The Diploma in Cardiology is designed specially for doctors who intend to attain the level of competency of a Staff Registrar in the field of Cardiology, acquiring knowledge and practical skills in carrying out investigations, treatment and management of patients with heart diseases in a restructured institution.

Trainees will acquire competencies in assessing patients’ heart conditions and choosing the most appropriate investigations. The training will focus on developing skills such as performing stress testing on patients, managing clinical syndromes related to coronary and valvular heart diseases, heart disorders and congestive heart failure.

Programme Director

Prof Terrance Chua Siang Jin  
Senior Consultant and Deputy Medical Director  
Department of Cardiology  
National Heart Centre, Singapore

Jointly awarded by the
ACADEMY of MEDICINE, SINGAPORE and the
CHAPTER of CARDIOLOGISTS, COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS, SINGAPORE
Admission Criteria
This programme is open to all medically-trained doctors who possess Temporary registration (Service), Conditional registration or Full registration with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC). However, applicants must also satisfy the following criteria for admission into this programme:
• Currently working (service provision) in Cardiology in a local restructured institution and have completed at least ONE YEAR of clinical work (service provision) in Cardiology in the same local restructured institution; and
• Recommended by their Head of Department and institution willing to sponsor the applicant for the Course fee of the entire programme.

Programme Duration
This is a 2-year training programme conducted under the supervision of specialists in Cardiology. The programme will equip trainees with theoretical knowledge in scientific principles, clinical cardiology, resuscitation skills and also enrich them with skills that will assist them in the management of a spectrum of clinical syndromes resulting from coronary, heart and other vascular diseases.

Syllabus
1. Diagnosis and Management of Coronary Heart Disease
2. Valvular Heart Disease
3. Congestive Heart Failure
4. Congenital Heart Disease
5. Acute Coronary Care
6. Electrocardiography & Basic Electrophysiology
7. Cardiac Imaging and Testing
8. Miscellaneous Cardiovascular Diseases

Training Structure
Knowledge and skills will be delivered through lectures, tutorials, courses and seminars. The course work includes maintenance of a log book which will record cases, procedures, conferences, seminars and paper presentations, which will be countersigned and graded as appropriate by the programme supervisors to confirm satisfactory fulfillment of the required training experience and competencies as stated in the syllabus. By the end of the programme, trainees are expected to understand the local referral system, available resources, social and ethical issues which will assist them in effective treatment and management of patients. Trainees will also learn to develop good communication and interpersonal skills so as to establish a dynamic working relationship with medical personnel and patients.

During the training period, the trainee will be attached to subspecialty training modules to gain basic competency and understanding of various non-invasive cardiology procedures and also be encouraged to actively manage patients in outpatient and inpatient services in the public restructured institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Duration of Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Echocardiography</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear cardiology</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary care unit</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronary intervention</td>
<td>1 month (observational)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrophysiology/pacing</td>
<td>1 month (observational)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment Criteria
In the duration of the programme, trainees will be required to sit for interim assessments whereby regular quarterly reviews by their supervisors will be conducted to ensure the trainee reaches a satisfactory level of competency in Cardiology. Trainees are expected to undergo an exit assessment conducted by the Chapter of Cardiologists at the end of the training period. The format for assessments includes Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) on Clinical Cardiology, log book coverage of the required syllabus and data interpretation for: Electrocardiogram (ECG), stress ECG, chest X-ray (CXR), basic Echocardiograms and basic Nuclear images.

Yearly Commencement date:
1 July or November

Yearly Application period:
April or September