

# Educating the educators

THERE is great variability in how universities plan and implement educational experiences for health professions students. Reasons for this variability include regional and institutional education policies, accreditation, healthcare needs, internationalisation, global migration, commodification and commercialisation.

Education trends in health professions are evolving in line with global changes in science and technology and societal needs. Thus, health professions educators are required to ensure the training provided to health professions students is sufficient and will benefit future health professionals, health services and society. However, these educators face increasing challenges as they have to cope with future changes in professions, healthcare, curriculum development and assessments.

Most health professions educators have little, if any, formal teaching training. There are many factors that influence health professions educators to seek training for either professional development or formal qualification. These include increasing time pressures (faced by many teaching physicians) and

lack of stable funding for health professions education that takes place outside the teaching hospital or institution.

International Medical University's (IMU) Postgraduate Programmes in Health Professions Education (HPE) aims to equip health professionals with an in-depth knowledge of educational principles, values related to contemporary learning environments and practising internationally benchmarked assessment processes to produce leaders and scholars in health professions education.

The educational objectives of this programme are to ensure graduates have opportunities to design and solve educational challenges at their respective institutions and achieve recognition of their initiatives at the national and regional levels. This programme is not only for healthcare professionals and educators, but can also be of value to education managers or administrators who are involved in the many processes of providing better educational programmes at their institutions.

This programme is offered in both part- and full-time modes

with three exit points: Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Master. A carefully designed blend between on-site learning during weekends and online learning provides adults working full-time with options to plan and fit their studies around their jobs, families and other commitments.

Recent graduates of IMU Postgraduate Programmes in HPE have stated that by joining this programme, they now have better perspectives and understanding of educational processes. Therefore, they will ensure the current educational processes in their programmes conform to best practices.

"The Postgraduate Programmes in HPE has helped me become a better teacher. Completing the Postgraduate Diploma in HPE has enabled me to comprehend the theories behind teaching and learning and other aspects of education. In addition, it has also given me confidence to conduct education-related research," says Postgraduate Diploma in HPE graduate Dr Kok Yih Yih.

Master in HPE student Dr Katarzyna Pazcek says, "I find discussions highly thought-provoking and am able to learn



IMU believes that before focusing on producing quality health professions graduates, it is important to round out educators in the sector with the skills they need to achieve this end.

from the lecturer as well as other students. The programme has provided me with insight into instructional and curriculum design and helped me improve my teaching. I feel I am able to contribute more to my department and the university. I am glad to have taken up this programme and look forward to applying what I have learnt."

The Postgraduate Programmes in HPE is accredited at Level 7 by the Malaysian Qualifications

Agency. In line with its 6 Star: Outstanding score in the Rating for Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia (Setara) 2017, IMU's programmes are periodically reviewed and restructured according to global standards and need of the hour.

■ For more information about this or other postgraduate programmes, call 03-2731 7272, email [postgraduate@imu.edu.my](mailto:postgraduate@imu.edu.my) or apply online at [www.imu.edu.my](http://www.imu.edu.my)