Schweizerische Fachgesellschaft für Tropen- und Reisemedizin FMH
Société Suisse de Médecine Tropicale et de Médecine des voyages FMH
Società Svizzera di Medecina Tropicale e di Viaggio FMH
Swiss Society of Tropical and Travel Medicine FMH

9 February 2025

Evaluation of overseas clinical training site for rotations of Swiss physicians aspiring the FMH specialty title "Tropical and Travel Medicine"

Evaluated site:
Academic Hospital Paramaribo (Academisch Ziekenhuis Paramaribo, AZP)

Address:
RRQ8+3XV, Flustraat, Paramaribo, Suriname

Site evaluator of the SSTTM: PD Dr. med. Andreas Neumayr

Locally responsible specialist: Dr. Lycke Woittiez, MD
(Dutch, specialized in: - Internal Medicine
- Infectious Diseases)

Site description:
Founded in 1966, the Academic Hospital Paramaribo (Academisch Ziekenhuis Paramaribo, AZP) is the largest hospital in Suriname. The AZP serves as primary academic teaching hospital of the country and is affiliated with the medical faculty of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname. The AZP is the best equipped hospital in the country and accredited as postgraduate training site for local physicians of all disciplines.
The national language of Suriname and the primary language of communication in the hospital is Dutch. Most Surinamese are multilingual and English is widely spoken. In terms of numbers of speakers the main languages in Suriname are Dutch, Sranan Tongo (Surinamese Creole), Sarnami (Surinamese Hindustani), Surinamese-Javanese, and different Maroon languages (especially Saramaccan and Aukan).
SSTTM trainees/candidates are supervised by Dr. Lycke Woittiez, the hospital's senior Infectious Diseases specialist and may have the opportunity to rotate to affiliated external clinics/hospitals (e.g. 's Lands Hospitaal Paramaribo [dermatology service: leishmaniasis, leprosy etc.]) as well as non-hospital related medical services (e.g. Medische Zending [medical care for remote communities in the hinterland]). Since SSTTM trainees/candidates are supposed to work supervised but largely independent (in-house consultancies + ID OPD as well as external clinics/hospitals), they must either be in advanced training of Infectious Diseases (which is also the prerequisite of Dutch rotation candidates) or have finished their training in Internal Medicine. With regards to the independent clinical work to be conducted by the trainees/candidates in and outside the hospital, the minimum level of training is a legal prerequisite demanded by the hospital.
Being able to communicate in Dutch would be helpful, but is no prerequisite. Long-term commitment of trainees/candidates may be eligible to be rewarded by supported housing through the hospital and provision of a hospital car.

Facilities / Resources:
- Number of hospital beds: 465
- All medical disciplines and diagnostic services, including medical microbiology, are available in-house

Dept. of Infectious Diseases:
- Senior physicians: 1
- Residents: - 1 Local resident
  - 1-2 Dutch ID rotation residents from Amsterdam Univ. Medical Centre

Top 10 infectious diseases (not proportionally listed):

1. Arboviral infections (Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Mayaro, Oropuche)
2. Nosocomial MDR gram negative infections (Carbapenemase-resist. Klebsiella etc.)
3. HIV (population prevalence: ~1.6%; AZP's cohort: ~1200 patients)
   - Histoplasmosis
   - Cryptococcosis
4. Surgical site infections
5. Sepsis
6. Tuberculosis
7. STDs, esp. syphilis
8. Cutaneous leishmaniasis
9. Leptospirosis
10. Very little: malaria, leprosy (20-30 cases/year)

Conditions demanded by the hospital and provided logistics for trainees:

- Assignments should be planned well ahead, ideally at least 6 months ahead
  The setting enables practical hands-on training rather than clinical observership which however implies that candidates must already be in advanced clinical training (see above); Offered training periods: 3-12 months
- Medical registration will be taken care of by the AZP
- Trainees get no salary, but may be supported by the AZP regarding housing and provision of a car for commuting

Checklist according to § 5 of the further training regulations "Criteria for the recognition of training centres"

5.1 Training centres in the tropics

The hospital in the tropics must name further training of candidates in its mission statement and be under the direction of a specialist in tropical and travel medicine or with the same foreign qualification. Specialists in general internal medicine or paediatrics and adolescent medicine with further training in tropical medicine are also recognised.	✓
…The hospital must also fulfil the following minimum requirements:	
- It must have a further training concept. - the specially adapted SIWF certificate must be completed by the head of the postgraduate training centre before taking up the post (Annex 3 WBP)	✓
- Possibility to take over own patient responsibility	✓
Laboratory with haematology, simple bacteriology, parasitology and simple chemistry.	✓
- X-ray and/or ultrasound	✓
- A healthcare facility with inpatients and outpatients, with at least 50 beds and at least 20 outpatient contacts daily (candidates rotate in inpatient and outpatient areas), with an emergency service and surgery.	✓
- Library with internet access	✓

Summary:

- The first and only academic medical hospital of Suriname
- The full spectrum of infectious diseases endemic in the country and the typical spectrum of nosocomial ID problems of a tertiary hospital setting in the tropics
- Opportunity to gain experience by working hands-on and largely independently but under supervision of an European trained ID expert

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