

Psychiatric postgraduate training

Abstract

The postgraduate residents of psychiatry in Taiwan should receive the basic training of a physician doctor. They should also learn how to evaluate and manage the basic psychiatric disorders.

During the first year of psychiatric postgraduate training, the residents should accomplish the basic practice of a general physician for six months to one year. In Taiwan, this is called postgraduate year (PGY) program and is applied to all medical department.

After finishing the PGY programs, they must have primary care training for the acute ward and emergency room psychiatric patients. They should also learn how to manage the psychiatric emergency and basic psychiatric disorders including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder. Meanwhile, they will also take the courses of basic clinical interview skills, psychopathology, and psychopharmacology.

After they enter second year of residency, they will receive advanced clinical skills and conduct diagnostic interviews on their own. They will also receive psychotherapy training courses including cognitive behavioral therapy, analytic psychotherapy and dynamic psychotherapy. They will also take the training of rehabilitation programs for chronic psychiatric patients.

In addition, the 2nd-year residents begin to have training courses promoting their exploration in different fields of study in Psychiatry. Throughout the whole residency, they should learn to write research articles regarding the area of their study interests.

Regarding the third year, they will begin a series of elective courses. For example, they will receive the training of general hospital psychiatric consultation, community psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, substance use disorder/addiction psychiatry and clinical neurology.

For the last year as psychiatry residents, also known as the chief resident, they will need to take the courses of forensic psychiatry and be responsible for administrative work of the department.