



UNIVERSITY | MEDICAL  
*of* NICOSIA | SCHOOL

**MED-503**  
**Gastroenterology and GI Surgery**  
**Course/ Clinical Rotation Handbook**

**2024-2025**

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## Course Handbook introduction by the Chair of Clinical Education

Dear Student,

Your course handbook is an invaluable resource. Reading it before starting your placement will make a huge difference to your learning experience. You will find outlines of the course, the objectives of your learning, the assessment requirements, learning resource suggestions, contact numbers and reporting structures.

You can use the learning outcomes and objective list to guide you through your learning of the subject and even to discuss with your tutors. The requirements, whether these are workplace - based assessments or tutorials, will allow smooth running of your clinical block and avoid unnecessary last-minute hardship.

The medical school has a course lead in place, with knowledge of the specific block, including its learning, revision, and assessment. And the department of clinical education ensures smooth running and delivery of the clinical training, through a number of Curriculum Leads (one for each main specialty) who work with the course leads and the local teams at the placement, to ensure the curriculum is delivered as planned.

The nature of clinical learning is such that, whilst your experiences will be comparable, it is not possible to have identical clinical exposure across all students; a case of disease X may be available today, whereas when the next student comes along it may be disease Y. It is desirable that we see all cases as far as possible but your handbook with its checklist of conditions and objectives will allow you to not fall behind and fill any gaps that may appear during your clinical exposure, and help guide your preparation for assessments.

If there are academic or administrative problems, if you need help and if you need to report anything back to your medical school, the reporting structures ensure that you should not feel even for one minute that you do not have someone to go to when needed. Please contact the team if you need any help, we are all here with our contact details available if you need us.

Please ensure that you are present and available for learning, opportunities will come when you least expect them, the amount we can learn from patients is huge and endless and therefore sitting with, talking to and examining patients is one of your strongest tools.

I hope you gain a lot of knowledge and clinical experience.

Enjoy the next few weeks!

**Professor Joseph Joseph**  
**Chair of Clinical Education**

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## 1. Welcome

The MED-503 Gastroenterology and GI surgery course/ clinical rotation offers students the opportunity to develop an understanding of the presentation, signs and symptoms, physical examination findings, investigations, diagnosis, treatment (medical and/or surgical as appropriate) and management plan for common gastrointestinal diseases.

Every effort has been made to provide a structured and well organised learning experience that will ensure adequate exposure to the diagnostic and therapeutic approaches that take place in a large Academic Hospital.

On behalf of all the clinicians, nurses and administrative staff of the Gastroenterology and GI surgery departments, I would like to warmly welcome you as an integral part of our team and wish you an effective and pleasant learning experience. Our education team stands ready to assist you with any questions you may have.

Kind Regards,

**Dr Yiannis Hadjiloucas**  
**Course Co-Lead for Gastroenterology and GI surgery**



## 2. MED-503 Gastroenterology and GI Surgery course/ Clinical Rotation Course Outline

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Course Title	<b>Gastroenterology and GI Medicine</b>						
Course Code	<b>MED-503</b>						
Course Type	Required						
Level	Undergraduate						
Year / Semester	Year 5/ Semester 9 (Fall)						
Teacher's Name	<b>Course Leads:</b> Dr Ioannis Hadjiloucas						
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	4	Laboratories / week	0	Clinical Practice	36
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>The main objectives of the last two years of the six year medical programme are to provide students with extensive experience in the clinical environment, mainly in hospitals but also in the community, so that they can utilise their learning over the previous four years to practise their clinical, communication, diagnostic and reasoning skills on real patients, and to learn about the management of patients, from a medical, therapeutic, surgical, psychosocial and caring perspective.</p> <p>In this course, students will spend four weeks working primarily with patients with gastrointestinal disorders, including liver and pancreas. They will develop an understanding of the presentation, signs and symptoms, physical examination findings, investigations, diagnosis, treatment (medical and/or surgical as appropriate) and management plan for common gastrointestinal disorders.</p> <p>The students will learn how to take detailed histories from, carry out systematic clinical examination of, and interpret laboratory and imaging data on patients with disorders of the respiratory system and GI surgery disorders. The students will gain a basic understanding of the application and type of information to be obtained from different methods for investigating the gastrointestinal tract. They will also spend time in theatre observing gastrointestinal surgery.</p>						

Learning Outcomes	<p>After the completion of the course the students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take a history from a patient, or relative of a patient, presenting with a gastrointestinal (including liver and pancreatic) disorder, in a sensitive and caring manner</li> <li>2. Carry out a sensitive physical examination as part of investigation of the presenting complaint</li> <li>3. Come up with a differential diagnosis for the presenting complaint</li> <li>4. Identify appropriate investigations, including sputum, blood, urine and faecal tests, and imaging, to assist in the diagnosis of the presenting complaint and to interpret the results from such tests</li> <li>5. Prepare a treatment management plan for the patient to present to the responsible clinician to include medical, pharmacological, surgical options as appropriate</li> <li>6. Observe, and where appropriate carry out or assist with, the following procedures: barium enema, barium swallow, barium meal tests, biopsy, cholangiography, </li></ol>
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	<p>cholecystography, endoscopy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, ultrasound, gastroscopy, laparoscopic surgery, pancreatectomy, hepatectomy, bariatric surgery, surgical removal of segments of the GI tract and other surgical procedures, planned and opportunistic.</p>		
Prerequisites	None	Required	None

<p>Course Content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute abdomen</li> <li>• Gastro-oesophageal reflux and Barrett's oesophagus</li> <li>• Oesophageal cancer</li> <li>• Peptic ulcers</li> <li>• Carcinoma of the stomach</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal bleeding</li> <li>• Jaundice</li> <li>• Gall stones, cholecystitis and cholangiocarcinoma</li> <li>• Hepatitis</li> <li>• Hepatic failure</li> <li>• Chronic Liver Disease</li> <li>• Focal Hepatic lesions</li> <li>• Acute and chronic pancreatitis</li> <li>• Carcinoma of the pancreas</li> <li>• Malabsorption</li> <li>• Inflammatory bowel disease</li> <li>• Infections and infestations of the gastro-intestinal tract</li> <li>• Colonic and rectal polyps and neoplasms</li> <li>• Diverticular disease</li> <li>• Functional gastrointestinal disorders</li> <li>• Mesenteric ischaemia or infarction</li> <li>• Anal lesions</li> <li>• Body wall hernias</li> <li>• Assessment of nutritional status and daily requirements</li> <li>• Enteral feeding</li> <li>• Parenteral feeding</li> </ul>
<p>Teaching Methodology</p>	<p>The course is delivered by clinical placements, lectures, tutorials, case studies and group discussions.</p>

Bibliography	<b>Required Textbooks/Reading:</b>				
	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN/ E-Book</b>
	O. James Garden	Principles and practice of Surgery, 8 <sup>th</sup> ed.	Elsevier	2023	978-0702082511
	<b>Recommended Textbooks/Reading:</b>				
	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
	Logan, R, Harris, A, Misiewicz, J & Baron, J	ABC of the Upper Gastrointestinal Tract, 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.	BMJ Books	2002	978-0727912664
	Chris Tselepis, Mohammed Nabil Quraishi, Richard Horniblow, Stephen H. Hughes	Digestive system: basic science and clinical conditions, 3 <sup>rd</sup> ed.	Elsevier	2022	978-0702083761
	Emory, T (ed.)	Atlas of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Endoscopic Biopsies, 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.	American Registry of Pathology	2000	978-1881041641
	McLatchie, Greg	Oxford Handbook of Clinical Surgery, 5 <sup>th</sup> ed.	Oxford University Press	2022	978-0198799481 <a href="#">E-Book</a>
	Clive Quick and George Burkitt	Essential Surgery: Problems, Diagnosis and Management, 6 <sup>th</sup> ed.	Churchill Livingstone	2019	978-0702076312
James A. Gossage, Matthew F. Bultitude, Steven A. Corbett, Katherine M. Burnand, Rajiv Lahiri	Browse's Introduction to the Symptoms & Signs of Surgical Diseases 6 <sup>th</sup> ed.	CRC Press	2021	978-1138330085	
<b>E-book resources for Clinical Placements Support Resources:</b> <a href="https://libguides.unic.ac.cy/placementresources">https://libguides.unic.ac.cy/placementresources</a>					
Assessment	Final year exam and final year OSCE.				
Language	English				

### 3. MED-503 Gastroenterology and GI Surgery course/ Clinical Rotation Requirements

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Please take note of the following assessments that students will need to complete and submit via 'MyProgress Health', no later than one week after the completion of the MED-503 Gastroenterology/ GI Surgery course/ clinical rotation. You must also cross-reference the above with the Year 5 PVB assessment domain handbook, which takes precedence to any other handbook.

#### Required PVB Assessments

<b>1 x Clinical Placement and Professionalism Certificate (CPPC)</b>
<b>2 x Mini Clinical Education Exercise (Mini-CEx)</b>
<b>2 x Case Based Discussion (CBD)</b>
<b>Daily Attendance LogBook (submitted via 'MyProgress Health' by uploading the attendance weekly sheets)</b>
<b>1 x Learning Outcomes Record (LOR)</b>
<b>Evidence of completing online student feedback survey</b>

#### Floating WPBA and On-line Feedback Survey

Submit the above forms together with any floating WPBAs completed during the MED-503 Gastroenterology and GI Surgery course/clinical rotation. You also need to ensure that you have completed the online feedback survey and upload evidence of this via 'MyProgress Health', by the deadline.

#### Logbook

The logbook should be completed on a daily basis and submitted at the end of your course/ clinical rotation by uploaded on 'MyProgress Health'.

#### Attachment sign-off process

**PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that your tutor completes your Clinical Practice Portfolio Certificate (CPPC) as well as WPBA forms for you.**

#### You should follow these steps:

- You should contact your Clinical Lead in advance to agree a mutually convenient date to conduct the completion and sign-off of the **CLINICAL PLACEMENT & PROFESSIONALISM CERTIFICATE (CPPC)** using the final week of your attachment. It may take around 15-20 minutes so please bear that in mind when arranging a suitable time slot. You should check in advance if the Clinical Lead will be absent at any time towards the end of the attachment.
- Your CPPC must be completed by the relevant tutor/lead clinician no later than one week after the completion of the attachment (recommended to be completed by the last day of

the clinical attachment). Your tutor will be able to access all the WPBAs you have completed on your device during the attachment as well as your logbooks and other evidence of your attendance.

- If you have not been told who will be signing you off you should contact your local administrator for guidance.
- Attend the meeting with your clinical tutor and bring your device to present all required WPBA forms and logbooks, as well as any other evidence of your attendance.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the CPPC certificate and all WPBA forms are properly completed prior to their submission. In addition, you are required to use your logbooks to record activities and attendance and ask for a signature from your supervisor prior to submitting these.

#### **DON'T FORGET:**

- You should use the diaries to record activities and attendance and ask for a signature from supervising Consultant or Registrar each week.
- You need to achieve submission of all assessment forms and attendance logbook/diaries via **'MyProgress Health'** within one week of completing an attachment. If you are using the *'Email for later'* function it is your responsibility to chase up the clinician and have your WPBAs completed and submitted by the deadline. **If you anticipate any delays please always inform the PVB administrator. No communication and late submissions are considered serious and recorded under Professional Behaviour of the PVB domain.**
- You must check that all section of WPBA forms have been completed appropriately and fully before you submit. Otherwise, your forms will not be accepted by the system.
- If you are marked with a 'Fail' on the CPPC form for any of the elements, the assessor must give specific detailed feedback explaining reasons for the grade. Feedback should be focused and specific. In such cases or in cases where you fail to complete the required number of WPBAs, you will normally be required to redo part or the whole of the course/clinical rotation (after discussion with your local PVB Domain Lead). **Once remediation is complete a new CPPC form needs to be completed and signed off by the Clinical Lead or the remediation supervisor or the remediation supervisor along with a new Logbook that shows remediation dates.**
- Check that your course/clinical rotation specific and floating WPBAs have been supervised and signed off by the correct assessor level. If you are unsure, please check before you undertake the WPBA to avoid your forms being rejected and having to return to your placement to repeat the WPBA with the correct assessor.
- Ensure you have completed the online feedback survey and upload evidence of this via **'MyProgress Health'**, by the submission deadline.



**Note that late submissions will be recorded under PVB Professional Behaviour Element.  
Your clinical Site Administrator is here to help!**

**If you are unclear or unsure about any aspect of the PVB Domain ask your Clinical Site Administrator.**



**In case of illness or absence**

**Students must notify their clinical site administrators via E-mail, and their Clinical Tutor prior or on the day of absence.**

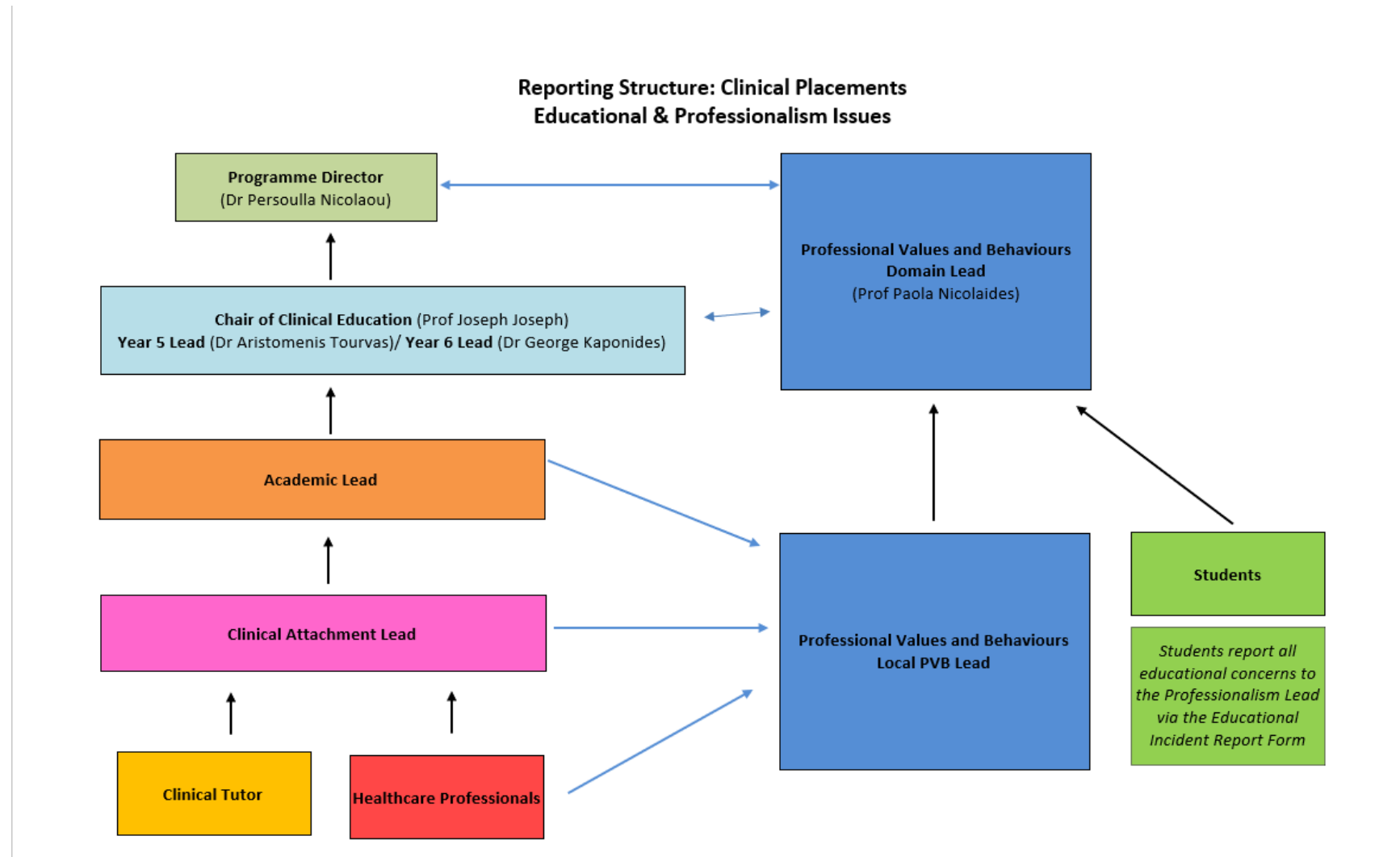
#### 4. MED-503 Gastroenterology and GI Surgery Course/ Clinical rotation material on Moodle

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- Chronic Diarrhoea
- Gallstone Disease
- Large and Small Bowel
- Liver and Pancreas
- Gastrointestinal Bleeding
- Functional Bowel Disorder



## 5. Reporting Structures



### Reporting Structure: Clinical Attachments Patient and Student Safety Issues

