

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**SEVENTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS
OR REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOOLS
OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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**Progress reports and highlights of the
development in public health teaching/
research/community services since the
last meeting at Manila in 1975**

by

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A. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine was established in November 1964 in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. In September 1973, the first group of seven physicians were admitted to the course leading to the degree of Master of Public Health. Up-to-date a total of 23 physicians have successfully completed the Master of Public Health programme and a further six are enrolled for the session 1976-77.

B. ACADEMIC STAFF

The establishment provides for full-time academic staff consisting of a professor, four associate professors, and 11 lecturers.

In addition to the full-time staff of the department, the staff of the Departments of Medical Microbiology, Parasitology and Psychological Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine, as well as staff from the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Economics and Administration and the Computer Centre of the University of Malaya participate in the Master of Public Health Course.

Twenty-three part-time lecturers from government agencies participate in the teaching of postgraduate students in specialised areas such as tuberculosis, malaria, leprosy, health planning, management studies, budgetting, maternal and child health, drugs, medical records, and vaccine production (Appendix "A").

C. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN COURSES

(a) Postgraduate

The postgraduate course leading to the degree of Master of Public Health is a full-time course of 12 months duration. Since September 1973 a total of 23 physicians have successfully completed the course. Each year a total of eight physicians (Malaysians) are admitted to the course. As the staff complement increases in the future, it is envisaged that the number of candidates will be further increased.

(b) Undergraduate

During the academic year 1976-77, the medical student numbers (Malaysians) are:

Year I	128
Year II	124
Year III	119
Year IV	129
Year V	128

D. TEACHING ACTIVITIES

(a) Postgraduate degree of Master of Public Health

In September 1973 the course leading to the degree of Master of Public Health was added on to the teaching activities of the department. The course includes.

(i) Studies of the following subjects:

Statistics - descriptive
inferential
health

**Epidemiology (including survey methods) and
control of disease**

Social sciences applied to public health

- sociology
- social psychology
- communication and education methods

Health services administration

- management studies
- health planning and the delivery of health care
- techniques of budgetting and programming
- public health laws
- family health care (maternal and child health)

Environmental health

- medical microbiology
- parasitology
- occupational health
- environmental sanitation
- environmental pollution

Public health problems

- population studies
- nutritional health

(ii) Supervised practical field experience.

- survey of health services in a district
(3 weeks)
- rural health experience (10 days)
- urban health experience (10 days)
- field visits to leprosorium, tuberculosis
control centre, factories, etc.

(iii) The preparation of a dissertation on an approved subject.

(b) Postgraduate degree of Master of Psychological Medicine

The department is also responsible for the conduct of courses in Statistics, Epidemiology and Medical Sociology in respect of the course leading to the degree of Master of Psychological Medicine. This 2-year course, organized by the Department of Psychological Medicine, was started in September 1973.

(c) Undergraduate medical students

The department is responsible for the courses in Social and Preventive Medicine for undergraduate medical students. These courses extend from the first to the fifth year of the medical course and include: statistics (descriptive and inferential), health and fertility statistics, epidemiology (principles, methodology and specific diseases): medical sociology, nutrition and dietetics, community health services; maternal and child health, preventive medicine, patient and family studies, and selected health problems. In cooperation with other departments of the Faculty, teaching is integrated in respect of certain selected topics. During the clinical years, visits are paid to the homes of selected patients for home and family studies. Two periods of approximately three weeks each are spent in the field, one in a rural health survey and the other in a study of the health services of a district

(d) Teaching Health District

The Faculty of Medicine and the Ministry of Health have agreed to be jointly responsible for the provision of health and medical care for the Teaching Health District of Telok Datok 40 miles from the University. The primary intention of posting medical students to this district, which began in 1974, is to expose them to the differences found in medical practice between urban and rural areas. Prior to this posting medical students would already have had two such exposures to rural health problems (Rural Health Survey and District Health Services Survey). In their final year groups of about 16 medical students are posted to the Health District for a period of six weeks. They are based in the District Hospital from which they operate. During this period they are supervised by a resident academic staff from one of the major disciplines.

In October 1976, the teaching programme was extended to include Community Paediatrics and Community Obstetrics. Students and staff will be accommodated in a hostel when this is ready during 1977.

E. RESEARCH

(a) Equipment and facilities

The department is well equipped for teaching and research. In addition to a room for each lecturer, there are common (shared) air-conditioned reading, work and conference rooms. Mechanical and electronic calculators, an IBM card punch and IBM verifier as well as a sorter are available within the department, which also has access to the IBM computer at the University Computer Centre. Four vehicles, three minibuses and a landrover, are owned by the department for field work. The Faculty of Medicine offers library facilities and central facilities for duplication, illustration, photography and audiovisual teaching aids.

(b) Research activities

All members of the academic staff are expected to engage in research. Work currently in progress or planned for the immediate future include studies on:

- (1) Organizational problems in the provision of health care,
- (2) Malay folk medicine and traditional beliefs in relation to the delivery of modern medical and health care,
- (3) medical certification of cause of death
- (4) communication technology and development
- (5) knowledge of cancers.

F. SERVICE

Members of the academic staff participate in an advisory capacity on several boards and committees within the University (e.g. Computer Centre Board, Social Sciences Board, Student Welfare Board, etc.) as well as outside in the community (e.g. WHO Expert Committee on Diarrhoeal Diseases, WHO Expert Committee on Housing, National Maternal and Child Health Advisory Board, Standards Institute of Malaysia, etc.) In addition, the department is responsible for the processing of data and coordination of records pertaining to medical students performance throughout the course and during examinations.

G. COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

(a) External Examiners

At all major examinations, professors from other schools of public health or schools of medicine are invited as external examiners. During the past five years the external examiners in Public Health for the Third Examination (MBBS) and for the Final Examination (MPH) are as follows

Third Examination (MBBS)

Session 1971-72

Professor C.W. Dixon, M.D.,D.P.H.,F.R.A.C.P.
University of Otago
Dunedin, New Zealand

Session 1972-73

Professor Douglas Gordon, M.B.B.S.
University of Queensland
Herston, Brisbane
Queensland, Australia

Session 1973-74 and 1974-75

Professor M.J. Colbourne, M.B.Ch.B.,D.P.H.,M.R.C.P.
University of Hong Kong,
Li Shu Fan Building, Hong Kong

Session 1975-76

Professor E. Maurice Backett, B.Sc.,M.B.B.S.,F.R.C.P.
University of Nottingham Medical School,
Nottingham NG7 2RD, England.

Final Examination (M.P.H)

Session 1974-75

Professor J Knowelden, M.D.,F.R.C.P.,F.F.C.M.,D.P.H
University of Sheffield Medical School
Sheffield S10 2RX, England

Session 1975-76 and 1976-77

Professor Alwyn Smith, M.B., Ch.B, Ph D , F.F.C.M
D.P.H., M.R.C.P.
University of Manchester,
Manchester M13 9PT, England

(b) Study leave

Each member of the academic staff is granted six months study leave for every 34 months of service. During these periods academic staff are able to proceed overseas to any school of public health, school of medicine or other institute where he can study, teach or conduct research.

(c) Field work

(i) University of Singapore, Singapore.

Beginning with the 1975-76 session, a ten-day programme of field visits for MPH candidates to urban health projects (environmental problems, occupational health, housing, port health and international health) is now annually arranged by the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, University of Singapore.

(ii) Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

Beginning with the 1976-77 session, a ten-day programme of field visits in relation to urban health (venereal disease control, municipal health centers, narcotics control etc) as well as rural health is being arranged for the MPH candidates by the Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University, Bangkok.

H. OBJECTIVES

(a) Goals in relation to postgraduate teaching in public health

To imbue each student with an attitude of mind that will encourage him to view the community as his focus of interest, and to ensure that he has the following as a necessary complement of knowledge for this purpose.

- (i) The nature of man, his physical and social environment, and his personal social interaction - as they affect his health.
- (ii) The basic techniques of investigation, measurement, and analysis, including statistics and epidemiology.
- (iii) The basic techniques of administration (organization and management), particularly as applicable to comprehensive health care programs.
- (iv) The demographic, economic, political and statutory setting relevant to health services.

- (v) The application of the above in the promotion of community health, using a comprehensive and integrated approach to preventive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of health care.

(b) Goals in relation to the research being undertaken

It is the aim of the department that the research conducted by its members will contribute to

- (i) more effective teaching at the undergraduate as well as the postgraduate level,
- (ii) improved availability of statistical and epidemiological rates,
- (iii) improved methods of delivering modern medical and health care;
- (iv) more effective health education of the public in relation to public health problems.

(c) Goals in relation to the services being offered to the community

The aim of the department is to encourage each member of the academic staff to contribute the expertise he has in his field to the solution of community problems, whether the community be the university itself, the nation or mankind.

(d) Relationship of the department to the Ministry of Health

(i) Teaching

The Ministry of Health contributes 17 part-time lecturers who participate in the Master of Public Health Course as well as at the undergraduate level. In addition, academic staff contribute occasional lectures for the in-service training programmes conducted by the Ministry of Health for its officers (both professional as well as paramedical).

(ii) Research

The KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) Study in relation to the Applied Nutrition Programme is a joint research project between the department and the Ministry of Health and was initiated by the Ministry which felt that there was a need to obtain baseline data before the programme is applied in Trengganu.

(iii) Service

The Faculty of Medicine and the Ministry have agreed to be jointly responsible for the provision of health and medical care for the District of Telok Datok 40 miles from the university. As described earlier, this health district is now being used as a training ground for medical students. By the academic session 1977-78, MPH candidates will also include a period of field experience in this teaching health district. Accommodation for both undergraduate as well as MPH candidates will be ready by late 1977.

APPENDIX "A"

LIST OF PART-TIME LECTURERS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

A. Ministry of Health

1. Director-General, Medical and Health Services, Malaysia.
2. Director of Training and Manpower, Ministry of Health.
3. Director, Health Services, Ministry of Health.
4. Director, National Tuberculosis Centre.
5. Director, National Leprosy Control Centre.
6. Director, Malaria Eradication Programme.
7. Director, Institute for Medical Research.
8. Director, Pharmaceutical Services, Ministry of Health
9. Director, Institute of Public Health.
10. Deputy Director, Research and Planning, Ministry of Health.
11. Assistant Director, Division of Occupational Health,
Ministry of Health
12. Assistant Director, Epidemiology, Ministry of Health
13. Assistant Director, Maternal and Child Health,
Ministry of Health
14. Deputy Director, General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur
15. Senior Medical Records Officer, Ministry of Health.
16. Senior Virus Officer, Institute for Medical Research.
17. Public Health Engineer, Ministry of Health.

B. Other Government Agencies

1. Director-General, Factories and Machinery Department.
2. Director-General, Chemistry Department.
3. Director-General, Ministry of Science Technology & Environment
4. Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
5. Director, National Institute of Public Administration.
6. Undersecretary, Treasury, Ministry of Finance