

# PEDIATRIC RESIDENT TRAINING IN VIETNAM

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Vietnam has a population of 85 millions, but still has insufficient physicians. The main program is similar to the Philippines, where trainees enter through the national system after high school and passing an entrance examination to gain a place in a university. At this point, there are two options: six-year and a four-year curriculum programs.

For the six year training to become a doctor, there are a number of specialties. The other branch is a four-year program to qualify as a bachelor of public health, nursing, or medical technician.

At the same time, Vietnam still maintains provincial and rural training systems where trainees can also gain experience in three years and qualify to become a part of the medical and allied medical profession. One of the reasons for this additional path is to achieve the total number of doctors and medical professions required throughout the country.

## **Postgraduate training**

Once qualified as a MD and having worked for two years, it is possible to take an examination and enter either academic or practical fields; the former belonging to the Ministry of Education and latter to the Ministry of Health. There is also collaboration between these two systems.

## **Pediatric undergraduate training program and objectives**

The residents are expected to have good knowledge, attitudes, and skills on

normal development of children. They will become competent in a clinical setting and have experiences in dealing with common problems.

Apart from the basic pediatric knowledge and skills, the residents will be able to understand the pathology and manage these conditions, including various subspecialties. Social pediatrics, public health, and international pediatrics form part of this core training.

During the fourth year of medical school, the undergraduates spend ten weeks learning about the normal child and their illnesses. Foreightweeks later in their sixth and final year, the students focus more on clinical scenarios, prevention, and some social aspects.

## **Postgraduate training**

After graduating from medical school, the trainees can enter a pediatric training program, working in academic institutions or join the practicing team of the Ministry of Health.

Having completed their medical schools they can gain pediatric training in two ways. First, is the six-month pediatric orientation-training program. The second option is to enter a three-year residency pediatric program provided only for excellent, top students. The average intake is ten per year per institution.

## **Practicing pediatric training programs**

For the first part of the pediatric training, two years is devoted to general pediatrics. Examinations are taken within this period.

Subspecialty pediatrics in the second part is six years.

**Academic pediatric programs**

Both Master's and PhD of Pediatrics are provided, with the former taking two years and latter four.

**Pediatric residency program, aim, first, second and third**

Pediatric residency is a three-year pro-

gram. They are required to remain on hospital duty for a number of hours in the evening. The qualifications obtained at the end of the training are Master of Pediatrics and First Level Pediatric Specialty.

**Other training programs**

For those wishing to further a field, fellowship program jointly with other countries and other training programs are possible.