

Training in infection in Europe – progress in curricula and assessments: Training in clinical microbiology



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European Standards of Postgraduate Medical Specialist Training

- 2008 – creation of a Section of Medical Microbiology in the UEMS
- Before that Medical Microbiology was still a part of Medical Biopathology/Laboratory medicine
- The version of Chapter 6 requirements which was used when Medical Microbiology was still at part of Medical Biopathology used as a basis for the further development and modernisation of specialist training
- The current standard is again derived from this but has undergone certain changes
- Was accepted by the UEMS centrally in 2013

Training Requirements for Trainees

- It is recognised that the practice of Medical Microbiology differs across EU member states
- Ranges from a principally laboratory-based specialty, to a predominantly clinically-based service, particularly in those states where there are few infectious disease physicians
- An absolute requirement is that a medical microbiologist has to be a qualified medical doctor

Harmonisation: from plugs and professionals: One size fits all in de EU ???



Content of training

a. Theoretical knowledge

b. Practical skills

c. Professionalism

Theoretical knowledge

- bacteriology, virology, mycology and parasitology
- antimicrobial susceptibility testing, antimicrobial therapy, antibiotic stewardship
- laboratory management
- public health and Infection control
- relevant clinical practice

Practical skills

1. Give advice as a physician on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of microbial diseases
2. Provide a scientific basis for laboratory diagnosis; to set protocols and to maintain standards within the laboratory
3. Undertake the management responsibilities required from the director of a Medical Microbiology laboratory
4. Take charge of infection control in hospitals
5. Propose hospital policies on the control of antibiotic usage and on the prevention of hospital acquired infection
6. Collaborate with national surveillance organisations and public health authorities and to provide services for these organisations
7. Participate in the training programs for medical microbiologists, infection control doctors and other experts in the field of microbial diseases
8. Undertake research and development in the specialty of Medical Microbiology

Professionalism

The desired abilities are:

- being a medical expert
- having good communication abilities
- academic
- cooperative
- organisational/administrative

Organisation of training

a. Assessment and evaluation

- The training should contain sufficient opportunities to check the trainee's proceedings
- examination not required - leaves the decision to have an examination or not to the medical associations in the individual member states
- encourages the use of courses, both national and international, to train the candidates

Organisation of training – cont.

b. Schedule of training

The duration should be at least 60 months (5 years):

- Medical Microbiology (at least 24 months): bacteriology - 12 months, virology – 8 months, mycology - 2 months and parasitology - 2 months.
- Laboratory Management (Up to 6 months)
- Public Health and Infection control (up to 12 months):
- Clinical Medicine (minimal 12 months)
and, either
- Science project (6 months)
or
- Direct in-patient care and out-patient clinics in infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or related specialties (6 months)

Training Requirements for Trainers

- Every centre should have one recognised training leader but can have more trainers
- The recognised training leader should have been practising the specialty for at least 5 years and be a specialist in Medical Microbiology
- Ideally, the training leader should have academic qualifications
- The trainer should work out a training program for the trainee in accordance with the trainee's progress during the training and the possibilities of the institution
- The trainer/trainee ratio should approximate one trainer to a maximum of 3 trainees
- Evaluation of the training provided should be organized, e.g. evaluation of trainers by trainees

Training Requirements for Training Institutions

a. Requirement on clinical activities

- All or part of the training can take place in a training centre that offers the full spectrum of facilities needed for training accordingly the essential themes in Medical Microbiology
- Up to 3 years may be followed in a department with a lesser spectrum of facilities
- In any case, all training should take place in a department that is a recognised training centre
- The section encourages training in more than one institution

b. Requirement on equipment, accommodation

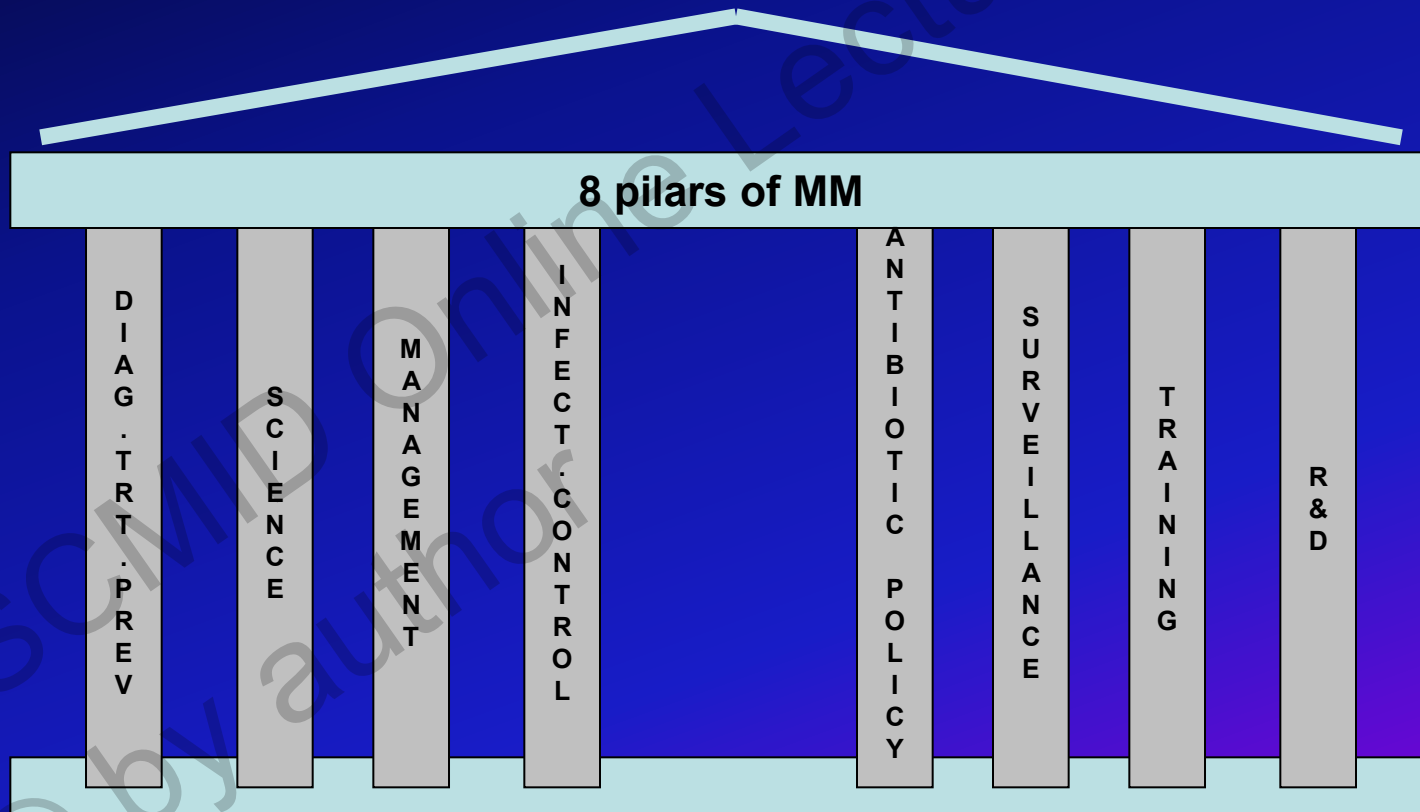
- The equipment should be of such standard that it meets the current standards of the speciality

c. The training institutions should regularly be evaluated by an external team of specialists in Medical Microbiology

The way forward

- The section cooperates closely with the Professional Affairs Committee of ESCMID and wants to expand this cooperation even further
- The next task will be to revise the curriculum
- - which again might make it possible to move towards a European exam or a common European evaluation system

The main tasks of medical microbiology





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