# Syllabus for Rheumatological Component of Diploma in Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine 2019

The Structure and Function of relevant tissues and basic mechanisms-in-common of Injury to all Connective and Musculoskeletal Tissue will be described together. The specific mediators of inflammation and their modifiers involved in all injury processes will be described.

**The role of Immunology**
(constitutional/acquired/autoimmunity/immune-deficiency) in health and disease will be stressed, including aspects of antigen presentation, T-cell and Cell-mediated response, B cells, Immnunoglobulin production, angiogenesis. The role of infection, the genome and the relevance of genetic influences in rheumatic disease expression on an individual and population basis will be described.

The fundamentals of clinical diagnosis by detailed Functional Examination is at the heart of this course. It will be complemented by presentation of laboratory parameters required for disease designation, (where applicable), together with description of the relevance of conventional X Ray, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, joint/bursal fluid analysis, in rheumatological diagnosis. A full presentation will be made of immunology, as applied to Connective Tissue Disease, to include the clinical relevance of auto-antibodies in diagnosis of atypical/mixed/overlap connective tissue diseases. There will be detailed study of Inflammatory arthritis, Spondyloarthropathy, Reactive/infectious arthritis together with their extra-articular syndromes and conditions relating to the role of HLA-B-27. The spectrum of non-inflammatory arthritides and crystal arthritis will be outlined.

Clinical Pharmacology will be taught under the following headings: the actions and uses of drugs and the protocols guiding their use in varying clinical situations, the specific actions of analgesics, NSAIDs, DMARDs, Biologics, Steroids, the indications, contra-indications and techniques of intra-articular steroid injection and aspiration: the drug management of metabolic bone disease.

The role of allied health professionals will be incorporated: to include rehabilitative therapies by Physiotherapists, the role of the Orthopaedic Surgeon in management of inflammatory and non-inflammatory joint disease. Biomechanical assessment of the lower limb and orthotic prescription will be taught in the practical setting.

Less usual general medical conditions with rheumatological consequences will be taught to include the management of Haemochromatosis, the recognition of vasculitis, bone sepsis, paraneoplastic musculoskeletal conditions, myopathy/myositis and pyrexia of unknown origin. The presentation of arthritis in special groups, including the elderly and the paediatric age group will be delivered.

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