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(SCART)

*for physicians working
in countries with
limited resources*

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

In recent years considerable progress has been made in the roll out of antiretroviral treatment (ART) for persons with HIV infection living in limited resource settings. The challenge is now to scale up the ART programs in a safe and effective way to reach the overall goal of universal access to treatment by 2010. In the coming years the number of patients in need of second line treatment will increase, and questions about how to identify treatment failure and how to deal with resistance to ART have to be addressed in the context of limited resource settings.

The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for its research, training and patient management in the field of HIV/AIDS.

The short course on antiretroviral therapy will take place every summer. The course language is English.

The Department of Clinical Sciences of the ITM coordinates this course, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Microbiology. This course is meant for professionals who will specifically deal with the scaling up of ART and have been and will continue to be, among other professional duties, involved in clinical HIV/AIDS care.

2. COURSE PROGRAMME

Students get up-to-date training in comprehensive care of people with HIV and in administering ART to this group in countries with limited resources.

At the end of the course the students should be able to:

- Choose and explain to the HIV positive patient, the appropriate antiretroviral (ARV) regimen taking into account the goal of the therapy (treatment or prevention of transmission of HIV : post exposure prophylaxis and prevention of mother-to-child transmission), the optimal timing for initiation of treatment (including assessment of the HIV infection stage and present the clinical condition of the patient), the general characteristics of the patient and the availability of resources in a specific setting.
- Plan a monitoring strategy for a patient on ARV including clinical and laboratory follow up, adherence monitoring identification and management of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) and side effects.
- Identify and predict ARV treatment failure (clinical, immunological and virological), to be able to assure the management of it, including the prescription of the appropriate alternative ARV therapy taking into account the available resources.

- Evaluate the quality of care for patients with chronic health problems like AIDS patients and relate quality aspects to the organisation of a clinic taking into account the different resources needed for AIDS care.
- Explain the possible impact ARV can have on mortality and the role of clinical care within the whole spectrum of interventions addressing the health and social care challenges related to the HIV epidemic.

3. TEACHING METHODS

Teaching will consist of “state of the art” lectures (50%), seminars, group discussions, critical reading sessions, exercises on the computer and practical sessions. The course is in the process of being prepared as a web-based module.

ITM staff will give most of the courses. Internationally known experts from other academic institutions and field experts will be invited to complement specific areas of expertise. Alumni of the SCART will have access to ongoing support through e-mail and a telemedicine website.

4. EVALUATION AND DIPLOMA

Evaluation consists of a pre and post test. An attendance rate of 90% is necessary to obtain a Certificate of Attendance. The course is accredited by tropEd with 4.5 ECTS credits.

Students who wish to obtain these credits will have to pass a written exam. The assessment will be at “synthesis” level of the Blooms taxonomy scale. Students will be at “synthesis” level of the Blooms taxonomy scale. Students will be requested to discuss and formulate concrete options on clinical cases, to answer essay type question on public health matters related to ART and its relevance in their own setting. If a student fails in the examination, he/she has the possibility to be evaluated again during the next course.

5. DURATION OF THE COURSE

The course lasts three weeks, starting the last week of August.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The course is intended for physicians involved in HIV clinical care programs in resource poor settings.

Applicants should have a medical degree and good understanding and expressing abilities in English (proof to be provided: English TOEFL test 550 or IELTS 6.5).

Please include with your letter of application:

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) + photo.
- A description of your current position and responsibilities.
- A letter explaining why you want to take this course.
- Evidence of experience in the care for persons with HIV infection.
- A certificate of fluency in English.
- Names of 2 referees.
- The intended source of funding.

Incomplete applications will not be considered (e.g. missing signature).

The “Short courses application form” can be downloaded from www.itg.be. Applications should reach us no later than 31st of January.

7. TUITION FEE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

You will find information on the exact fee in the general ITM course overview table of our brochure or on our website www.itg.be (education > course overview). The fee covers tuition and all course materials. This does not include accommodation and living expenses.

The secretariat can assist you in finding accommodation. A limited number of scholarships from the Belgian Directory General for Development Cooperation are available. Only participants from developing countries are eligible. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis.

After approval of your application by the selection committee, your registration fee should be paid into the ITM's account nr. 220-0531111-72 (Fortis, Warandeberg 3, 1000 Brussel), BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB, IBAN BE 38 2200 5311 1172. Bank charges are at the expense of the applicant.



**SHORT COURSE ON
ANTIRETROVIRAL
TREATMENT**

(SCART)

EN