprehensive services to a wide spectrum of patients in diverse clinical settings.
- To produce leaders in mental health profession who have necessary vision and skill to establish and deliver basic psychiatric services in a culturally-informed manner.
- To prepare residents for future sub-specialty training.

- To train residents to be a collaborator, a health advocate and a medical professional in all aspects of residency training within four (4) years.
- To equip residents in handling research projects.

Program Outline

The program allows the resident to engage in a variety of required and elective clinical and research rotations as well as to engage in a wide variety of educational activities where the resident can serve as a learner and as an educator. The program also allows each resident to develop his or her own unique strengths and interests.

Training period and rotations:

This is a structured four-year training program in Psychiatry which is developed to provide a wide range of training in general psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, addiction psychiatry and neurology, in addition to elective rotation.

A resident must cover the following requirements:

- Fifteen months rotation in General Psychiatry Unit. (Twice as a junior and once as a senior and can be up to 18 months fragmented rotations)
- Six months rotation in Psychosomatic Psychiatry Unit and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit.
- Three months rotation in outpatient psychiatry clinic.

Other rotations include:

- Nine (9) months elective that can be taken in King Khalid University Hospital or other hospitals accredited by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
- Two (2) months of neurology.
- Three (3) months of addiction medicine.
- One (1) month of Emergency psychiatry rotation.

We offer a psychiatry prep course in the first month of residency to all new psychiatry residents.

We also train residents from other psychiatry programs in the kingdom as well as ER, Family Medicine and Neurology Department amongst others as part of their rotations.

Structure and Duration of the Training Program

The Psychiatry Residency Training Program at King Saud University Medical City under the umbrella of Saudi Commission for Health Specialties as an independent program.

The residency training program lasts for four (4) years. It involves a comprehensive curriculum that combines theoretical classes and clinical experiences.

At the end of each year the candidate has to pass the promotion exam as well as fulfill other requirements during the year to be promoted to the next level, as well as passing the Saudi board's first part exam during junior years (R1,R2) to be promoted to senior levels.

Admission to the Residency Program:

In order to be accepted in the training program of the residency in Psychiatry, the applicant must fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Must be accepted as a trainee by the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.
- Pass the admission interview set by the Psychiatry Interview Committee at King Khalid University Hospital.
- The candidate must complete and submit all the list of necessary requirements and documents needed for his/her residency application at the Postgraduate Medical Education Department.

Location of Training

The program is based at the College of Medicine and the University Hospitals, particularly King Khalid and King Abdulaziz University Hospital.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the training program, the candidate will be Eligible to sit for the Final Exam for the Saudi Board Certification in Psychiatry, as well as the Arab board.

