

Training of Public Health Medicine Specialist in Malaysia – the Parallel Programme

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ABSTRACT

Public Health specialist programme is one of the first postgraduate programme to be offered in a university in Malaysia. The one-year Master of Public Health (MPH) was started in the University of Malaya in 1973, with its first batch of graduate coming out in 1974. At that time the MPH is the only postgraduate qualification required for public health medicine specialist in Malaysia. As the science and art of public health evolved, the requirement has changed since then. The duration of the MPH has increased from the one year to four years to ensure that our public health medicine specialist received the adequate training. In 2008, the one-plus-three programme; i.e., one-year MPH plus three years Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) programme was introduced. The DrPH is a professional doctoral programme to train the Public Health Medicine specialist a broad knowledge of public health combined with an orientation towards applied research in the organisation and evaluation of public health programmes. The MPH-DrPH programme was the basis for the registration of Public Health Medicine Specialist with the National Specialist Registry, Malaysian Medical Council. With the ever-changing environment and the broad area that public health covers, the Ministry of Health Malaysia have proposed that another programme to be established to cater for doctors who are more applied and who are not interested in a Doctoral level programme. The College of Public Health Medicine, Academy of Medicine Malaysia will be introducing this 'parallel programme' to fulfil this requirement. The Public Health Medicine Specialist parallel programme will be presented and discussed.