

Clinical Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry

INTRODUCTION

About Institute of Mental Health (IMH)

The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) is a 2,000-bed acute tertiary psychiatric hospital situated on a 23-hectare campus at Buangkok Green Medical Park. Set amidst serene surroundings, IMH offers a comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and counselling services for children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.

IMH's tradition of care started in 1928. It was the first mental hospital in Singapore, starting with some 1,000 patients. Since then, many advances have been made in treatment, training, and research. Its treatment integrates evidence-based therapies, supported by the departments of clinical psychology, nursing, occupational therapy, and medical social work, to provide holistic care for our patients. IMH is equipped with modern facilities, with 50 wards for inpatients and seven Specialist Outpatient Clinics.

IMH also plays a key role in training the next generation of mental health professionals in Singapore. It train psychiatrists and mental health professionals through the NHG-AHPL Residency Programme for psychiatry and through collaborations with the local tertiary institutions.

About Department of Forensic Psychiatry

The Department of Forensic Psychiatry is one of the seven clinical departments in the Institute of Mental Health, a tertiary psychiatric hospital in Singapore. Its staffing include seven specialists, senior residents in psychiatry, medical officers and a pool of nursing, medical social workers, case managers and a forensic psychologist.

It provides the bulk of forensic psychiatric evaluations in Singapore, as well as running services such as correctional psychiatry service in Prisons, forensic "medium secure" wards and forensic psychiatric community service. It works closely with the legal system, prison service, as well as community agencies in the running of these services.

It is also the centre of training for forensic psychiatry in Singapore, and all Senior Residents in Psychiatry has to do a posting in the forensic department as part of their psychiatric training. In addition, it regularly organizes courses for our mental health practitioners in key forensic skills. Previous trainings has included workshops in Courtroom Skills, risk assessment tools, offender treatment programme and psychiatric interviewing skills in forensic settings, and it has organized trainings by overseas forensic experts who come from high secure, medium secure and community settings.

NAME OF PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr Christopher Cheok, Senior Consultant and Chief, Department of Forensic Psychiatry

TITLE OF PROGRAMME

Clinical Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry

OBJECTIVES

Key objectives of this clinical fellowship programme are to introduce:

- Good practices of forensic mental health assessments
- Forensic inpatient programmes / Forensic rehabilitation
- Appreciation of the use of civil and criminal legislations in detention and involuntary treatment
- Risk assessments – i.e. pre-sentence reports, Visitor Board reports
- Formulating risk management with multi-agency involvement
- Forensic Psychiatric Community Service – access, continuity of care
- Correctional Psychiatry – treatment issues, comorbidity, criminogenic needs and programmes i.e. offender treatment programmes
- Mandatory Treatment Order programme
- Forensic ethics
- Research in forensic psychiatry

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

1. Qualifications/ Medical Degree from accredited medical university
2. Meets SMC basic requirements for Temporary Registration as a Clinical Fellow
3. At least 6 months experience in General Psychiatry

4. Been registered as a medical practitioner in the country where he is currently practicing
5. Been certified to be of good standing by the Medical council or it relevant national authority
6. Fulfill English language requirements of SMC
7. Appropriate management and organization experience
8. Good oral and written communicative skills
9. Proven ability to work well in multidisciplinary teams
10. Exhibit professionalism and commitment;
11. References and testimonials , if available

DURATION OF PROGRAMME

Full time, 42 hours per week for up to 1 year

Maximum duration of 12 months

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL AREAS/ KEY CLINICAL CASES

Knowledge and skills:

- Diagnostic interviews and mental state examination
- Differential and dual diagnoses
- Multidisciplinary teamwork
- Consultation liaison
- Discharge planning and follow-up care
- Management of common psychiatric disorders

Key Clinical Areas:

1. Forensic Assessment units
 - Sitting in with Doctors doing Forensic Psychiatry Assessments for court-ordered remands (Pre-trial and pre-sentence reports)
 - Attending forensic certification and peer reviews
 - Sitting in for capital and non-capital case reviews (with permission from assessing doctors and evaluatees)
 - Accompanying psychiatrists to courts
 - Writing mock reports (optional)

2. Forensic Treatment units (IMH)
 - Attending Visitor Board Reviews and Multidisciplinary Team Meetings
 - Sitting in with Psychiatrists and allied health professionals during their patient reviews
3. Forensic Outpatient Clinics
 - Sitting in with doctors to gain knowledge and expertise in assessing patients presenting with psychiatric conditions, acute psychosis and patients presenting with disturbed and violent behaviours related to their mental illness
4. Forensic Programmes
 - Attending weekly meetings in both male and female Psychiatric Housing Units in Singapore Changi Prisons
 - Conducting inmates' psychiatric reviews
 - Attending Weekly Multidisciplinary Team meeting with the forensic community services' team
5. Forensic Academic Sessions
 - Attending Forensic Grand Ward Rounds
6. Others
 - Understanding Addictions in general or Child Forensic services
 - Learning about tools such as motivational interviewing techniques, risk assessment, courtroom skills

COMPONENTS OF TRAINING (CLINICAL AND/OR NON-CLINICAL)

Components of training include:

- Attachments to both Forensic assessment and treatment wards in Department of Forensic Psychiatry – daily/weekly
- Attend multidisciplinary meetings at wards or within the hospital - daily/weekly
- Regular supervision and teaching with assigned supervisors – weekly/monthly
- Regular department training and academic sessions – monthly/as arranged
- Attend court sessions with Psychiatrists
- Present at academic sessions – as arranged

FREQUENCY OF TRAINING

Daily, weekday. No night duties.

MAXIMUM INTAKE

3

METHOD OF TRAINING DELIVERY

See above in section “Components of training”

HOSPITALS AND CLINICAL DEPARTMENTS IN WHICH TRAINEES WILL BE ROTATED THROUGH

1. Department of Forensic Psychiatry
2. The fellows/doctors may be attached to other departments for exposure. The attachment is usually once ½ day in a week and fellows/doctors will only handle Forensic cases. Other departments include:
 - Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry (for observation only)
 - National Addictions Management Service (for observation only)
3. Clinical Fellows will only clinically practice in Department of Forensic Psychiatry, IMH only.

Name of Department	Name of institution	Frequency of practice (in percentage)
Department of Forensic Psychiatry	IMH	100%

AREAS SERVICED

Department of Forensic Psychiatry

METHOD (S) OF TRAINEE SUPERVISION

Individual and group supervision by a Senior Clinician who is the assigned supervisor

The fellow will be supervised at all times by a SMC-approved supervisor from Department of Forensic Psychiatry, IMH.

METHOD (S) OF TRAINEE ASSESSMENT

360 degree feedback, mid-fellowship and end-of-fellowship work performance reviews

CRITERIA FOR EARLY TERMINATION OF PROGRAMME

1. Unprofessional or unethical behavioural
2. Serious breach of patient confidentiality
3. Serious and founded complaints by staff or by patients
4. Any behavior that could compromise effective teamwork

FEEDBACK AND COUNSELLING PROCEDURES (BETWEEN SUPERVISORS AND TRAINEES)

Counselling and feedback to be conducted during individual supervision sessions with Chief of Department and Supervisors

RESPONSIBLE TO

1. Supervisors-in-charge (Department of Forensic Psychiatry)
2. Clinical Chief (Department of Forensic Psychiatry)

Attach Appendices (if any)