



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

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DESIGNED BY: **Medical Education Resource Centre**

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Congratulations Director.....

The Director PGIM Vidyajyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff was appointed as the new President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association for the year 2009. The induction was held on 12th of January 2009. Out heartiest congratulations to him..!

Bhutan Health Minister at PGIM

Minister of Health of Royal Government of Bhutan Hon. Lyonpo Zanley Dukpa visited the PGIM on 17th of February 2009 and held a discussion with Director PGIM and other PGIM officials. He appreciated the training given to Bhutanese undergraduates and requested the PGIM to consider training few more doctors in post-graduate specialities. He invited PGIM to conduct selection exams in Bhutan in order to select the best students. The Hon. Minister then visited the roof top facility and expressed his overwhelming satisfaction about PGIM infrastructure and services.



Minister at Director's office



Minister visiting roof top

Re - launch of the SLMA Web Portal

SLMA President, Vidyajyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff re-launched the Sri Lanka Medical Association's web portal at the 122nd Annual Scientific Sessions of SLMA.

The SLMA web portal can be accessed via <http://www.slma.lk>.



MOU between PGIM and UK

Professor George A Thomson, Associate Medical Director/Director of Postgraduate Medical Education, Consultant Physician and Regional Advisor, Sherwood Forest Hospitals, UK visited the Director PGIM and had discussions towards allocating two of his Trust training posts every year for PGIM trainees. They decided to sign an MOU between PGIM and their Trust in UK.



Exchange Programme for PGIM Trainees with Malaysia

A delegation headed by Professor Rezvi Sheriff, Director/PGIM and consisted of Dr. S.T.G.R. de Silva, DDG(MS), Dr. Piyasena Samarakoon, Director/Medical Services, Mr. B.G. Chandradasa, Deputy Registrar/PGIM and under the patronage of Dr. D.D. Ranasinghe, His Excellency the Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Malaysia, held discussions with Tan Sri Dato Seri, Dr. H.M.I. Merican, Director General of Health Services, Malaysia and with his Deputies on 19th February 2009 at the Health Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur with a view to establishing a Doctors' exchange programme for training of PGIM trainees in Malaysia and Malaysian doctors in Sri Lanka.

A preliminary meeting was held at the Putrajaya Hospital Kuala Lumpur. The formal meeting was held with DGHS/Malaysia. He agreed to accommodate PGIM trainees in Malaysian Hospitals/Centres of Excellence for undergoing mandatory training leading to Board Certification; whereas the Director/PGIM agreed to train Malaysian Medical officers in Sri Lanka at appropriate levels. Another meeting was held at the Kuala Lumpur National Hospital. Presentations were made introducing specialities in which the postgraduate trainees could be accommodated for clinical training.

The parties agreed that an MOU be signed by the Hon. Ministers of Health to embark on this venture. Once the MOU is signed, the PGIM trainees will hopefully be able to enjoy the Malaysian ambience, the hospitality and the eminence of the Consultants who provide clinical training in Malaysia.

New year dawns at PGIM



On 1st of January 2009, the staff of the PGIM gathered at the auditorium to celebrate the dawn of the New Year. This event was organized by the PGIM Welfare Society.

Mr. Shiran Perera, President Welfare Society delivered the welcome address. The Director PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff graced the occasion and extended his warmest new year wished to all the staff.

Senior Assistant Registrar Honoured

Mr. H.A. Sathar, Senior Assistant Registrar of the Examination Branch was given the opportunity for an overseas training in Delhi, India for a Master's Degree in Human resources Planning and Development for a period of one year. He has completed the Degree with a first class honours and assumed his duty in the examination Branch in January 2009. A memento was presented by the PGIM Welfare Society in recognition of this achievement.



Farewell to Acting Senior Assistant Registrar

Mr. N.M. Botheju who joined as the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar from 1st of February 2008 retired in January 2009 after a memorable service. Mr. Botheju was a pioneer figure in PGIM affairs since 1980 and he was responsible for the upliftment of the PGIM Examination Branch. A ceremony was organized by the Welfare Society on 2nd of March to honour him for his services to PGIM. The Director PGIM graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Reading of letters patent was delivered by Miss. Priyadarshanie Palliyagama from Administration Section.



PGIM Trainers Directory

The first volume of the Trainers Directory 2007/2008 was released by the Medical Education Resource Centre, PGIM. This has been prepared with the view of providing information for the trainees to know what the interests of the Supervisor or his Unit is, before he or she chooses a Unit.

PGIM library shifted...

PGIM library is shifted to a wonderful environment in close vicinity. The new location is at 150, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 7
Tel: 0112671047.



Why we need Emergency Medicine as a Specialty in Sri Lanka

*Professor Chula Goonasekera,
Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya*

The tsunami was a significant impetus for initiating emergency training in Sri Lanka. This highlighted the need for the development of a coordinated emergency response from trained personnel, especially at a national level. In this context, various activities have taken place, for example, establishment of emergency ambulance services and emergency call numbers in some cities (e.g. Colombo), inauguration of a new ministry for disaster management, higher focus for training in emergency care (CPR programs) for all categories of staff including doctors, nurses, and ambulance men, initiation of disaster management training centers (e.g. Peradeniya), and construction of dedicated emergency care units (Karapitiya). There have also been initiatives to improve emergency response through ambulance service, fire brigade and outreach care (e.g. Colombo, Galle).

In the hospitals too, there had been substantial changes. In order to find a solution for this, several models have been applied: establishment of ETUs, PCUs (Preliminary Care Units), Accident centers (NHSL). In Sri Lanka, most seriously ill patients are admitted to hospital through OPDs. Unfortunately most of our medical officers in OPDs are non specialists and often juniors are expected to handle all above patients needing emergency care within a poorly organized and ill equipped environment. The Ministry of Health has attempted to improve this situation by the appointment of VP/OPDs.

The crunch of the matter is that there is no lead clinician (a specialist) who is trained to coordinate all above activities and also be in the forefront of management. In other words, there is no lead clinician who can cater for the needs of all above i.e. pre-hospital care, patient transport and emergency care in hospital on admission.

Emergency Medicine, an accepted specialty in many developed countries (e.g. USA, UK, and Australia) involves emergency management of critically ill medical, surgical/trauma, pediatric and gynecology and obstetric patients. These specialists are specifically trained for above through a specialist training program similar to other clinical specialties. This has resulted in safer emergency care, more efficient hospital throughput, better use of scarce hospital resources and the development of a system of care for trauma and emergency patients.

The International federation for Emergency Medicine defines the specialty of "emergency medicine" as:- *"a field of practice based on the knowledge and skills required for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of episodic undifferentiated physical and behavioral disorders; it further encompasses an understanding of the development of pre-hospital and in-hospital medical systems and the skills necessary for this development"*.

Thus, it is prudent that the PGIM lead the development of a MD Emergency Medicine training program through it's Board of Study for Multidisciplinary Courses, without delay, with the assistance from all other relevant Boards of Studies.

Workshop on DHIS 2

A workshop on improving Public Health Reporting with DHIS 2 was held at PGIM premises on 12th and 13th of February 2009 with participation of students of MSc in Biomedical Informatics, representatives from Ministry of Health and participants from private sector. The workshop was conducted by Professor Sandeep Sahay and Mr. John Lewis from Health Information Systems Project (HISP), India. HISP has been engaged in the development of the District Health Information Software (DHIS) since 1996 as part of a larger effort to enhance analyses and use of health data. Day one of the workshop comprised lectures on Designing and implementing processes of HMIS reform in India together with a live demonstration of national HMIS in India. On the second day discussions on understanding the routine information flow and training on implementation and customization of DHIS 2 were held.



Professor Sandeep Shay lecturing



Discussion forum



Mr. John Lewis at the computer lab

MSc in Medical Toxicology- A Training for Trainers

A workshop was held on 5th of February 2009 at the PGIM Computer Lab for the tutors in MSc in Medical Toxicology to further train the trainers for online environment with the aim of developing web based study material and to run discussions online. Basic introduction to MOODLE was done by Doctor Sanath Jayasena which was followed by the Online discussion conducted by Professor Andrew Dawson. Then the tutors clarified matters with MOODLE assistant regarding their modules.

Training the Trainers workshop in Haematology

The Board of Study in Pathology conducted a workshop on examination methods for all the Consultant Haematologists in the public sector and the University sector. The resource person for the day was Dr. Jim Murray, Consultant Haematologist, University Hospital, Birmingham who is the External Examiner of MD Haematology examination. The workshop was held on 9th of January 2009 from 11 am to 3 pm at PGIM auditorium.

New Course Launched....

One of the new courses started by the PGIM – Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular Medicine was inaugurated on the 7th of February 2009. The opening ceremony was held at the PGIM. Dr. Sulochana Wijesundara (Chairperson – CDSC in Molecular Medicine), Dr. Nilmini Silva Gunawardene (Secretary), Molecular Medicine CDSC members, PGIM staff and the course participants were present at the function.

This course is designed as a part time course where doctors, B.Sc. degree holders with a degree in Biological or Physical Science with Chemistry or Biochemistry as a subject and graduates in Chemistry, College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry, Sri Lanka can participate and can gain knowledge and skills in Molecular Medicine relevant to research and services in a variety of settings in the field of Medicine in Sri Lanka. After the completion of the Diploma, candidates can follow the MSc. In Molecular Medicine which is scheduled to be launched after the completion of the first batch of the Postgraduate Diploma in molecular Medicine.

Tutor Mentor Workshop

The Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine commenced its Online Programme. A series of eight workshops were conducted with the aid of the Distance Education Modernization Project at the Open University to train our lecturers to be Tutor Mentors for facilitation of online learning. Following are the topics that were covered and the participants were awarded Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates on completion

- Paradigm Shift to Online Tutoring/Facilitating/Moderating
- The Role of an Online Tutor Mentor and Necessary Skills and Qualifications
- Building an Online Learning Community Collaborative Learning and Team Building Online
- Facilitating Interaction
- Facilitating Knowledge Construction, Guiding and Tutoring
- Providing Learner Support
- Orienting Students to Online Learning and Moodle

DFM Online- Mid semester workshop

The PGIM organized a one day workshop for the DFM Online trainees on the 8th of February 2009. This was in order to supply the trainees with the necessary technical support. The morning session was conducted by Dr. Sannath Jayasena (Consultant Engineer, University of Moratuwa) who introduced the trainees in Moodle and took them through a group discussion and discussed the other technical problems they had encountered during the running of the course.

The evening session was conducted by Dr. Joel Fernando and Dr. Deepama Sumanasekera. The next 4 lessons were opened and the trainees were guided through them. Also the clinical rotations, log diary and portfolio were discussed with the trainees and queries were answered.

The student feedback on this workshop confirmed that they appreciated the insight given into the virtual learning environment they are working in and obtained the necessary knowledge about succeeding in an online course.

BOS in Basic & Medical Sciences

With the aim of providing more opportunities for Medical Professionals to enhance their knowledge in the areas of Anatomy & Physiology the PGIM has decided to introduce Postgraduate Programmes on these disciplines initially at the level of MSc and to develop up to Ph.D. The preliminary discussion was held on 03rd March 2009 with the participation of Director/PGIM, Heads/Professors of Anatomy & Physiology of the faculties of Medicine/ Medical Sciences and officials of the PGIM. At the discussion consensus was arrived to form two Curriculum Development Sub Committees until the creation of the BOS with the approval of UGC. Members were nominated for CDSCs in order to prepare the curricula of these programmes. Professor Susirith Mendis & Dr. Vajira Weerasinghe were nominated as the Chairperson and Secretary to the CDSC in Physiology respectively, whereas Professor Rohan Jayasekara and Professor Malkanthi Chandrasekera were nominated as the Chairperson and Secretary to the CDSC in Anatomy respectively.

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Norway visit of PGIM representatives



Team of representatives from the NOMA project and PGIM lead by Professor Rezvi Sheriff recently visited Norway. In this visit they met officials from the SIU and the Department of Informatics and the Department of Clinical Genetics of the University of Oslo. Discussions were

made regarding further academic collaboration and opportunity for higher education for Sri Lankan medical graduates.



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Feedback.....

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