Circular Letter No. 090 /2026

My No. PGIM/EX/8/SE/Path ('26)
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha,
Colombo 7
14 October 2026

To: Deputy Director General NHSL,
Directors/MSS of Teaching/General Hospitals,
Regional Directors of Health Services,
Deans of Faculties of Medicine/Medical Sciences,
Universities of Peradeniya/ Colombo/ Jaffna/ Ruhuna/ Kelaniya,
Sri Jayewardenepura, Eastern/Rajarata/Sabaragamuwa/Wayamba/KDU/Moratuwa/Uva Wellassa

Selection Examination Leading to MD in Histopathology, Clinical Haematology & Chemical Pathology – December 2026 (Histopathology Prospectus 2016/Chemical Pathology Prospectus 2016/ Clinical Haematology Prospectus 2013)

1. The above examination is scheduled to commence on **Thursday, 17 December 2026**.

2. Applications are invited by me from medical officers in the state and non-state sectors possessing the following requirements to sit the Selection Examination for enrolment to the above training programme.

   (a) A medical degree registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council;

   (b) Satisfactory completion of internship acceptable the Sri Lanka Medical Council;

   (c) Satisfactory completion of one year of post internship in medical / Clinical practice in a University/ Public / Private Sector Institution in Sri Lanka acceptable to the PGIM as at the date of closure of applications, ie. **17 November 2026.**

   Notes:- The criteria prescribed in paragraph (a), (b), (c) must have been satisfied by the applicants as at the date of closure of applications, where a short-fall has occurred due to any reasons including sick, maternity or other leave, the doctor concerned should complete such shortfall in order to become eligible to apply for the Selection Examination.

   In addition to qualifications at (a), (b) and (c) above, candidates who wish to enter the Clinical Haematology or Chemical Pathology training programme, will also have to fulfill the following requirements. **Therefore, the selection of the specialty will be done at the beginning of the course.**

   Clinical Haematology

   1. At least 1 year of the post intern period should be in a clinical discipline.
   2. ALS certification
   3. Have compulsorily done General Medicine for six months during internship OR have six months experience as a full-time medical officer after internship (consecutively or in total) with both in-word and out-patient care of adult patients, with first on call commitments under the supervision of a full time specialist, in general medicine, cardiology, clinical oncology, dermatology, gastroenterology, neurology, nephrology, respiratory medicine, rheumatology endocrinology, intensive care/critical care medicine or emergency medicine.

   Chemical Pathology

   Six months of training in General Medicine or Paediatrics during the internship.

   OR

   During the post-intern period, working in a General Medical or Paediatric ward under the supervision of a Consultant Physician or a Consultant Paediatrician for a six months period.

* foreign nationals who seek to apply to register for selection examination should pass a medical degree which could be registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council. The decision of the Board of Management will be final in all such applications.

Contd…..Page2

3. The applicants to be eligible for enrollment to the training programme should pass the selection examination. The current format of the selection examination for the perusal of applicants is described in the Histopathology Prospectus 2016, Chemical Pathology Prospectus 2016, Clinical Haematology Prospectus 2013 (Please refer the amendments of the Prospectus) and examination documents which are available on the PGIM website.

4. The selection examination shall consist of two components (Component 1 and Component 2). Component 1 is the Common MCQ paper. The MCQ Paper consists of 40 questions which should be answered in 2 hours. Those who obtain 50% or more for the MCQ Paper will be eligible to proceed to Component 2. Component 2 comprises of specialty examinations in Histopathology, Clinical Haematology & Chemical Pathology. A Candidate may sit any one, two or all three Specialty Examinations if they wish. The three specialty examinations will be held with adequate spacing of time for a candidate to sit all three examinations within a period of 2 weeks.

5.

- Histopathology Specialty Examination (Component 2) will comprise an Essay Paper with 3 questions and a projected OSPE with 15 questions
  - Essay questions 03 (Short Essay) - 1 hour
  - 15 Projected OSPE - 45 minutes

To be eligible for Selection, a candidate must obtain an aggregate mark of 50% or more for the common MCQ and 50% or more for the combined, Essay paper and Projected OSPE and 50% or more for the entire Exam.

- Clinical Haematology Specialty Examination (Component 2) will comprise a projected OSPE with 15 Stations
  - 15 OSPE stations - 90 minutes

To be eligible for Selection, a candidate must obtain an aggregate mark of 50% or more for the common MCQ and 50% or more for the Projected OSPE and 50% or more for the entire Exam.

- Chemical Pathology Specialty Examination (Component 2) will comprise an Essay Paper with 3 questions and a Projected OSPE with 10 questions.
  - Essay questions 03 (more structured than essay) - 1 hour
  - Projected OSPE - 1 hour

To be eligible for Selection, a candidate must obtain an aggregate mark of 50% or more for the common MCQ and 50% or more for the combined, Essay Paper and Projected OSPE and 50% or more for the entire Exam.

- The candidates should declare in writing, their desired specialty/specialties in order of preference **within one week after releasing the results of the specialty examinations.** The candidates shall indicate in order of preference all specialties they sat for. This preference list WILL NOT be changed for any reason thereafter.

Selection of candidates who pass the examination will be done on the following basis:

- All candidates who pass both components (1 and 2) in EACH specialty will be placed in a merit list for that specialty. i.e., there will be 3 "merit lists"
- Each candidate's preference of specialty will be considered next
  Example: If a candidate's first preference is Histopathology and there are 10 vacancies in Histopathology and the candidate is 8th in the order of merit in Histopathology, the candidate will be allocated to Histopathology, even if he/she has come 1st in the order of merit in another specialty e.g. Haematology
- All eligible candidates will be allocated to a specialty based on the number of vacancies in each specialty, order of merit in each specialty and the preference of the candidate.
- The names of candidates allocated to each specialty in the order of merit will then be informed to the candidates.

Allocation of trainees to training centers will be done as follows:

- Candidates will be invited for an allocation meeting in their respective specialty (3 separate allocation meetings will be held) to select their training centers of choice as per the order of merit in that specialty.

Contd…..Page 3

6. **Only maximum of 37 candidates (Histopathology 14, Clinical Haematology 15, Chemical Pathology 08)** from the **Ministry of Health (MOH)** who pass the Selection Examination will be enrolled in the training programme. Placements will be made purely on the order of merit. The details are available on the PGIM website under "General Regulations and Guidelines 2026". **The 37th MOH candidate's marks will be taken as a cut-off line and the candidates in sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 will have to obtain a mark similar to this or above to be offered a place in the training programme.**
7. The final number of available training placements will be determined based on the total number of candidates above the cut-off line.
8. All candidates attached to **Other Government Ministries** who pass the selection examination and are above the cut – off line will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.
9. All candidates from **State Universities** who pass the selection examination and who are above the cut- off line will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit
10. All candidates from the **Armed Forces (including Police**) who pass the selection examination and are above the cut- off line will be enrolled in the training programme in the order of merit.
11. All **Non-State Sector** candidates who pass the selection examination and who are above the cut-off line will be enrolled in the training programme. They will be placed below the order of merit for candidates from the MOH, Other Government Ministries, State Universities and Armed Forces (including Police) based on the merit within the non-state sector category.
12. The above numbers shall not be changed, nor shall requests for such changes be entertained following the examination and after the release of results.
13. Each year only the scheduled Selection Examination in the approved examination calendar will be held. **No repeat or additional examination will be held.**
14. The allocation of training units will be done as described in "General Regulation and Guidelines – 2026" which is available on the PGIM website www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk The allocated training unit/s shall not be changed for personal reasons.
15. The permitted number of attempts of an eligible candidate at a particular PGD selection Examination is unlimited. However, in order to proceed for the MD after being successful at the Postgraduate Diploma examination, the candidate should have passed the Selection Examination for Postgraduate Diploma within 6 attempts. This regulation comes into effect from 30.09.2020
16. The training for MD Part I in Histopathology, Chemical Pathology and PG Diploma in Clinical Haematology commences with a Lecture Course in Baisc Laboratory Sciences (CBLS) of 4 to 5 weeks duration. The relevant information of the training programme is in the Histopathology 2016 Prospectus, Chemical Pathology 2016 Prospectus, Clinical Haematology 2013 (Please refer the amendments of the Prospectus)
17. For Histopathology, Chemical Pathology and Clinical Haematology trainees are expected to take the first available CBLS assessment. Taking the CBLS assessment is compulsory before sitting the MD Part I Examination and Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Haematology respectively. A trainee will not be considered eligible to sit the MD Part I Examination and Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Haematology examination without sitting for the CBLS assessment. CBLS assessment is an in course assessment of training leading to MD Part I Examination. (Histopathology & Chemical Pathology) and PG Diploma in Clinical Haematology.
18. When a candidate is selected, he/she should register in the same year. If a candidate fails to do so, another eligible candidate will be selected. Any candidate who refuses to register in the current year, will not be permitted to register in the programme in a subsequent year with the same results unless a valid medical certificate from a consultant acceptable to the PGIM is submitted.

Contd…..Page 4-

19. A fulltime release from the candidate's current employer-i.e. Ministry of Health/ Other Government Ministries, Universities or by the Armed Forces – is prerequisite for enrollment in all fulltime training programmes. It may be necessary to sign a bond before such enrollment if it is required by the candidate's employer.

20. Post-MD trainees should commence post-MD overseas training within two (02) years after the expected date of completing local post-MD training. Any delay will be added to the effective date of Board Certification. The trainee status of trainees will be terminated in those who delay commencing overseas post-MD training by more than four (04) years after the expected date of completing local post-MD training.

21. The candidates should pass the Pre-Board Certification Assessment to be eligible for Board Certification. The details are available on the PGIM website.

22. There should be no delay in submitting the dissertation or research report within the stipulated period as prescribed in the prospectus. Any delay will be added to the effective date of Board Certification.

23. The trainees must, within one (1) calendar month of satisfactory completion of the prescribed requirements, apply for Board Certification. All relevant documents must be submitted with the application. Failure to do so will result in a delay of effective date of Board Certification.

24. The prescribed fees for the examination for candidates in the state sector are as follows:

    (a) Registration fee - Rs. 17,500/- (non refundable)

    (b) Examination fees - Rs.34,500/- (non refundable)

    (c) Application fee - Rs. 8,000/- (non refundable)

candidates from non-state sector will be charged 50% more of the above listed fees

note that the only payments made through the PGIM online portal will be accepted

25. The Application form can be download from www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk

26. All examination Applications and other documents are collected through a Google Form. https://forms.gle/RAWucsM5NnT1egoz9 on or before **17 November 2026** All applicants should have a Gmail Account to access the Google form. The exam application with all relevant documents must be attached as a **single PDF** document since this portal does not allow uploading of multiple documents. **Please note that incomplete, handwritten, late submission and application sent via email will not be accepted.**

27. The selected candidates should report to the training unit allocated to him/ her within one month on receipt of the letter of selection to the training programme and allocation to the training unit.

28. Please refer the new regulations laid down by Ministry of Health regarding release of Medical Officers of Department of Health in PGIM website – www.health.gov.lk/

29. The results will be valid and official after confirmation by the Senate of the University.

30. The candidates will be issued an **"Examination Feedback Form"** with the admission documents. Feedback in Part II should be limited to concerns, if any, regarding the conduct of the examination (eg. perceived biases, discriminatory behaviour, harassment, intimidation) and NOT regarding the format or content of the examination. The form should be sent back to Director/PGIM under confidential cover **within 48 hours after conclusion of the examination. No concerns regarding the examination will be entertained after 48 hours of conclusion of the examination or following the release of results** nor will these be investigated by the PGIM.

Contd…..Page 5-

31. The candidate who pass the Selection Examination and are selected for the MD programme should undergo the Professionalism & Ethics in Medical Practice Strand organized by the PGIM. Please note that this is a compulsory for all MD trainees and should be completed within the first two years of pre MD training. A certificate will be issued to trainees who complete this strand successfully.

32. The orientation programme on 'PGIM library resources and services' is mandatory for all postgraduate trainees who enter PGIM training programmes. Please refer https://library.pgim.cmb.ac.lk

33. A trainee following a PG Certificate or PG Diploma or MSc or MD programme shall not be permitted to sit another selection examination for a PG Certificate or PG Diploma or MSc or MD. If the trainee leaves the course before completion of a programme/course of study, he/she shall not be permitted to sit for another selection examination for a minimum period of two years from the date of leaving the programme/course of study. This rule shall not apply for online and part time courses.

34. Candidates are requested to visit the PGIM website www.pgim.cmb.ac.lk for further updates.

35. Please bring the contents of the Circular Letter to the notice of all medical officers concerned in your department/division/faculty.

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