

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM-695 011

PROSPECTUS FOR ADMISSION TO
POST DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE COURSE IN
ONCOPATHOLOGY-2023

The Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram (RCC), now in its 42nd year of service to the nation is an autonomous institution sponsored jointly by the Govt. of Kerala and the Govt. of India. It is an internationally acclaimed Centre for cancer treatment and research and caters to the population of the state of Kerala and adjoining parts of Tamil Nadu. Handling over two lakhs' patients including over 15,000 new cancer cases annually RCC stands tall in the health map of Kerala carrying out innovative and pioneering work in cancer control, treatment, research and training.

RCC is a comprehensive cancer Centre with full-fledged departments of Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Pediatric Oncology supported by allied services such as Pathology, Radiodiagnosis, Nuclear Medicine, Anesthesiology, Microbiology and Transfusion Medicine. The Centre also has separate divisions for Community Oncology, Medical Records, Cancer Epidemiology, Cancer Research, Palliative Medicine, Dental Care, Computerized Hospital Information System and Library & Information Services division.

PATHOLOGY

The Department of Pathology at Regional Cancer Centre started functioning in 1982 as a small Cytology lab. Later in 1985 Histopathology and Hematology was started. The Division was named Department of Pathology in 2005 and over the last few years the department has grown enormously in terms of the patient load, services and facilities for diagnosis offered.

Pathology Department is one of the vital supportive facilities of RCC. This is done mainly through the 3 sections of the Department— Surgical Pathology, Hematopathology and Cytopathology. In addition to the routine diagnostic services, this Department is providing specialized diagnostic services of Immunohistochemistry (IHC), Frozen Section reporting, Flow Cytometry, FISH, LBC and Molecular tests which are at present available only in very few centers in the state. Immunohistochemistry is an elaborate delicate technique demanding extra skill and it is very useful in specific diagnosis of problem cases. We have established state of the art 'Molecular Pathology laboratory and Flow Cytometry reporting facility (to subtype Leukemia and Lymphomas) and FISH (Fluorescent in Situ Hybridization) facility to study cytogenetic abnormalities. Liquid based Cytology (LBC) is done on regular basis on gynaec and non gynaec cytology smears.

Faculty of Pathology Department is also providing expert opinions on referred tissue samples from various hospitals all over the state and also adjacent states.

The department also conducts various teaching and training programmes and courses. At present, MD Pathology (2 seats), Certificate course for Cytotechnologist (1 year), Cytotechnician (6 months) and one year Quality excellence programme in Pathology for Lab technicians (3 seats) are being conducted. The post-doctoral certificate course in Oncopathology was started in 2007. Short term teaching and training programmes for BSc and MSc Lab technicians from various Institutions in the State are also conducted. MD and DNB Pathology students from various Medical Colleges also come for training.

The department is also actively involved in the community-oriented cancer control programmes of the State, primarily by providing the Pap smear test facility for early detection of uterine cervical, oral and breast cancers. The academic staff of the department is also playing a major role in the applied research activities of the Centre, by getting involved in various research projects and guiding PhD students.

POST DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE COURSE IN ONCOPATHOLOGY PROGRAMME

The Department of Pathology, Regional Cancer Centre offers a PDCC in Oncopathology, dedicated to patient care and education. PDCC in Oncopathology is designed to give more emphasis to practical aspects than theoretical training. Doctors are given opportunity to see all the routine slides and work up these cases. Training is given in various diagnostic modalities like Frozen section, Immunohistochemistry, FISH, Flow Cytometry, LBC reporting etc. Topic discussions, Slide Seminars, Clinicopathological Conferences, Journal clubs and teaching are part of the curriculum. They are also given exposure to Electron Microscopy and Molecular techniques.

As part of decentralization of health care system in Kerala, it is vital to train Pathologists working in peripheral hospitals in all aspects in the diagnosis of cancers with special emphasis on grossing, processing of tissues, systematic approach to diagnosis of various tumors, judicious use of IHC, FISH and other tests, utilization of cytology in early diagnosis and prognostication of hematological malignancies. Such training courses will not only improve the competency of the medical personnel, but also contribute to the distribution of health care delivery thus improving the primary level of health care in the state.

At the end of the successful training in oncopathology, it is expected that the trainee will be able to diagnose and report cancers in proper way and utilize their expertise at the community level.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

1. Attain good knowledge in the subject, both practical and theoretical aspects
2. To learn recent advances in oncopathology.
3. To learn about fundamentals of ancillary diagnostic tests.
4. To learn the approach to diagnose cancer cases.
5. To actively take part in teaching and research activities of the department
6. To learn interpersonal communication skills and communication skill towards patients and their relatives.

Module of the course	Surgical Pathology	3 months
	Cytology	3 months
	Hematology	3 months
	Other Divisions	3 months

Training Program

Training programme will be of one academic year. It will be a full-time program in Surgical pathology, Cytology and Hematology. Short postings will be given in Cancer Research, Community Oncology, Biomedical wing of SCTIMST and Molecular biology. Attending cancer detection camps are also part of curriculum.

ACADEMIC, TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The candidate is expected to fulfill the following academic, clinical and research criteria while training:

ACADEMIC: The trainee should actively participate in seminar, journal clubs, group discussions and case presentations during the departmental postgraduate teaching programmes. The trainee should attend the MDT meetings (rotational basis). He/she will be encouraged to present paper/poster in the regional/ national/ international pathology conferences. At least one short research project should be done during this one year period in their area of interest and it should be published.

CLINICAL:

Surgical Pathology:

- Routine Grossing according to schedule given. They should learn the approach and basis for all radical specimens and should follow CAP protocol.
- Frozen section (Intra operative consultations) under supervision with consultants
- Approach to small biopsy reporting
- Reporting of all radical specimens (RC Path/CAP guidelines)-Should write the trays, work up cases, show to senior faculty, do corrections in the typed report and see that the reports are sent according to turn around time (TAT)
- Work up of cases with ancillary techniques
- Discussion with clinical colleagues
- Get good knowledge of radiology images by discussing with radiologists
- Mounting museum specimens
- To provide a clear, complete and concise pathology report encompassing all the minimum points relevant to diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutics

Cytology:

- To do FNAC procedures
- To see guided FNA and do rapid onsite evaluation (ROSE)
- Reporting of FNA cytology will be part of the regular work.
- Exfoliate cytology-techniques of obtaining sample, preparation of specimen and staining, screening and reporting
- Cell block preparation with ancillary techniques
- Intraoperative cytology
- Liquid based cytology
- Attending cancer detection camps and taking cervical smears

Hematology:

- Work up cases with hematological malignancies
- Routine and Special stains

- Bone marrow biopsy and aspiration procedure
- Peripheral smear reporting
- Flow cytometry procedure and interpretation
- FISH and Cytogenetics in Lymphomas and Leukaemias
- Bone marrow transplant

Other Postings:

- Cancer Research
- Community Oncology
- Radio diagnosis
- Nuclear Medicine
- Epidemiology
- Different Clinics
- BMT wing of SCTIMST
- Clinical Lab
- Laboratory quality assurance and management

TEACHING:

Trainee should teach MD Pathology students and other trainees in the Department

RESEARCH

Each trainee is encouraged to do a research project and get familiarized with writing a protocol, getting funds and doing the small project. They are given permission to publish their study if it is found to be good.

Number of seats	4 (Four) (3 merit seats and 1 seat reserved for service candidate) If there is no service candidate the seat will be filled up from general merit candidates.
Duration of the Course	One year (The course is a full-time residential course)
Date of commencement of the course	25.10.2022 or on the date of commencement as certified by the Director, RCC for those admitted later.
Nativity	Should be an Indian Citizen

Basic Academic Qualifications	<p>1) M.B.B.S. Degree recognized by the Medical Council of India.</p> <p>2) Should have passed the PG Degree MD in Pathology from any of the Medical Colleges in India, recognized by the Medical Council of India or DNB in Pathology approved by the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi.</p> <p><i>(Candidates who have appeared or are appearing for the MD/DNB examination may apply but the provisional or permanent PG Degree certificate should be produced at the time of admission, if selected, failing which admission will not be granted).</i></p> <p>3) Candidates should have their MBBS/PG Degrees registered permanently with Medical Council (India/State).</p>
Stipend	Rs. 47,000/- per month (except for sponsored candidate)
Course Fee	₹1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh Only) for Non Sponsored candidates ₹2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakh Only) for Sponsored candidate
Upper age limit	35 years, as on 01-01-2023 . The upper age limit will be relaxed by 10 years for sponsored, 6 years for SC/ST and 2 years for OBC candidates.
How to apply	<p>Aspiring candidates have to download the application form (Annexure-I) given along with this prospectus and fill it up and submit it along with the supporting documents and application fee. Completed application form should reach by post on or before 4 pm on 04-09-23</p> <p>Note: Incomplete application forms and forms received after the last date will be rejected and no further communication will be entertained in this context.</p>
Application fee	Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) . Fee should be submitted as a Demand Draft payable at State Bank of India or any of its associate banks at Thiruvananthapuram drawn in favor of "The Director, Regional Cancer Centre", Thiruvananthapuram. Application Fee is not refundable under any circumstances.
Address for sending application form	<p>The Additional Director (Academic) Regional Cancer Centre Medical College. P.O Thiruvananthapuram- 695 011</p>

*** (Sponsored candidates should apply through the Head of their Institution**

1. Documents to be furnished along with the application form:

- i. Valid photo ID proof
- ii. Proof of age. (Aadhar/Passport/ Secondary School Leaving certificate showing date of birth/ Tahsildar's certificate).
- iii. Proof of Nationality (Aadhar/Passport/ Voters ID/ PAN Card).
- iv. Self-attested copy of following documents:

- a) MBBS Degree Certificate.
- b) MD/ DNB Degree Certificate.
- c) Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS/PG Degree.
- v.Character/conduct certificate issued by competent authority (head of institute/gazetted officer).
- vi.Photo copy of publications
- vii.Experience certificate
- viii.Certificate from Principal of respective Medical College/Institution for candidates who had appeared/are appearing for MD/ DNB (in case of candidates who have not yet obtained their degree/Diploma.

3. Selection process

- a) The application forms will be scrutinized and the list of candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be displayed on the RCC website on **13-09-2023**
- b) Candidates have to appear for an entrance test followed by interview on **20-09-2023**. An entrance test will be conducted if the numbers of applicants are more than 4 times the available seats. The entrance test will be a written MCQ test and candidates will be shortlisted for the interview to be held on the same day based on the marks obtained in the entrance test. Final Rank list will be prepared based on the marks obtained in entrance test and interview (ANNEXURE II).
- c) Candidates will have to make their own arrangements to appear for the entrance test and interview and no TA/DA will be provided. No personal intimation will be sent regarding entrance test/ interview.
- d) The Director, RCC will prepare and publish the Select List and Wait list of Candidates.
- e) Admission Memo will be issued to the selected candidates. The candidate has to report on the date fixed by the Director. All certificates in original will be retained in the office till the completion of the programme.
- f) Candidates who do not turn up for the allotment as per schedule, at the place and time notified, will forfeit their chance for admission, and will not be considered for admission in future or arising vacancies, irrespective of the rank.
- g) Course will commence on 25/10/2023
- h) Candidates who discontinue the course after one **month of start of course** will be liable to pay liquidated damages.
- i) The Select list and wait list will be valid till **10-12-2023**.

- j) Any vacancy that may arise after the cut-off date for admissions will be considered as lapsed and no allotment will be made to these seats under any circumstance.

4. Documents to be produced at the time of Admission (original & one photo copy)

- a) MBBS Degree Certificate.
- b) MD/ DNB Degree Certificate.
- c) MD/ DNB Attempt Certificate.
- d) Permanent Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS/PG Degree.
- e) Proof of age. (Aadhar/Passport/ Secondary School Leaving certificate showing date of birth/ Tahsildar's certificate).
- f) Proof of Nationality (Aadhar/Passport/ Voters ID/ PAN Card).
- g) Character/conduct certificate issued by competent authority (head of institute/gazetted officer).
- h) Selected candidates should submit **Registration Certificates from the Travancore-Cochin Council of Modern Medicine** within **one month of admission** failing which their admission will be cancelled.

All original documents will be retained in RCC and will be returned only on successful completion of the course.

5. Course Completion

Successful completion of the PDCC programme mandates the following --

- Pass in the Exit Examination
- Log book
- One paper / poster presentation in State/National/International conference.

IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date
Last date of receiving postal application	04-09-23
Publishing list of eligible candidates	13-09-23
MCQ Entrance Examination	20-09-23
Interview	20-09-23
Final Result	30-09-23

Date of Commencement of course	25-10-23
Last date of validity of select wait list	10-12-23

7. Leave during the course:

All the 365 days of the year are working days for trainees. However, they will be permitted to avail casual leave for 20 days, but not more than 10 days at a stretch. Any other leave will entail extension of the course. Those who take leave without prior sanction are liable to be considered to be on unauthorized absence. If the fellow is absent without authorization for more than 10 days, he / she will be terminated from the course and liquidated damages will be realized. All fellows are eligible for weekly off for one day. This will be allowed by the Head of the Department concerned without affecting the routine functioning of the Department. Weekly off cannot be accumulated.

CMEs, workshops and other academic programmes conducted by recognized academic bodies are essential aspects of training programme. All fellows will be permitted to attend such programmes without affecting the routine working of the Department concerned. The Head of the Department shall sanction leave-on-duty to fellows provided they apply prior to the CME programme and submit attendance certificate on return. No fellow shall leave the country without prior sanction of the Director, RCC. Any violation will be viewed seriously warranting termination of the course.

8. Private Practice

Post Graduate students shall not engage in private practice of any sort during the course of study.

9. General

All students admitted to RCC will be bound by the rules and regulations as decided by the Director, RCC from time to time. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Prospectus, the Director may at any time revise or amend any clause in the prospectus. Any court cases/disputes shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts in Kerala.

Thiruvananthapuram
Date: 04-08-2023


DIRECTOR

ANNEXURE – I

REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Application for admission to Post-Doctoral Certificate
Course in Oncopathology-2023

PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name of the candidate (in block letters)	
Age	
Sex	
Whether belong to SC/ST/OBC/General (Please Specify Religion & caste)	
Date of birth(dd/mm/yyyy)	
Address for communication	
Mobile phone number	
E mail id	
Whether Sponsored or not (Yes/No)	

ACADEMIC DETAILS

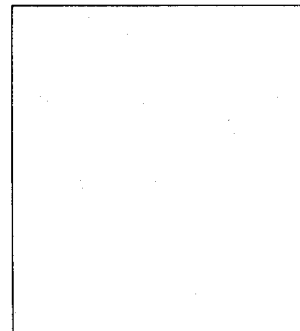
Institute and Year of passing MBBS	
Institute and Year of passing MD/ DNB	

Experience (attach certificate in institute letter head)	
Publications (Yes/No) (If yes please attach photocopy)	
Any other details	

DETAILS OF FEE

DD number	
Date	
Bank	

PHOTO (Please affix a self-attested recent passport size photo here)



Date
Place

Signature

ANNEXURE – II

MARKS PROCESS

Part I - THEORY – 50 marks

MCQ paper containing 50 Questions (1 mark for correct answer, minus 1/4mark for wrong answer). No marks will be awarded for unanswered questions or multiple responses. The questions will cover **surgical pathology, cytology and hematopathology with all ancillary diagnostic tests** at exit level. Candidates will be short listed purely on the basis of theory marks. The number of candidates short listed will be four times the number of seats.

Part II - INTERVIEW (VIVA) - 40 marks

Candidates will be assessed about their knowledge, skills and aptitude in the subject.

Part III - PRIOR ACADEMIC RECORDS - 10 marks

1. Publications in Indexed Medical Journals only (Please submit Xerox copy of publication)

- One mark per publication subject to a maximum of five marks

2. Work experience in **Pathology** (Maximum five marks)

- Six months to 1 year – 2marks
- One year to < 2years – 3 marks
- Two years to < 3years - 4 marks
- Three years or more – 5 marks

Only continuous experience in **Pathology** in an academic centre will be considered for this purpose. No marks will be given for experience of less than 6 months and for discontinuous period of experience. Candidate needs to produce a certificate to prove the experience as in **ANNEXURE III.**

ANNEXURE III

EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATE FORMAT

(On the letterhead of the institute/department)

This is to certify that Dr. is working/ has worked
in the Department of at
..... for a continuous period
with effect from to
His/her conduct during the period mentioned above has been

Name of the Employer:

Name of the Institute:

Place:
Date:

Signature of the Employer

(Office Seal)

ANNEXURE -IV

All candidates should furnish a certificate from the employer under whom the candidate is presently working in the prescribed form as the situation may be.

Form A- Endorsement by the head of the institute under whom the candidate is presently working/studying with, in case of general candidates.

Form B- Déclaration by candidate in case the candidate is not currently employed.

**FORM A
NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE
(ON THE LETTERHEAD OF THE INSTITUTE)**

Dr. is working as in the department of from He / she is a permanent/temporary employee of the institute. The information furnished by the candidate in his/her application form is correct. I have no objection to his/her seeking admission to the Fellowship course at the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. He/she will be relieved from his post for a period of one year for undergoing the course if selected and admitted to the course at RCC and his/her salary/stipend will be paid by his/her employer during the one-year period of course.

Name of the Employer:

Name of the Institute:

Place:

Signature of the Employer

Date:

Seal

FORM B

DECLARATION BY THE CANDIDATE

I declare that all the information furnished in the application form by me is correct and true. I declare that I am not currently employed / studying in any institution/hospital in either Government/public/private sector and in case of my selection for the course there would not be any issue of my getting relieved from any post held by me.

Place:

Signature of the candidate

Date:

Name of candidate