

МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ - ВАРНА  
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## FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Approved:

Dean:

(Prof. Yoto Yotov, MD, PhD)



## CURRICULUM

*IN*

*Tropical medicine*

Specialty	<b>MEDICINE</b>
Educational - qualification degree	<b>master</b>
Organizational form of education	<b>full-time</b>
Auditorial activity (Lectures/Seminars)	<b>109 (45/64)</b>
Extra-auditorial activity	<b>11</b>
ECTS- credits	<b>4</b>
Discipline type	<b>elective</b>
Semester/s of education	<b>IX, X</b>
Semester of examination	<b>X</b>
Prepared by:	Prof. Margarita Gospodinova, MD, PhD Assoc. Prof. Iliyan Todorov, MD, PhD Assoc. Prof. Eliyana Ivanova, MD, PhD Assoc. Prof. Kalina Stoyanova, MD, PhD Assos. Prof. Stoyan Pavlov, MD

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## ANNOTATION

<b>Aims of the course</b>	<p>The training in the elective course "Tropical Medicine" is intended for medical students in their 5th year. It is conducted during the IX and X semesters. The main goal of teaching is to educate students on the geographical distribution, clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, surveillance and control measures, according to international WHO programs, of the most common and socially significant infectious and parasitic tropical diseases. The training in "Tropical Medicine" is carried out through theoretical and practical classes on infectious diseases, epidemiology, parasitology, and dermatovenerology, and concludes with development of term paper. The course is led by lecturers from the Department of "Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, and Dermatovenerology" at the Faculty of Medicine and the Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology" at the Faculty of Public Health of MU-Varna.</p>
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<b>Outcomes for students at the end of the course:</b>	
<b>Competences</b>	
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>1. Patient Care</b> that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for treating health problems and promoting health.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To know the clinical presentation, diagnostic methods, and treatment of the most common tropical infectious, parasitic, and dermatological diseases.</li> <li>To know the indications for necessary medical procedures specific to the diagnostic process and treatment of tropical diseases.</li> <li>To be aware of measures to limit the epidemic process in case of an outbreak of a tropical infection and protect the health of the contact persons.</li> <li>To know the methods for preventing contraction of tropical diseases when traveling to endemic regions.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collect important and patient-specific information about travelling to the tropical countries, accurate chronology of the onset of clinical complaints associated with travel, etc.</li> <li>To consult patients and family members regarding their clinical condition and risks of infection with tropical diseases.</li> <li>To make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions regarding the most common tropical diseases.</li> <li>To provide effective instructions upon the occurrence of an epidemic focus of tropical or imported infections, understanding and implementing the measures to limit the epidemic process and protect the health of contacts.</li> <li>To provide effective algorithms for preventing infection with tropical diseases when traveling to endemic regions – protection against insect bites, vaccination, chemoprophylaxis, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>2. Medical Knowledge</b> about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and related to them (eg, epidemio-logical and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To know the clinical presentation, clinical forms, epidemiology, diagnostic methods, differential diagnosis, and therapy for the most common tropical infectious, parasitic, and dermatological diseases.</li> <li>To recognize the characteristic features of the epidemic process in tropical diseases, routes of infection and transmission, vectors, and the possibility of local spread.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To acquire knowledge about the geographical areas of various tropical diseases and measures to limit their spread, according to WHO programs and other International and European institutions.</li> <li>To be familiar with modern methods for treating tropical diseases and the specifics of vaccination and chemoprophylaxis.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To interpret the results from the clinical-laboratory and imaging tests.</li> <li>Based on the clinical presentation and the results of conducted tests, to create a differential diagnostic plan that includes relevant tropical diseases.</li> <li>To know and apply methods for etiological diagnosis (microbiological, virological, parasitological) when a tropical disease is suspected.</li> <li>To effectively transfer the acquired knowledge to colleagues and other medical staff.</li> <li>To apply a research and analytical approach for solving clinical and scientific problems arising in patients with tropical diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>3. Practical learning and self-improvement</b> , which includes research and evaluation of their own patient care, evaluation and assimilation of scientific evidence, and improvements in patient care.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build upon and refine their knowledge acquired in the basic course of training in the discipline "Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases, Medical Parasitology".</li> <li>To work with scientific databases for collecting information on tropical diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To evaluate and interpret scientific evidence specific to different tropical diseases.</li> <li>To apply critical assessment when collecting, organizing, and summarizing scientific information.</li> </ul>
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills</b> that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families, and other health professionals.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assimilate scientific and medical information about tropical diseases to ensure effective communication with patients and their families.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active listening skills, considering behavior and emotional state when working with patients with tropical diseases.</li> <li>To establish and maintain a therapeutic relationship with patients and their families, with the ability to inform and make decisions considering the specific characteristics of tropical infections.</li> <li>To work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary healthcare team formed in the presence of tropical diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>5. Professionalism</b> , as manifested through a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To become familiar with the specificities of working with patients who frequently travel, have specific professions exposing them to increased risk, immigrants, or other foreign nationals.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To demonstrate humanism and competence when working with patients with tropical diseases, considering differences in lifestyle, religion, culture, health education, etc., in patients of diverse origin.</li> <li>To be aware of the risks and take precautions when working with patients with infectious diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Competence group</b>	<b>6. Systems-Based Practice</b> , as manifested by actions that demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value.
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To become familiar with the medical regulations concerning imported and tropical diseases.</li> <li>To develop a system of knowledge about the interrelationships between different disciplines and areas of medical practice to ensure a timely and effective response when working with patients with tropical diseases.</li> </ul>

<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To work effectively with regulatory documents and other health regulations to prevent the spread of imported tropical diseases in Bulgaria.</li> <li>To analyze the risk and impact on the healthcare system and population in the event of an outbreak of an imported tropical disease.</li> </ul>
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<b>Key competencies for lifelong learning<sup>1</sup>, that the discipline develops:</b>	
<b>Literacy competence</b> Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, express, create, and interpret concepts, feelings, facts and opinions in both oral and written forms, using visual, sound/audio and digital materials across disciplines and contexts. It implies the ability to communicate and connect effectively with others, in an appropriate and creative way.	<b>X</b>
<b>Multilingual competence</b> This competence defines the ability to use different languages appropriately and effectively for communication. It broadly shares the main skill dimensions of literacy: it is based on the ability to understand, express and interpret concepts, thoughts, feelings, facts and opinions in both oral and written form (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in an appropriate range of societal and cultural contexts according to one's wants or needs.	<b>X</b>
<b>Mathematical competence and competence in science, technology, engineering</b> A. Mathematical competence is the ability to develop and apply mathematical thinking and insight in order to solve a range of problems in everyday situations. Building on a sound mastery of numeracy, the emphasis is on process and activity, as well as knowledge. Mathematical competence involves, to different degrees, the ability and willingness to use mathematical modes of thought and presentation (formulas, models, constructs, graphs, charts). B. Competence in science refers to the ability and willingness to explain the natural world by making use of the body of knowledge and methodology employed, including observation and experimentation, in order to identify questions and to draw evidence-based conclusions. Competences in technology and engineering are applications of that knowledge and methodology in response to perceived human wants or needs. Competence in science, technology and engineering involves an understanding of the changes caused by human activity and responsibility as an individual citizen.	<b>X</b>
<b>Digital competence</b> Digital competence involves the confident, critical and responsible use of, and engagement with, digital technologies for learning, at work, and for participation in society. It includes information and data literacy, communication and collaboration, media literacy, digital content creation (including programming), safety (including digital well-being and competences related to cybersecurity), intellectual property related questions, problem solving and critical thinking.	<b>X</b>
<b>Personal, social and learning to learn competence</b> Personal, social and learning to learn competence is the ability to reflect upon oneself, effectively manage time and information, work with others in a constructive way, remain resilient and manage one's own learning and career. It includes the ability to cope with uncertainty and complexity, learn to learn, support one's physical and emotional well-being, to maintain physical and mental health, and to be able to lead a health-conscious, future-oriented life, empathize and manage conflict in an inclusive and supportive context.	<b>X</b>
<b>Citizenship competence</b> the ability to act as responsible citizens and to fully participate in civic and social life, based on an understanding of social, economic, legal and political concepts and structures, as well as global developments and sustainability.	<b>X</b>
<b>Entrepreneurship competence</b> Entrepreneurship competence refers to the capacity to act upon opportunities and ideas, and to transform them into values for others. It is founded upon creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, taking initiative and perseverance and the ability to work collaboratively in order to plan and manage projects that are of cultural, social or financial value.	

<sup>1</sup> As defined in 2018 r. by the European Union Council ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/BG/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018H0604\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/BG/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018H0604(01)&from=EN))



### **Cultural awareness and expression competence**

Competence in cultural awareness and expression involves having an understanding of and respect for how ideas and meaning are creatively expressed and communicated in different cultures and through a range of arts and other cultural forms. It involves being engaged in understanding, developing and expressing one's own ideas and sense of place or role in society in a variety of ways and contexts.

### **Methods of education**

- Lectures
- seminars
- practicals and laboratory exercises, practical and creative problem solving, case studies, consultations, discussions, work with scientific literature, regulatory documents, databases, work with patients under observation, medical documentation

### **Links with other courses from the curriculum of the specialty**

- **Builds upon knowledge acquired in:**
  - Epidemiology, Infectious Diseases, Medical Parasitology, and Tropical Medicine
  - Dermatology and Venereology
- **Other related disciplines:**
  - Microbiology and Virology
  - Maritime Medicine
  - Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS