THE TAMIL NADU Dr. M.G.R. MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
69, ANNA SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI -600 032
WEBSITE: www.tnmgrmu.ac.im

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL JOURNALISM

REGULATION AND SYLLABUS FOR THE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 - 2024

THE TAMIL NADU Dr. M.G.R. MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
69, ANNA SALAI, GUINDY, CHENNAI -600 032

REGULATIONS FOR THE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL JOURNALISM **

(Nomenclature has been changed from PG Diploma in Public Health Journalism to PG Diploma in Medical Journalism as per the resolution passed in 62nd SAB held on 17.08.2023)**

1. **SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT :** These regulations shall be called

THE REGULATIONS FOR THE POST - GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN " MEDICAL JOURNALISM".

2. **REGISTRATION:** A candidate admitted into Post-Graduate Diploma Courses in any of the affiliated Institutions of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai shall register with the University by remitting the prescribed fees along with the application form for registration duly filled in and forwarded to the Controller of Examinations of t his University through the Head of the affiliated institution with in the stipulated date. The candidate's name must be registered in the University within 3 months from the date of his/her admission.

3. **ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates for admission to the **One year Post-Graduate Diploma in Medical Journalism Course** shall be required to possess the following qualifications:

- Any Undergraduate degree from a recognized University acquired as a full-time student (10+2+3 to 5yrs pattern)
- Tamil journalists are encouraged to apply
- Service candidate can also apply

Number of Seats: 8

Method of selection:
Interview & Entrance Examination depending upon the applications received.
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4. **. AGE LIMIT**:

No upper age limit for Admission

5. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE:

Candidates who have passed any qualifying examination other than the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University shall obtain an "Eligibility Certificate" from this University by remitting the prescribed fees along with the application form and required documents before seeking admission to any one of the affiliated institutions. The application form is available in the University website :web.tnmgrmu.ac.in.

6. DURATION OF THE COURSE : The period of certified study and training for the Post - Graduate Diploma course shall be **ONE YEAR**.

7. COMMENCEMENT OF THE COURSE:

The course shall commence from **1st June** of the academic year. Cut off date for Admission is **30th June every year**.

8. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION:

English shall be the Medium of Instruction for all the Subjects of study and for examinations for the **POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN "MEDICAL JOURNALISM".**

9. CURRICULUM:

The Curriculum and the syllabus for the course shall be as prescribed in these regulations and are subject to modifications by the Standing Academic Board from time to time.

10. CUT-OFF DATE OF THE COURSE *:**

i) **30th June of the year concerned**

ii) The candidates admitted upto **30th June** of the Academic Year shall be registered to take up the **1st year examination during May of the next year**.

(* change of Academic Year from (October to September) to (June to May) as per the resolution passed in 62nd SAB held on 17.08.2023)**

11. COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION:

15th May

If the date of commencement of Examination falls on Saturdays, Sundays or declared Public Holidays, the examination shall begin on the next working day.

12. WORKING DAYS IN AN ACADEMIC YEAR. :

Contact classes will be conducted on 2nd and 4th week of every month. Out of 24 weeks, 21 weeks (90%) of the contact classes should be attended by the candidates to appear for the University examination.

13. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO EXAMINATIONS:

No candidate shall be permitted to appear for the Examination unless he/she put in 90% attendance during his/her period of study and training in the affiliated institution recognized by this University and produces the necessary certificate of study, attendance and progress from the Head of the Institution by maintaining log book.

14. MAINTAINENCE OF LOG BOOK:

Every Post-graduate Diploma candidate shall maintain a record of skills he has acquired during the one year training period certified by the various Heads of Departments he has undergone training.

The candidates should also be required to participate in the teaching and training programme of the institute.

In addition, the Head of the Department shall involve their post-graduate candidates in Seminars, Journal Clubs, Group discussions and conferences.

The Head of the Department shall scrutinize the Log Book once in every three months.

At the end of the course, the candidate should summaries the contents and get the Log Book certified by the Head of the Department.

The Log Book should be submitted at the time of practical examination for the scrutiny of the Board of Examiners.

15. MIGRATION/TRANSFER OF CANDIDATES:

A student studying in **POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA COURSE IN "MEDICAL JOURNALISM"** can be allowed to migrate/transfer to another institution of Allied Health Science under the same or another University.

Under extraordinary circumstances, the Vice Chancellor shall have the powers to place any migration/transfer he/she deems fit before the Governing Council and get its approval for grant of permission/ratification for Migration/Transfer to the candidates undergoing the course of study in affiliated institutions of this University.

16. RE-ADMISSION AFTER BREAK OF STUDY: The regulations for re-admission are as per the University Common Regulation for Re-admission after break of study for all courses**.**

17. VACATION: There is no vacation

18. METHOD OF SELECTION: Through Interview &Entrance Examination

19. Format of the Course

1. Contact Classes

The candidates during the course will attend contact classes scheduled every fortnightly which would be covering at least a total duration of 80 hours at The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai/ collaborating institutes undergoing training in core syllabus.

2. Project (internal evaluation): The candidate should choose their In-Field project/research programmes upon discussion & written approval by their supervisors on the topics listed above and start their project development by3rd month of their course such that conduct & complete it before 10th month. During 11th month, project report is to be submitted by the candidate at DoE and Report shall be evaluated internally. Publication of the project report in a journal (news magazine or science journal) on a public health topic is an expected deliverable prior to appearing in the theory examination· Diseases of public health importance (Infectious diseases/ NCD)

- Public health emergencies
- National Health Programmes
- Environmental health
- Health Behaviour
- Data Journalism

3.Practicals: 1) Critique of published works; Critical appraisal (tracking right source of information, appraising the evidence & contextualization of news) 2) **Lab Journa**l Critique of lab journals & awards 3) **News Report**

Internal Assessment

- **Internal Assessment: Class test and project**

20. SCHEME OF EXAMINATION- THEORY PAPER:

At the end of the Academic Year, the candidates would need to appear for theory examinations (Three papers), One practical Examination and Viva-voce for One Elective project

First year	Theory paper	IA		Theory		Practical		Viva
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Paper I	**Introduction to Health Journalism and Health Law**	50	25	100	50	100	50	50
Paper II	**Introduction to Human Health**	50	25	100	50			
Paper III	**Diseases of Public Health Importance**	50	25	100	50			
Paper IV	Project (Application of public health journalism)					Project Evaluation		Presentation / Viva
						100	50	50

DISTRIBUTION OF THE THEORY MARKS

Type of Questions	Distribution of Marks	Total Marks
Long Essays	2 x 20	40
Short Notes	10 x 6	60

TOTAL 100 MARK AND MINIMUM PASS MARK 50

PROJECT & VIVA

Project		Viva Voce			Total
Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min
100	50	50	25	150	75

PG Diploma in Medical Journalism
Syllabus From the Academic Year 2023 - 2024

(** Nomenclature has been changed from PG Diploma in Public Health Journalism to PG Diploma in Medical Journalism as per the resolution passed in 62nd SAB held on 17.08.2023)

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1. The importance of Public Health Journalism
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4. Course format
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9. Course fees
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P.G.DIPLOMA IN MEDICAL JOURNALISM (PGDMJ)

The Importance of Journalism to Public Health

Journalists and writers have played a significant role in public health throughout many decades. Journalists are the storytellers that the public listen to and are charged with looking at a problem from many perspectives to develop that coherent narrative that speaks to their audience. These are qualities that many scientists and public health professionals don't bring to their jobs, nor are they always expected to or even should. As such, journalists play an important role for this very reason, thus journalism has the potentials to be important pillar of medicine and public health.

The up-to-date data regarding the burden and importance of an emerging or re-emerging epidemic or a non-communicable disease like cancer are always available with the physicians or public health professionals. But what about the gap between those professionals and the public? How the message would reach those public in need? To make the community to take appropriate action in preventing that disease or make them at least aware of it, we need to make them pay attention, which is extremely tough in today's scenario of information overload and ultra- fast life style.

To make it happen to enlighten that common man so that s/he gets actively involved in the process of global health goal or Sustainable Development Goals whatever we call it, the health profession needs the hands and brain of a talented journalist. Because without the involvement of the community, achieving the Universal Health Goals will be nothing but impossible. The journalist with public health acumen can play the role of a bridge here – between the health professional and the common man.

To say it simply, "Better Journalism is key to better Public Health".

The digital world is bringing dramatic changes to the news media. Internet sources of news coverage are expanding. This provides the potential to dramatically increase public access to

information—for example, by the creation of online newspaper archives. The digital revolution in media has also given rise to a cadre of science-oriented blogs like Retraction Watch, Science-Based Medicine, and Bad Science. They publish more frequently than traditional beat reporters, correcting the record, illuminating health research, and holding opinion leaders or decision makers to account. In addition to speaking directly to their sizable audiences, their work is picked up by mainstream media or they are called upon as sources, elevating the discourse about science along the way. Many of these bloggers came from academia and now they reduce the gap between research and journalism. This new direction includes reporting on and using "big data" for journalism. Every day, the amount of data we produce grows, and journalists have more at their disposal to learn about themselves and the world. More information may mean more *bad* information. Big data cannot replace old- fashioned journalistic inquiry. Thus in this time of media transition, health journalists need to keep their eyes on the possibilities. The stories are often used as medicine by readers,, and changes in the ways in which the public receives and reacts to news. Hence a need to publish with the care and deliberateness of a doctor writing a prescription, and use journalism to protect and improve public health.

A number of journalism colleges provide coursework on health reporting incorporate more health information to their curriculum. Further, they have other training opportunities in health, including conferences, workshops, and other resources for Journalists. However, health care journalists engaging in a formal course offered by a Medical University may widen the access to continuing, reliable, updated health information and facilitate in producing high quality health content in the news, and also serve as guardians against low quality content making into press.

Health care journalist if systematically trained in public health, can have a greater positive impact in healthy community than ever before. They know the impact of what they write in health to whom they write, how people react, etc. The learnings in public health journalism may bring increased access to stories of local, national, and international importance and in- depth dialogues with public officials, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders, as well as to the general public and develop quality stories of health and of the environment.

The Department of Epidemiology of (DoE) The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University was established in 1997. The Department's mission is 'to apply the science of epidemiology

for Better Health Care' and contribute to improvement of 'Public's Health', individuals as well as populations. The Department has been offering Master of Science (MSc) in Epidemiology since 2002 and MSc in Public Health since 2017. Every year the department is also training about 1750 Medical & Dental postgraduates in Health Research in order to improve the quality of Research in Health Sciences.

In this context, DoE proposes to start this program of Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Health Journalism promoting inter-disciplinary science in terms of the contents, quality, target audience and specialty. This novel programme is expected to widen the scope of the programmes & target audience and strengthen Public – Media - Academia-health system relationship to improve the reach and quality of public health in the country.

Course Objectives & Duration

This **PG Diploma in Medical Journalism (PGDMJ)**would be a one year programme started from the academic year 2019-20 with overall objective to enable the communicators as well as journalists with the training and knowledge necessary to cover public health and medical issues for online, print, broadcast and other media platforms.

Thus, the course aims to professionalise journalist for a career in public health journalism. It provides them an opportunity to expand their knowledge of important topics relevant to conducting studies in health sciences and other related fields, and the analysis of health- related data.

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Partnership

The PGDMJ programme conducted by TNMGRMU would collaborate with reputed institutions in the field of Journalism and Public Health to improve the objective of the course.

Duration of the course: One year

Format of the Course

20. Contact Classes

The candidates during the course will attend contact classes scheduled every fortnightly which would be covering at least a total duration of 80 hours at The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai/ collaborating institutes undergoing training in core syllabus.

21. Besides contact they would developing project on 'How to do NEWS report?' in the domains related to:

- Diseases of public health importance (Infectious diseases/ NCD)
- Public health emergencies
- National Health Programmes
- Environmental health
- Health Behaviour
- Data Journalism

Theory paper

Paper 1: **Introduction to Health Journalism and health law – 30 hrs**

Paper 2: **Introduction to Human Health – 20hrs**

Paper 3**: Diseases of Public Health Importance -30hrs**

Paper- 1:- Introduction to Health Journalism & Health Laws

Health reporting and Medical Writing features

A 1:1: News gathering Leads > Sources

Primary sources: Interviews (interview techniques); Art of Interviewing Health providers Surveys (questionnaire development)

Secondary Sources: Reports, Reviews, Conference Papers, Journals, books Literature search techniques Use and abuse of Wikipedia

A 1:2: Reporting

Structures of the report Inverted Pyramid etc Following Style

book Style Book (Explain with examples; Give exercises,

tests/quizzes) **A1. 3 Writing features**

A.1 Determining the focus and emphasis Case studies (protecting the identities)

Reading data / interpreting data/ analyzing data Inputs for info graphics

A.2:Advertorials (including Lab journal)

Writing Advertorials/ Promotional materials/ Literature for Pharmaceutical companies

A.3:Writing for New Media including Social Media

Understanding the difference in writing for various media Writing style: Format

Informal Popular Own way

Print media/Web hyperlink

Different way of writing for television/Radio/Web/News paper

A4: Health laws

Right to Privacy –SC Judgement (Puttaswamy Vs GOI)

Mental Health Act 1987 (Amended to Mental healthcare bill 2016) Transplantation of Human Organs Act

PCPNDTA (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act) Medical termination of pregnancy Act

Consumer protection act and medical profession The TN Clinical establishment (regulation) act Persons with disability act(RPwD Act 2018) The Pharmacy Act

Drugs and cosmetic act Defamation and Libel Patient confidentiality

RTI Crime Reporting

Paper 2: Introduction to Human Health

Basic Anatomy & Physiology

The Boss: CNS

The Executives: ANS

The Pump House : Circulatory system

The Energizers : Respiratory and GI

System The Frame: Skeletal system

The Scavengers: Liver and Kidney

A.5 The Protectors: Lymph and other immune systems; antibodies. Skin

The Sensors: Eye and Ear

The Creators: Reproductive system

Paper-3: Diseases of Public Health Importance

Infectious diseases (including NTDs)

Bacterial infections (TB, ARI, Food poisoning, Typhoid, ADD, Cholera, Leptospirosis, Tetanus, Leprosy, STD etc.); Viral Infections (Rabies, Hepatitis, HIV & STIs, Dengue etc.);Parasitic infection (Amoebiasis, Round worm, Hook worm, Filariasis, Malaria)

Non-communicable diseases

Hypertension & Stroke; Coronary Heart disease ; Accidents

Cancer

Conditions but not diseases Diabetes & Obesity Allergy &

Asthma Dementia, Parkinson & Alzheimer

Autism ADHD

Mental Disorders) Arthritis

Maternal & Child Health

National Health/Disease Control programmes

Elimination/Eradication/Control programmes: NVBDCP, RNTCP, NLEP, NMEP, NPCDCS; NPCB&VI Universal immunization, RMNCH, Child and Adult health programme

Health System

Public Health System Private Health System AYUSH

Common Terminologies

Introduction to Epidemiology (Disease causation factors, cause-effect relationship, epidemic/ endemic, reservoir of infection, methods of transmission, period of communicability, burden of diseases, investigation of epidemic, immunity)

Public Health Ethics & Confidentiality

Social & Health Sciences

Social Factors/Customs & Cultural Factors in Health-

Poverty, Inequality,Educational attainment,Life expectancy,Employment and unemployment, Fertility,Health expenditure Suicide,Life satisfaction (objective and subjective)

Health measures and indicators (MMR, IMR, Malnutrition, MDG &SDGs; Measures of disease frequencies)

Practicals: 1) Critique of published works; Critical appraisal (tracking right source of information, appraising the evidence & contextualization of news) 2) **Lab Journa**l Critique of lab journals & awards 3) **News Report**

Assessment

iii) **Internal Assessment: Class test**
iv) **Theory Papers / Practicals - 3 papers**

4. **Project (internal evaluation):**The candidate should choose their In-Field project/research programmes upon discussion & written approval by their supervisors on the topics listed above and start their project development by 3rd month of their course such that conduct & complete it before 10th month. During 11th month, project report is to be submitted by the candidate at DoE and Report shall be evaluated internally. Publication of the project report in a journal (news magazine or science journal) on a public health topic is an expected deliverable prior to appearing in the theory examination.

Eligibility& Admission requirements

The following represent the standard minimum undergraduate degree requirements for admission to **PGDPHJ**:

5. Any Undergraduate degree from a recognised University acquired as a full- time student (10+2+3 to 5 years pattern)
6. No upper age limit
7. Tamil journalists are encouraged to apply
8. Service candidate can also apply

Number of Seats: 8 Method

of selection:
Interview & Entrance Examination depending upon the number of applications received.

Scheme of Examination

At the end of the Academic Year, the candidates would need to appear for theory examinations (Three papers), One practical Examination and Viva-voce for One Elective project.

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

Theory papers	Name of the Theory paper	IA		Theory		Practical		Viva
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Paper I	**Introduction to Health Journalism and Health Law**	50	25	100	50	100	50	50
Paper II	**Introduction to Human Health**	50	25	100	50			
Paper III	**Diseases of Public Health Importance**	50	25	100	50			
Paper IV	Project (Relevant to public health journalism theme)					Project Evaluation		Presentation / Viva
						100	50	50

Course Fee:

Tentative Course fee would be Rs.7,100/- *

* Subject to the approval of the University authorities.

Other instructions:

- 90% of attendance to contact classes is mandatory.
- Candidates will need to submit all the original certificates to the university during Interview / Admission
- The rules and regulations of the university for other courses will be applicable except for the ones mentionned in the prospectus

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