



*The Editorial Committee wishes you a happy and prosperous Sinhala and Tamil New Year*

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### New Year Celebrations at PGIM

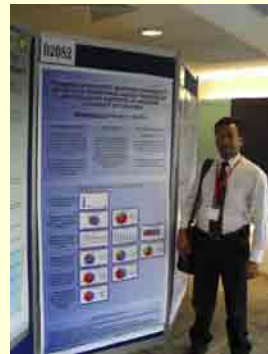
On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010, the staff of the PGIM gathered at the Pinnacle, 4<sup>th</sup> floor to celebrate the dawn of the New Year. This event, organized by the PGIM Welfare Society was graced by the presence of Prof.Rezvi Sheriff, Director PGIM, who expressed his sincere wishes for everyone for the new year.



### MERC Researches Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC)

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC) was held at the National University of Singapore, Singapore from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010. This conference was themed **Excellence in Medical Education, Quality in Healthcare - Trends, Issues, Priorities, Strategies (TIPS)**.

Five researches which were conducted by the Medical Education Resource Centre were presented at this conference. Prof Rezvi Sherrif (Director-PGIM), Dr.Pandula Siribaddana (Lecturer in Medical Education) and the Pre-intern Demonstrators at MERC, Dr. Dhananja Rubasinghe and Dr.Sanlakshi Liyanagama attended this conference, presenting their research. The conference focused to share and learn, from the experience and best practices followed internationally. Nearly 800 medical and health professionals from 34 countries participated in this Conference. Several invited distinguished medical and health professional educators contributed this



7<sup>th</sup> APMEC conference to share their experiences among the other participants.

### Felicitations to Dr.Gauthamadasa

Dr.(Mrs.)C.H.Gauthamadasa retired from her work after serving as a part time course director in Community Medicine and Medical administration. She joined PGIM on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005 and resigned from her post on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009. There was a special treat as a



felicitation of her service to the PGIM at Director's office with the participation of most of the department heads of the institute. We wish her good luck with her future endeavors.

### NOMA Project Book Grant for the PGIM Welfare library

As requested by the PGIM Welfare Society, NOMA project donated books worth Rupees 30,000.00 to the PGIM Welfare library on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The collection comprised a wide variety of books including volumes on public administrations, religion and novels. These books were available to the PGIM staff and trainees from March 2010 onwards.



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## Research Methodology Workshop

The 1<sup>st</sup> “Five day Course on Research Methodology” for the year



2010 was held from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March. Similar to the previous workshops held in 2009, this was aimed at developing research skills in PG trainees as well as guiding them more towards research. This time, the course had 30 participants, who were registered on first come-first serve basis. It consisted of lectures from experienced professionals in the field of research and also hands on activities which made the sessions more interesting. The course ended

with great success. Professor Janaka de Silva is seen lecturing in this photograph.

## Enhancing Portfolio Writing - Workshop for Medical Educators



“How to Write Portfolios”, the workshop aimed to enhance the portfolio writing skills of the trainees following the Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education course, successfully

conducted its fourth and the final workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010 at the Computer Lab at PGIM. This workshop was enriched by the expertise knowledge from Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, Dr.Indika Karunathilake, Dr.Gominda Ponnampereuma, Dr.Nilukshi Abeysinghe, Dr.Enoka Corea and Dr.Kosala Marambe, participating as the resource personal of the event.

Portfolios being the mode of assessment at the Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education course, these four workshops on Portfolio Writing, which enriched the knowledge, were well appreciated by the trainees of the course.

## New Course Coordinator and Chairperson for Medical Education



Karunathilake will also continue to serve as the secretary to the Specialty Board in Medical Education.

The Specialty Board in Medical Education highly appreciated the contribution served by Prof. Lalitha Mendis, who previously shouldered all the above responsibilities since the inception of the Specialty Board in Medical Education.

## How to prepare SEQs, OSCE Viva & Best response questions

Specialty Board in Critical Care and Emergency Medicine conducted a Workshop on

“How to prepare SEQs, OSCE Viva & Best response MCQs” on 11<sup>th</sup> Mach 2010 at the PGIM, for the Final examination of the Diploma in Critical Care Medicine. Dr.Indika Karunathilake was the resource person for this workshop, and examiners for the final examination of the Diploma, actively participated at the session.



## Medical Education on Moodle Platform

The trainees of the Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education course are now blessed with following the elective modules of the course in online format on Moodle Platform. This concept of online learning of Medical Education was initiated by Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, Director PGIM. Dr.Indika Karunathilake and Dr.Gominda Ponnampereuma representing the Speciality Board in Medical Education liaised with the Medical Education Resource Centre (MERC) to achieve this success.

Currently, the work is being done to incorporate the course materials of the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education/ Certificate in Health Professions Education course in this Moodle Platform for the reference of the trainees of the course. This will give the proper



“Hands on experience” on online learning for the future Medical Educators, sustaining the theoretical knowledge that they receive from the face to face lectures.

**Institutional Quality Assurance**

Inspection team for Institutional quality assurance visited Postgraduate Institute and PGIM library on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010. They were warmly welcomed by PGIM and there was a special ceremony at the PGIM auditorium with the participation of all Department heads, academic and administrative staff of the PGIM, course coordinators as well as trainees. Prof.Rezvi Sheriff, Director PGIM addressed the gathering and gave a brief overview of PGIM affairs for the inspection team and following that the team had a visit to all departments of the PGIM including the PGIM library. This was done as a part of Institutional quality assurance of all the institutes and faculties of University of Colombo.



**Launch of Sri Lanka Journal of Bio Medical Informatics**



Inaugural issue of the Sri Lanka Journal of Bio Medical Informatics (SLJBMI) launched on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at the PGIM auditorium. SLJBMI is a peer reviewed, online quarterly journal and is a joint publication of PGIM and Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka. The journal launch was graced by Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, Director PGIM and immediate past president HISSL, Dr. Vajira Dissanayake, President, HISSL, Dr. BJC Perera, Editor in Chief, SLJBMI, members of Speciality Board of the Masters in Biomedical Informatics programme, officials of Sri Lanka Journals Online and academics.



**Final examination of the Postgraduate Diploma in Critical Care Medicine**



The final examination for the first intake of the Postgraduate Diploma in Critical Care Medicine held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Dr.Malcolm Wright, Emeritus Consultant in Intensive Care and Int-

tensivist, participated as a foreign examiner in the 14 member examiners board for the final exam. All 23 trainees who followed the one year diploma successfully completed and they were reverted back to Ministry of health for their placements.

**DFM Online**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of trainees for the DFM Online study programme was selected and enrolled in November 2010. The inauguration and orientation session for this new intake was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. The new trainees were introduced to the Moodle system and were guided through the website on which the programme operates.



The MERC commenced a series of workshops in order to train new online tutor mentors for the DFM Online programme. We received an enthusiastic response to this decision by prospective tutor mentors. The first of these workshops was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 with 10 new tutor mentors undergoing training. Dr Gayathri Jayatillaka (Certified Online Tutor Mentor Trainer and Senior Lecturer of the OUSL), Prof Nandani de Silva, Dr Joel Fernando, Dr Deepama Sumanasekera and Dr Sanlakshi Liyanagama participated as resource persons.

The second & third workshops of this series is planned to be held on April & May 2010. The tutor mentors who complete their training satisfactorily, will be awarded with certificates by the PGIM and CPD points according to the National CPD Programme of the SLMA.

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**Inauguration of the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education course - 2010 intake**

The Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education commenced its successful second batch on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010. This will be a six months part time course which will lead to the Postgraduate Certificate In Medical Education course at its successful completion.

Prof.Lalitha Mendis being the Chairperson of the Specialty Board in Medical Education, chaired the event. This event was enriched by the presence of distinguished gathering including Prof.Rezvi Sheriff, Prof.Nilanthi de Silva, Dr.Indika Karunathilake, Dr. P.T.Jayawickramarajah and several other members of the Specialty Board.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Lalitha Mendis, the Chairperson of the Specialty Board in Medical Education, highlighted the importance of being expert in knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a medical teacher, and to disseminate pertinent research findings in order to improve the quality of the medical education that will be delivered by the participants.



This event also marked the Award of certificates to the trainees who has successfully completed the above course in the year of 2009. Twelve trainees were eligible to be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education / Certificate in Health Professions Education certificate.

**Number of Postgraduates Trained Between 1980 and 2009**

**Number of Active Postgraduates Trainees at the PGIM as at 1st January 2010**

<i>In-Service Training</i>	43
<i>MD and MS</i>	647
<i>Diplomas</i>	247
<i>MSc</i>	96
<i>Certificate courses</i>	155
<i>Local Training</i>	252
<i>Overseas Training (Since 2008.01.01)</i>	364
<b>Total</b>	<b>1804</b>

	1980 – 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>MD and MS</i>	2302	224	235	255	280
<i>Diplomas</i>	1926	171	264	209	241
<i>MSc</i>	502	30	45	44	14
<i>Certificate courses</i>	155	74	75	95	119

**Write to us.....**

The Editors invite letters to the Editor. Letters with useful suggestions will be featured. Anonymous and inappropriate correspondence will be ignored.

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**A Guide to Management of Medical Emergencies**

The 2nd edition of this book compiled by Prof. P.L. Ariyananda, Dr. G. Hettiarachchi and Prof.T.P.Weeraratna is now available at Medical Education Resource Centre for Rs.500.00.

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**Feedback.....**

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