

PentaTr@ining 2020: 'HIV & other Congenital Infections' *An Interactive Training Course*

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Our innovative training platform, '**PentaTr@ining**', is an interactive course which continues to develop and evolve in response to the changing needs of children living with HIV and other congenital infections. Since 2005, Penta has organised training programmes for healthcare workers caring for HIV infected children, using integrated distance 'e-learning' with an interactive residential course. The success of this unique European level training experience has encouraged Penta to repeat the same experience in 2020, readapting and updating the existing content and addressing some new topics in the management of congenital infections and HIV infected children in Europe and around the world.

Drawn from the extensive Penta ID Network, we are proud to have a fully briefed and expert teaching Faculty on board which guarantees the delivery of an up-to-date and scientifically rigorous syllabus. Included among the speakers, tutors and authors of the online modules are many of the most senior clinicians working in Paediatric Infectious Diseases in Europe today. Feedback from our delegates at past trainings has been overwhelmingly positive, and we continue to grow and build on the success and reputation of the previous 'Tr@inforPedHIV' course. To date, over 4,000 healthcare workers (including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical students, psychologists and social workers) from more than 30 countries have benefitted from our training programme.

Penta is now also actively engaged in clinical research in other congenital infections. For that reason, this year we are delighted to be relaunching a completely revamped edition of the training course: **PentaTr@ining 2020: 'HIV & other Congenital Infections'**. We have carefully listened to participant feedback and have significantly tailored the course to the address the key issues that currently face paediatric infectious disease students and healthcare workers. The key training objective of the course is to provide specialist congenital infection and HIV knowledge to doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals working in the field, including updates on HIV and congenital infections, and new information on treatments and care for patients. Other strategic aims of the course are to link centres for clinical care and research, and to build national and international networks for future collaboration and clinical support.

The upgraded design of the online course promises to be even more interactive and clinical case based, and this will be complemented by an exciting 'Virtual Live Training Day' at the end of the online course[†]. It offers training materials including 6 online modules, a series of real-life case studies and treatment flow sheets, designed to test the students' ability to manage individual cases by means of interactive case presentations, with feedback and online tutoring. Live webinars will also be incorporated into the online learning experience. Our fully immersive training course will improve the professional capacity of even the most remote and isolated care givers to manage children with HIV infection.

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By the end of the course, we expect the learner to:

- be able to diagnose and treat HIV in childhood and its complications, using Penta and World Health Organization treatment guidelines. This includes counselling families on and detecting medication side effects and drug interactions, and being able to use clinical and resistance test information to appropriately sequence first and second line and subsequent medications.
- be able to advise on the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, and be able to supervise testing of infants exposed to maternal HIV
- take a holistic approach to HIV in childhood and adolescence, including understanding the process of transition of care and the effects of living with HIV, and the burden of stigma that goes with it
- to be able to promote adherence to antiviral therapy
- to be able to advise and treat on other important congenital infections (HBV, HCV, CMV, STIs)
- to know how to access support through clinical, research and educational networks
- to be ready to disseminate this knowledge in their own country and place of work

Moving forward we aim further expand our training programmes into other clinical areas of our research activity – continuing to widen our network more and more, and where it matters most!

Since 2008, the training course has been an integral part of the Oxford Paediatric Infectious Diseases Diploma. If you would like to know more about the Postgraduate Diploma, please visit: <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/pgdip-in-paediatric-infectious-diseases>

Previous residential courses have been accredited by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS-EACCME®). As this year’s residential course in Rome, Italy has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have reapplied for accreditation for the online course. This is pending approval.

Online e-learning *(course starts on 2nd November 2020)*

The online course will be highly interactive and clinical case based, designed to kindle engagement and encourage intercommunication among the students and faculty team. It will consist of 6 fortnightly modules (about 90-120 minutes long), with associated pictures, infographs, tables and figures, references and links to major PID websites of interest. The modules are designed in a way that consolidates knowledge acquired as the course progresses, thus preparing delegates to be proactive participants during the virtual live face-to-face course.



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Child Health Research

PentaTr@ining 2020:

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Modules will cover the following topics:

- ⇒ Mother to Child Transmission
- ⇒ Congenital ‘SCORTCH’ Infections (incl. STIs and blood borne infections)
- ⇒ Children with HIV (incl. cases which link to epidemiology, virology, clinical classifications, immunology)
- ⇒ Treating HIV in children (incl. resistance, second line, dosing, toxicity, clinical trials)
- ⇒ Complexities of HIV, co-infections and co-morbidities (incl. TB, HBV, HCV, obesity, wasting)
- ⇒ Adolescents, Sexual Health and ‘Living with HIV’ (Injectables, adherence, PrEP, young person’s view)

The design of our Learning Management System (LMS) has been specifically tailored for this training course. This environment is very user-friendly and provides a shared space for students and teachers to solve problems together and engage in a collaborative and synergistic building of knowledge. It maintains a learning portfolio for each participant and manages student interaction with an individually assigned online instructor. This work will be carried out in collaboration with our valued partners [‘ASSIST’](#).

Pre- and post-module tests for each module will help participants and tutors to monitor the efficacy of the online learning. Discussion forums will allow for specific questions to be raised and for rewarding group interaction. The platform will provide the student with access to essential educational documents, as well as embedded video material. The e-learning platform is also fully compatible with mobile and tablet devices. A final evaluation of the online training (questionnaire and open forum discussion) will be carried out before the residential part of the course. On submission of the course evaluation, an individual certificate of completion is awarded to the student.

***Residential learning**

*(*The residential course has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as an interim measure, a ‘virtual’ live training day will be held after the end of the online course.)*

Our experienced international faculty, including many authors and tutors of the online course, will deliver a 3-day face-to-face training workshop at the mid-point of the online course. The residential course embraces a true collegiate spirit, consisting of lectures, interactive working groups, real-life clinical case discussions and quizzes. Moreover, all delegates are strongly encouraged to bring with them clinical cases from their own professional experience to share and discuss with the faculty and other students during the course. The workshop is purposefully structured in a way that maximizes teacher/student interaction, encourages delegates to be proactive participants and consolidates the knowledge they will have acquired in the lead up to the course in Rome.

The residential course will be held at the *Pontificia Università Urbaniana*, Rome. A certificate of participation in the training programme will be issued by Penta.



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PentaTr@ining 2020:

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'Virtual Live Training Day'

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt every aspect of our lives, we have taken the decision to defer the residential part of the course until further notice. While we regret that we are unable to meet in person for the face-to-face component of the training this year, the safety and well-being of all our course participants remains our first priority.

As an interim measure we have planned a '**Virtual Live Training Day**', which will take place following the end of the online course and will cover the same depth and content of the face-to-face meeting in Rome. This will be an opportunity to bring delegates and faculty members together 'virtually' – via a professional videoconferencing platform – for a day of fun and interactive clinical case based discussions, webinar presentations and quizzes! All topics discussed will be based on the training material studied during the online course.

Course Directors

Dr. Steve Welch (*Penta Head of Training & Education*), Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Prof. Carlo Giaquinto (*President of Penta*), Department of Paediatrics, University of Padova, Padova, Italy

Dr. Hermione Lyall, Imperial College Health Care NHS Trust, London, UK

Dr. Caroline Foster, Imperial College Health Care NHS Trust, London, UK

Course Coordinators

Charlotte Male, London, UK

Peter McEneaney, Padova, Italy

Course Dates for 2020

Registration opens: 17th July 2020

Online course begins: 2nd November 2020

'Virtual Live Training Day': 19th February 2021

*Rome residential course: **deferred until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic*



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Online Course: Registration fee and conditions

Early Bird online course fee *(before/on 25th September 2020)*

- Resource Limited Settings^{**}: €100
- EACS members: €500
- Eastern European HIV association members: €500
- Other: €530

Regular online course fee *(from 26th September 2020)*

- Resource Limited Settings^{**}: €100
- EACS members: €570
- Eastern European HIV association members: €570
- Other: €600

^{**} Countries included in the low-income, lower-middle-income and upper-middle-income economies list of the World Bank economy [classification](#). Applicants should provide proof of their current residence (e.g. copy of passport).

(Full registration includes: individual password for access to online course, participation in the ‘Virtual Live Training Day’ course, and final certificate of attendance.)

For further information please contact the course organisers or visit the Penta website:

Peter McEaney – trainforped@pentafoundation.org

Charlotte Male – charlotte.male@pentafoundation.org

Website: <https://penta-id.org>

[†] Please note: the residential course in Rome, Italy has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as an interim measure, a ‘virtual’ live training day will be held after the end of the online course.