

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IN ADULT PULMONOLOGY

This document details requirements set by the South African Thoracic Society as the standard of training required for persons wishing to register as Pulmonologists. The public should be able to identify Pulmonologists as having attained excellence as a result of their subspecialty training in academic institutions within and outside South Africa.

The clinical evaluation of Pulmonology patients

Objective evidence should be obtained during the two-year period of Pulmonology training of candidates' ability to conduct the following:

- An expert and focused respiratory (thoracic) evaluation. This would include the influence of Pulmonology disease on other organ systems and of systemic diseases upon the lungs.
- The ability of candidates to act sensitively and to practice high ethical standards in the handling of difficult patient problems, for example, in the Respiratory ICU and terminal illness.
- The ability to communicate effectively with, and educate, patients and colleagues.
- Evidence should be obtained that the candidates can provide a high quality of medical care, including the selection and performance of appropriate tests and investigations.

Basic science requirements

- Respiratory and related cardiac physiology and anatomy
- Pathology of lung disease
- Respiratory pharmacology
- Infectious diseases as related to the respiratory system
- Immunology of the normal and diseased lung
- Epidemiology, research techniques and statistics

Critical care

- The principles of critical care as related to Pulmonology

Evidence will be required of adequate exposure and technical ability as mastered by the candidate and witnessed by a registered Pulmonologist or Critical Care specialist over the two-year period of training in Pulmonology.

Allergy

- Diagnostic techniques in allergy
- Clinical and laboratory competence for diagnosing and treating allergic disease of the upper and lower respiratory tract

Programmes for community-related diseases

Experience with diagnosis and treatment of community-related diseases at hospital and community level will be required. This would include participation in national and regional SATS and Government programmes for diseases including:

- Tuberculosis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, community-acquired pneumonia and HIV-related lung disease, lung cancer

Management of rare diseases

- Cystic fibrosis, diffuse parenchymal lung diseases

Occupational and environmental health

- Evaluation of workers and the workplace
- Preventative measures for respiratory hazards
- Detection and treatment of occupational lung disease
- Legal and legislative principles
- Principles of compensation

Diagnostic pulmonary techniques

Objective evidence will be obtained of candidates' ability to conduct and interpret the following techniques:

- Flow-volume curves
- Body plethysmography evaluation
- Blood gas determinations
- Measurement of diffusion
- Exercise studies
- Evaluation of respiratory musculature
- Determination of elastic recoil
- Bronchial and nasal provocation
- Polysomnography

Invasive procedures

- Intubation
- Insertion of drainage tubes
- Fiberoptic bronchoscopy (rigid bronchoscopy – optional)
- Needle aspiration
- Pleural and other biopsies
- Thoracoscopy (optional)

Interpreting imaging techniques

- Including all radiological and CT imaging techniques
- Isotope evaluation of pulmonary ventilation and blood flow

Research requirements

- National and international presentations/publications

Collaboration of disciplines for training of Pulmonologists

Broadening the scope of training and experience of students in Pulmonology would require collaboration with the following specialties:

- Occupational health specialists
- Critical care specialists (including Anaesthesiology and Cardiology)
- ENT surgeons
- Radiology and isotope specialists
- Pathologists

Examination of candidates

Ongoing evaluation of candidates will be undertaken by registered Pulmonologists in units accredited by the HPCSA. Such evaluation will be documented in prescribed format (Addendum A) and presented to the Accreditation Committee of SATS before final registration with the HPCSA. This procedure will take effect from 1 January 1997.

From 1 January 1998, a national examination for Pulmonology, which will be supervised by senior members of SATS and the local training unit will be instituted. It will supplement the ongoing evaluation of candidates. The national examination includes a written paper and a viva set-up and supervised by senior members of SATS. It will be required of all candidates to maintain the same standard of expertise in Pulmonology which will reflect the standard of lung medicine in South Africa and at an international level.

In summary

- Semi-quantitative in-house evaluation
- Nationally supervised certification by a panel of members of the Credentials Committee of SATS
- A combination of in-course evaluation and end-of-course objective test

ONGOING EVALUATION FOR ADULT PULMONOLOGISTS IN TRAINING

(This form must be completed by the Head of the approved Pulmonology Unit in which the candidate receives training. Please complete in writing (not typed) and initial each item. The completed form must be submitted to the Chairperson, SATS Accreditation Committee, with the candidate's application for registration.)

Name of candidate:

Primary specialty:

Date of HPCSA registration of primary specialty:

Academic training unit:

Commencement of Pulmonology training (day/month/year):

Supervising Pulmonologists:

SIX MONTHLY REVIEWS

Please indicate the dates for every review period. Rate the candidate's ability for the first 6 items as poor, inadequate, adequate or excellent on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being poor and 10 excellent.

	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
1. Theoretical knowledge of adult/paediatric Pulmonology				
2. Clinical skills: Diagnostic evaluation Interventional procedures Therapeutic decision-making				
3. Maintenance of good ethical standards and an empathetic approach to patients				
4. Interpretation of imaging procedures				
5. Ability to perform and interpret bronchial hyperreactivity tests				

	6 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
6. Ability to evaluate and apply histopathological and cytological findings to clinical settings				
BRONCHOSCOPIES Number performed (<i>target is 100</i>) (list number (N=) of scopes and score competency from 1-10)	N =	N=	N=	N=
PLEURAL AND TRANSTHORACIC PROCEDURES Number of pleural and transthoracic needle aspirations performed (<i>minimum of 25</i>)	N =	N =	N =	N =
LUNG FUNCTION PROCEDURES (<i>minimum of 25</i>) Flow-volume curves Body box determinations Diffusion studies Exercise studies Blood gas determinations Helium FRC Histamine challenge	N =	N =	N =	N =
ICU EXPERIENCE Minimum period of 3 months (required training is fulltime plus a total of 3 months' training taken intermittently) Period spent in ICU unit (months) Number of patients cared for on ventilators ** State supervising clinician				
SLEEP DISORDERS Should have a good knowledge of sleep-related disorders and be able to evaluate and manage such patients. It is desirable, where possible, for the incumbent to have practical experience with sleep studies				

EXAMINATIONS

State formal tests/examinations completed (name, date, nature, result)
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

State number of presentations delivered:

- Local
- National
- International

State number of publications:

- Local
- National
- International

Research awards:

Projects completed:

Projects in progress:

Provide a brief outline (one paragraph) as an annexure on A4 paper. Indicate clearly the candidate's role in the project/s.

HEAD OF TRAINING PULMONOLOGY UNIT:

I endorse that the above details correctly reflect the assessment of this candidate by a Specialist Pulmonologist of this Unit:

Name:

Date:

CHAIRMAN SATS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE:

I support the application of the above candidate for registration as a Pulmonologist and confirm that he/she has fulfilled the training requirements of the South African Thoracic Society.

SIGNATURE:

DATE: