

## MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY TRAINING IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

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Medical education is a process to educate students to the practice of being a competent medical practitioner, in undergraduate and post graduate levels (1). It seems that medical toxicology (MT) education and evaluation should be integrated within undergraduate and postgraduate clinical training programs to maximize the care provided to poisoned patients (2).

Pharmacokinetics/toxicokinetics should be regarded as a core competency for them (3).

Fellowship training of MT is a need in this region. Recent establishment of clinical toxicology fellowship in Mashhad has revealed its popularity for the clinicians particularly paediatricians and internal medicine specialists. Eleven clinical specialists sat the entrance examination for only two positions. In USA, MT fellowship has an impact on the career of physicians by choosing an academic career, developing a clinical toxicology program, and altering clinical responsibilities (4). Within other sub-specialties, MT is a core content area of emergency medicine (EM). Despite this fact, just 63% of EM programs have a toxicologist on faculty in the USA. MT rotation is a requirement for just 76%, an elective at 19%, and not available at 5% programs (5). In addition, few psychiatry residency programs have formal medical toxicology training curricula, and only 4% of psychiatry residency programs were affiliated with institutions offering defined medical toxicology electives (6).

The state of MT education in Asia Pacific region is even worse. Although some MT rotations are available in some universities, MT MSc education in Australia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and clinical toxicology fellowship in Mashhad, Iran are the only available MT education program in this region.

In conclusion, a profound MT education program should be considered as core curriculum for undergraduate medical students across the continent. Available MT MSc and the clinical toxicology fellowship program should be bench marked and expand rapidly. Internal Medicine, EM, psychiatry residency, and other related postgraduate training should be linked with a Medical Toxicology Centre.

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