Diabetic Walk 2010
To commemorate the International Diabetes day on 14th November, Diabetes Research Unit of Faculty of Medicine Colombo, organized a “Diabetes walk 2010”. A number of delegates participated in the event including the First lady Mrs Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Honorable Minister of Health Maithripala Sirisena and the Director of PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff. The walk commenced from the Independence square and concluded at the BMICH. Before the commencement all participants demonstrated Exercise at the Independence Square including all delegates. A mini exhibition was organized at the BMICH to educate people on diabetes and its effects.

AGM of PGIMAA
The AGM of the PGIMAA was held on 14th of October 2010 followed by a fellowship dinner. Dr. Sarath Gamini de Silva handed over the Presidency of the Association to Prof. Chandrika Wijeratna after 3 years of valuable contribution to the success of the PGIMAA. PGIM Alumni Association was established in 2007 and since then has expanded to include 35 members within a short span of time. The past Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected. The PGIMAA and the PGIM expresses their gratitude to Dr. Sarath Gamini de Silva for his contribution and wish good luck for the new President Prof. Chandrika Wijeratna and new committee members in future programs.

Commencement of new era in government offices
Following the swearing ceremony of President Mahinda Rajapaksa for his second term on 19/11/2010 the government decided to commence the official duties at government offices with a new turn on 22nd November 2010. Accordingly on 22nd, the PGIM started work by hoisting the National flag and singing the National Anthem with participation of all staff from director down to labourers.

The NSF (National Science Foundation) Research Awards 2009, given annually for research work of outstanding merit under the category of Health Science was achieved for the project titled “Prevalence of Diabetes and its risk factors for Sri Lanka” The grantees were from the Department of Clinical Medicine viz Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, Dr. Prasad Katulanda and Dr. Godwin Constantine.

Human Genome Workshop
The first ever Sri Lankan Human Genome was sequenced as a collaborative effort between the Biomedical Informatics Programme of the PGIM, the Human Genetics Unit of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, India. It was launched at a special session at the Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) on 10th December 2010. The Sri Lankan Human Genome Project is aimed at understanding the unique biological heritage of our population. The aims are to ensure that the Sri Lankans do not lose out in this new era of genomic medicine and Sri Lanka would continue to be a shining example of health care that exceeds the expectations for countries with a similar per capital income. The genome can be accessed at http://srilankangenome.net

CONGRATULATIONS! Director
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30th Anniversary Academic Sessions

The PGIM is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary Academic Sessions and Alumni Day in commemoration of its 30th Anniversary, to be held from the 27th to 29th April 2011, at the PGIM premises.

An Inauguration Ceremony will be held on the eve of 27th April 2011 at the HNB Towers followed by a fellowship dinner.

The Alumni Day organized by the PGIM Alumni Association (PGIMAA) is to be held on the 27th April (Wednesday). It will consist of symposia, plenary and guest lectures, and will conclude with an interesting debate.

The Scientific Sessions which will stretch over the next two days will consist of symposia, plenary, Guest lectures and quizzes, not to forget that there will be several free paper sessions and poster presentations.

All trainers and trainees are encouraged to take this opportunity and submit their scientific researches to be presented at the sessions.

The first organizing committee was held last October and The Director, PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff chaired the meeting. Members of the organizing committee are as follows

Co – chairperson
Vidyajyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff
Professor Saman Gunathilake

Co – Secretary
Dr. Pandula Siribaddana
Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

Members
Prof. Lalitha Mendis
Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana
Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
Prof. Mandika Wijeratna
Prof. Chandrika Wijeratna
Dr. Naomali Amarasesa
Dr. Ariyaranee Gnanathasan

Dr. Vajira Dissanayake
Dr. Udaya Ranawaka
Dr. Dushyanthi Perera
Dr. Enaka Corea
Dr. Sarath Paranawithana
Dr. Gulpa Subasingha
Dr. Anuruddha Abeygunasekara
Mr. B. G. Chaudradasa

DFM by Distance Education

Online workshops

End Semester workshops were held for the DFM online trainees of the batch 2008/2010 at the end of their 4th semester and for the batch 2009/2011 at the end of their 2nd semester on 17th of October and 14th of November 2010 respectively. The workshops were a full day program with discussions among the semester tutors and the students. The lectures done during the semester were discussed by the relevant tutor mentors and the students were able to clarify any doubts they had during the lesson.

South Asian Clinical Toxicology Research Collaboration (SACTRC) Symposium on Snake Bite Clinical Trials

SACTRC symposium on Snake bite was held on 22nd of November 2010 at the PGIM auditorium from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. with the participation of the Director, PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff and the SACTRC Academic Staff Professor Andrew Dawson, Professor Janaka De Silva, Dr. Geoff Isbister, Dr. Shehan Williams, Professor Nick Buckley, Professor David Laloo and Dr. Indika Gawarammana. Various topics related to snake bites had been discussed during the symposium including Russel’s Viper envenomings, Premedication for antivenoms, Antivenom doses etc. Professors and Senior lecturers from Medical faculties also participated in the symposium.

Diploma in Family Medicine Inauguration

The Inauguration and the Orientation Session of the DFM by Distance Education batch of 2010/2012 was held on 19th of November 2010. Thirty nine trainees joined the course as the 3rd intake. The new trainees, the tutors and the members of the Board of Study in Family Medicine participated in the function. The programme started with the welcome address delivered by the Director, PGIM, Vidyajyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff. The chairperson of the Board of Study in Family Medicine, Prof. Nandani de Silva and the Coordinator of the DFM by DE course Dr. Joel Fernando spoke about the course. In the orientation session conducted by Dr. Deepama Sumanasekara and assisted by Dr. Joel Fernando and Dr. Udeshini Somasiri, the trainees were introduced to the Moodle system, a novel Learning Management System and were guided through the website on which the programme operates.

30th Anniversary Academic Sessions

27th—29th April 2011

Early Bird Registration Deadline - 31st March 2011

Register online - www.pgimsessions.org
Medical Book Launch

Medical Orations and Presidential Addresses
delivered in Sri Lanka from January 1990 to January 2009

This compilation of Medical Orations and Presidential Addresses delivered in Sri Lanka is an attempt towards filling a long felt need. The valuable concept was proposed by Vidyajyothi Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. Memorial Orations and Presidential Addresses of Medical Associations and Colleges of Sri Lanka is a publication which will be a very important source of information. It will reflect the thinking and priorities of the Medical Professionals over the years. The Orations and Presidential Addresses deal with the key issues and the contemporary problems faced by medical professionals. These include academic, research, educational and practice issues. Until the publication of this book these sources of information were scattered among the journals and proceedings which were not readily accessible to planners, policy makers, researchers, professionals and students. In fact some of them have not even been published earlier.

This compilation is in five sections namely Medical Orations, Presidential Addresses, Author Index, Keyword Index, and Biographical notes on the Orators. A DVD containing the electronic version of the book is being provide as reader friendly item.

This book launched on 16th of December 2010 at 3.00 pm at the PGIM auditorium. The program commenced with the traditional lighting of the oil lamp followed by a series of speeches delivered by distinguished guests. WHO Representative to Sri Lanka Dr. Rustom Mehta was the Chief Guest.

Workshop on Critical Appraisal of Medical Literature and introduction to EBM

PGIM organized a workshop on Critical Appraisal of Medical Literature and Introduction to EBM for all the Postgraduate trainees. The program conducted by Prof. Sarath Lekamwasam as the Resource Person. The workshop includes introduction to EBM, Comprehensive Literature Search, Critical Appraisal of a Research paper on Therapy, Meta analysis, Diagnosis, Prognosis. It was held on 28th October 2010 at PGIM Auditorium. Due to high demand PGIM wishes to conduct this workshop twice a year and registration will be limited to 40 participants.

One day workshop on MSc in Medical Toxicology

Second workshop for the Trainees of MSc Medical Toxicology was held on 5th December 2010. It was a examination oriented workshop as the first batch is on verge of the final examination. On the same day clinical portfolio was introduced to the trainees. Although the course is conducted online, all trainees participated in the workshop.

Participation at the HINARI Workshop

The Senior Assistant Librarian – Mrs. T. Sritharan & Assistant Librarian – Mrs. D. Munasinghe participated in the Workshop on “Training of Trainers on Health Inter Network Access for Research Initiative & Institutional Repository (HINARI)”. This workshop was conducted by HeLLIS from 8th -10th November 2010 at the IT Lab of the Main Library, University of Colombo.

Tree Planting Ceremony organized to commemorate H.E. President’s second swearing

A tree planting ceremony was organized at the PGIM to support the massive tree planting programme of planting Eleven Hundred Thousand Trees within Eleven minutes around the country to commemorate the birthday and the second swearing in ceremony of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa the President of Sri Lanka. Several trees were planted within the premises of PGIM as advised by the Director, PGIM, Prof. Rezvi Sheriff.
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Write to us.....The Editors invite letters to the Editor. Letters with useful suggestions will be featured. Anonymous and inappropriate correspondence will be ignored.

Food for thought with Dennis:
- "Treat Everyone With Politeness Even Those Who Are Rude To You Not Because They Are Not Nice But Because You Are Nice."  
  - Lord Buddha
- Everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself"  
  - Leo Tolstoy

DISCLAIMER While every effort is taken to ensure that the information provided in this newsletter is correct & accurate, the Editors wish to inform the reader that neither they nor the publisher is responsible for any inaccuracy or lack of correctness in the information provided. The Editors also wish to inform the readers that this is not an official document which creates any rights or obligation, legal or otherwise, binding the PGIM. Any one who wishes to act on the basis of information provided in this newsletter is advised hereby to contact the relevant authority for obtaining binding official information.

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