DERMATOLOGY

Synopsis
This unit introduces the student to a broad range of common dermatological problems encountered in the general practice setting, providing them with clinically relevant and up-to-date information on topics such as patterns and diagnosis of skin disease, erythematopapulosquamous diseases, dermal and subcutaneous problems, skin tumours and pigmented lesions, cutaneous manifestations of systematic diseases, skin infections, paediatric dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, Industrial dermatology and regional dermatology, amongst others. Topics are written by content specialists practicing in these areas, and are customised specifically for the general practitioner.

Objectives
By the completion of this unit students should be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of the structure and function of the skin to assist in accurate diagnosis.
2. Develop a systematic approach to diagnosis which involves - assimilating sufficient knowledge to reduce the spectrum of clinical possibilities in any particular setting to a meaningful and rational diagnostic list, and - further refining this list based on an understanding of the background of each of the diagnostic possibilities.
3. Apply knowledge of available lists or investigations to further aid diagnosis.
4. Recognise the scope of dermatological problems seen in general practice and the potential that exists for GPs to adequately manage a considerable number of these conditions.
5. Develop a systematic approach to treatment which incorporates 'holistic' methods involving the use of several agents in any particular condition, rather than a single agent (i.e. orchestra vs single instrument approach).
6. Acquire the practical skills which might enhance the range of dermatological procedures carried out in general practice. Effectively use appropriate dermatological procedures for the general practice setting.
7. Discuss future developments in dermatological diagnosis and treatment, and the refinements of sub-specialities within the field of dermatology.

Assessment
Mid-term examination 15%
End of term examination 15%
Pictorial case studies (Sessions 1-5) 40%
Logbook (prospective audit) 30%
Journal (formative assessment)