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DESIGNED BY: MEDICAL EDUCATION  
RESOURCE CENTRE



**The Editorial Board wishes the readers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2007!**

## The Work permit issue in UK



Director PGIM, with President of Royal College of Surgeons London (PRCS).

Postgraduates who planned to go to UK in the latter half of 2006 were in for a rude shock as Lord Warner the State Health Minister withdrew permit fee training slots.

This was because British graduates were unemployed without training slots. Greater numbers were expected to pass out of new UK medical schools. The situation was compounded by increasing overseas exam centers for PLAB and Part 1 of College exams.

The IMG (International Medical Graduates) problem really blew up with this announcement. Interim arrangements were made for these in the middle of contracts for jobs/training.

Thousands of doctors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

who came on their own had no option but to return home. The Royal Colleges/ GMC had no realistic alternate solution on offer.

The PGIM saw some light at the end of the dark tunnel. Our PGs go to UK at the tail end of their training. We needed only one year in UK. We wanted our PGs to return home. We were paying them a scholarship monthly. The training received was part of consultant training for Sri Lanka. We are a national body.

PGIM made country to country approach through our foreign ministry. The Director, PGIM met the UK High Commissioner for Sri Lanka and set up meetings with Home Office, DHSS, PMETB, GMC, Royal Colleges and negotiated a special visa category (Training & Work Experience Scheme; TWES, Medical Training Initiative 1; MTI1). This allowed PGIM scholars to work to a maximum of 2yrs and return home. They cannot get back to work in UK for 2 years.

We still have an issue on the value of the scholarship. From £833 we increased it to £1000 (The British minimum wage was £927). The 'non exploitation' principle of the TWES visa demands a SHO salary like for UK doctor. This is approx £3000-

£4000 per month. PGIM cannot offer this. Some NHS trusts are responding positively to fund the balance. Lets wait and see.

Note these posts wont lead to certificate of completion of specilaist training (CCT rating) and they are tailor-made posting for PGIM needs.

We continue our negotiations. Professor Sheriff Director, PGIM has been to UK for negotiations twice to work out this for Sri Lanka. There is no solution for our Asian neighbours or for the non PGIM Sri Lankans. The takers for local PLAB/ MRCP etc has dropped drastically.

Major changes in the roles of Colleges in PG education is expected. The PGIM trainees too have to look out for other training centres in the region, Australia, New Zealand. Already there is a 50% shift to Australia.



Director PGIM, at the International Advisors meeting at the Royal College of Physicians of London. (RCPL)

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## Director visits CPSP....



Professor Rezvi Sheriff Director, PGIM visited College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (CPSP) Karachchi to participate as an external examiner in FCPS Part II in Medicine from 19th - 23rd November 2006. During this visit he met Professor Sultan Farooqui, President CPSP.

This meeting will strengthen the ties between the PGIM and CPSP.

## Rooftop Building



The roof top construction in PGIM is in progress. This will be definitely add more space to the PGIM. It will accommodate student's area, Consultants lounge, MERC facilities and a dining area. This part of the building is to be WiFi enabled.

Construction is scheduled to finish in early 2007.

## Video conferencing ..... a reality

Following the Workshop on Development of New Learning Techniques/e learning,GMA and MERC/PGIM went a step forward practically. Three video conference sessions were held as part of the Post Congress Workshop of the Annual Academic Sessions of GMA 2006.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006, Professor Mandika Wijeratne Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine Colombo addressed all surgical registrars on "Vascular surgery/care core knowledge and skills".

On 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006, Dr.Sumudu Kumarage Senior Lecturer in Surgery Faculty of Medicine Ragama addressed surgical registrars from Galle on "Developing skills in laparoscopy".

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006, Professor Mohan De Silva, Professor of Surgery, University of Sri Jayawardenapura addressed the postgraduate trainees and trainers from Karapitiya Teaching Hospital on "Changing strategies in the management of bilio pancreatic disorders".

The speakers were talking from MERC/PGIM to an audience in Galle. These sessions were interactive and well attended . This will no doubt be an opening for a new dimension in training doctors.

Dr.K.B.Galketiya President GMA and Dr.Harsha Ediriweera from MERC/PGIM were the organisers of these sessions.

## Diploma in Family Medicine 2006 MD in Family Medicine 2006 of the PGIM conducted for Indian Nationals

The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) held the above mentioned examinations in Hyderabad, India in September 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2006.



22 candidates passed the **Diploma in Family Medicine** examination this year. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year this examination was exported to India. This year the **MD examination in Family Medicine** was commenced.

In India, Family practice by Allopathic doctors is not well organised and there are no specialist examinations in this discipline. The IMA seeing the value of the PGIM examinations and training course has made this important link and invite the PGIM every year. There is a big demand for this examination but our team can handle only 40 candidates because of the labour intensive innovative examination techniques like MEQ, MCQ, OSPE, OSCE & VIVA components are held in tandem over 4 days.

The Sri Lankan team consisted of Professor Rezvi Sheriff (Director), Professor Leela Karunarathne (Chief Examiner), Professor M.S.A. Perera, Dr. Dennis Aloysius, Dr. W A Ferdinand, Dr. Preethi Wijegoonawardena, Dr. Neil Abeysekera, and Professor Sivayogan (Workshop Resource Person). Mr. Kapila Gunasinghe (Assistant Registrar/Exams), Ms. Inoka and Mr. Palitha came from PGIM Examination department. Dr. Arul Raj (Tuticorin/ National IMA Coordinator) and Dr. Pulla Rao (Hyderabad /Andra Pradesh IMA Coordinator) played key roles from the Indian side.

The PGIM considers this idea of exporting our examinations a prestigious collaborative activity which has earned a lot of respect in the region where efforts are being made to expand the specialty of Family Practice especially in the SAARC countries.

## Board of Study in Psychiatry

Chairperson :

*Dr. M U P K Peiris*

Secretary:

*Dr. G A Harischandra*

The Board of Study in Psychiatry is taking every effort to produce adequate number of Psychiatrist for the country to improve Psychiatric services. Shortage of Psychiatrists in the country is the biggest challenge in improving Psychiatric services. Though the PGIM has produced more than adequate Psychiatrist from its inception, they do not come back once gone for compulsory abroad training. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to think of changing 26 year old methodology in producing a specialist for this country, at least in the field of psychiatry.

However, the Board of Study in Psychiatry has taken several steps to make psychiatry attractive to the young and enthusiastic doctors. Instead of following the same old stream of General Adult Psychiatry, now the options are open for them to select an interesting subspecialty according to the new prospectus. Several changes also have been proposed to improve the standards of the training in the new prospectus which is being drafted.

The Board of Study too is concerned about the development of services despite this intolerable brain drain. As a remedial measure the board has decided to start a diploma courses for successful candidates at the screening exam to serve in places where there are no consultants available.

## Board of Study in Paediatrics

Chairperson :

*Prof. Harendra de Silva*

Secretary:

*Dr. Medha Weerasekera*

The BOS in Paediatrics commenced operations with the launch of the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine in 1980. Presently the Board has 20 members with equal numbers from Universities and the Ministry of Health.

The main responsibilities of the Board are - to organize the training programmes, to conduct examinations for MD (Paediatrics) & Diploma in Child Health and to discuss, improve and solve issues related to post graduate training in Paediatrics.

The Board commenced holding the MD Paediatrics part 1 examinations in 1987 and the Diploma in Child Health examinations in 1988. The Board, through the PGIM, always invites an external examiner (from UK or other countries in the region) to participate in the MD (Paediatrics) and DCH examinations.

Over the years steps have been taken to improve the selection criteria and the training programs. Since 2001 the Pre MD Training program was increased to three years and successful research project was made a mandatory requirement prior to Board certification.

From year 2004 the Board commenced sub- specialization in the fields of Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatric Nephrology, Paediatric Neurology, Paediatric Intensive Care and Neonatology.

Over the last 25 years we have had over 350 trainees in General Paediatrics and 12 trainees undergoing sub-specialty training. The Diploma in Child Health has been awarded to over 400 medical officers.

The Board's current focuses are to organize training workshops for trainers, improve the Neonatal facilities and care in all parts of the country and to establish sub-specialty units in Paediatric Cardiology, Nephrology and Neurology.

## Video Conference with GMA Branch Library...



On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006, a video conference was held to discuss matters related to GMA branch library.

Professor Rezvi Sheriff the Director, Mr. B G Chandradasa (Deputy Registrar), Mr. Thangarajah (Deputy Bursar) and Mrs. Chandrani Kuruppu (Acting Librarian) represented the PGIM and Dr. K B Galketiya, the President, GMA represented GMA.

Director, PGIM promised to allocate Rs. 250,000 for the purchase of books.

## Scholarship Enhanced.....

The stipend of the PGIM Scholarships has been enhanced.

Country	Previous	Now	From
UK	£ 833	£ 1,000	01/10/2006
Canada	US\$ 1,167	Can \$ 1,450	01/11/2006
Australia	US\$ 1,167	Aust \$ 1,665	01/10/2006
New Zealand	US\$ 1,167	Aust \$ 1,665	01/10/2006
USA	Being Negotiated		
Singapore	Being Negotiated		

## An Introductory Course on Educational Technology for the Anaesthetic Trainers



Upon the request made by the Chairperson / BOS in Anaesthesiology, Medical Education Resource Centre of the PGIM has agreed to conduct 4 workshops on Educational Technology for the Anaesthetic Trainers, on the following topics.

- Introduction to Medical Education
- Teaching & Learning Methods
- Methods of Assessment
- Curriculum Development

The inaugural workshop was held on the 08<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at the Auditorium of the PGIM with the participation of 25 anaesthetic trainers under the auspices of the Director, PGIM and the Chairperson, BOS in Anaesthesiology.

The resource persons were Prof M T M Jiffry, Head / Department of Medical Education at the FMS / USJP and Dr Indika Karunathilake, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Medical Education at the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo.



Participants at the Workshop

The second workshop on Learning & Teaching in a Clinical Setting was held on 08<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Resource persons were Professor M T M Jiffry & Professor Rohini Seneviratne.

The course coordinators were Dr P T R Makuloluwa, Dr Anuja Abeysdera, & Dr Dushyanthi Perera.

### NEWS.....

#### Private Sector Doctors can sit PGIM Examinations from 01-Jan-2007

Arrangements have been made to accept applications from private sector doctors for PGIM entry exams from 2007.

Guidelines /entry rules are available from the Exams Dept. of the PGIM.

Fees will be 50% higher, a quota is available for these passing and there is a need to sign Agreements & Bonds with PGIM/Ministry of Health. A medical insurance (indemnity) becomes a requirement before the course begins.

The Hon. Minister of Health Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva had presented a cabinet paper and received approval for a payment of Rs.20,000/- per month for those clinical trainees who contribute to service.

#### They Served the PGIM...

The three coordinators attached to MERC Dr.Dinendra Athukorala, Dr.Sumudu Wickremasinghe and Dr.K.Sutharshan resigned on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 to take up internship appointments. They were a driving force at the PGIM.



We wish them best of luck in all their future endeavours.

## Workshop on Development of New Learning Techniques / e learning



MERC/PGIM in collaboration with Galle Medical Association ( GMA) organised a day workshop at Teaching Hospital Karapitiya on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006 on Development of New Learning Techniques/ e learning.

The resource person for the workshop was Dr.Prita Chatoh. She is an expert on distance education from the WHO Sri Lanka office.

She introduced new learning techniques that can be used in the distance mode.

Professor Rezvi Sheriff Director PGIM, graced the occasion and stressed the importance of distance education as a mode of upgrading the professional development among the doctors doing a valuable service in the periphery. The audience comprised of Consultants, postgraduate trainees and medical officers attached to the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine Ruhuna. This was a very successful workshop. MERC team expresses its gratitude to Dr.K.B.Galketiya President GMA for the kind cooperation, Dr.Prita Chatoh for her generous contribution, Professor Rezvi Sheriff for his valuable support and all who helped to make it a success.

### Postgraduate Students will have a Roll Number and ID cards from year 2007

#### Unlimited attempts at entry exams

The PGIM BOM has agreed to unlimited attempts at entry exams for courses (Certificate/ Diploma/ MSc/ MD/ MS etc.) The rules about other exams remain as per Boards of Study regulations.

This will apply from 01/01/2007.

#### Summary of MS & MD Results 2006

Examination	No. Sat	No. Passed	% Pass Rate
MD Anaesthesiology	20	11	55
MD Chemical Pathology	1	1	100
MD Clinical Oncology	7	5	71
MD Community Dentistry	2	2	100
MD Community Medicine	8	8	100
MD Dermatology	9	7	78
MD Forensic Medicine	7	7	100
MD Haematology	7	5	71
MD Histopathology	16	12	75
MD Medical Administration	4	4	100
MD Medicine	94	39	41
MD Microbiology	2	2	100
MD Obstetrics & Gynaecology	12	6	50
MD Ophthalmology	4	2	50
MD Paediatrics	50	27	54
MD Psychiatry	43	23	53
MD Radiology	21	13	62
MD Transfusion Medicine	4	2	50
MD Venerology	7	2	29
MS Otolaryngology	4	4	100
MS Surgery	58	34	59



**EDITOR IN CHIEF:**  
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**EDITORIAL STAFF:**  
Dr. Harsha Ediriweera  
Miss. Upamali Wijeratne

**Feedback.....**

This is our Second newsletter released by **MERC**, PGIM. We would be grateful if you could let us know what you think about the articles you have read in this newsletter, what other articles would you be interested in seeing covered in future newsletters. Finally any other useful suggestions to improve our future issues are also welcome.

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**Examination  
Application Forms  
can be  
downloaded from  
the web site:  
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Starting Date	Examinations 2007	Last Date for Application	Starting Date	Examinations 2007	Last Date for Application
<b>January</b>			<b>July</b>		
08	MD (Dermatology)	17-Nov-06	02	Diploma in Venereology	10-May-07
08	MD (Pathology) Haematology	12-Sep-06	02	MD (Clinical Oncology) Part I	11-May-07
08	MS (Surgery) Part I - MCQ Paper	20-Nov-06	16	MS (Surgery) Part II	11-May-07
08	MD (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) Part II	16-Nov-06	16	MD (Paediatrics) Part II	10-May-07
16	MD (Medical Microbiology/ Medical Parasitology)	01-Dec-06	19	Selection Examination for Diploma in Venereology	10-May-07
16	MD (Psychiatry) Part II	01-Dec-06	23	Ophthalmology Module III	02-Jun-07
16	MD Ophthalmology Part II (Old Syllabus) Ophthalmology Module IV (New Syllabus)	14-Dec-06	24	MD (Medicine) Part II - Theory Papers	02-Jul-07
22	MD (Paediatrics) Part II	01-Dec-06	27	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part IB - MCQ Paper	08-Jun-07
18	MS (Orthodontics)	12-Dec-06	<b>August</b>		
22	MS (Restorative Dentistry)	12-Dec-06	01	MD (Psychiatry) Part II	22-Jun-07
29	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part IB - MCQ Paper	08-Dec-06	06	MD (Community Medicine/ Community Dentistry) Part I/Part II	22-Jun-07
30	Diploma in Hospital Dental Practice	10-Nov-06	08	Selection Examination for Diploma in Legal Medicine	20-Jun-07
<b>February</b>			13	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part II	08-Jun-07
05	MS (Surgery) Part II	20-Nov-06	16	Selection Examination for Diploma in Family Medicine	20-Jun-07
08	Selection Examination for Diploma in Reproductive Health	06-Dec-06	20	Selection Examination for Diploma in Medical Microbiology	09-Jul-07
13	MD (Medicine) Part II - Theory Papers	08-Jan-07	21	Selection Examination for Diploma in Pathology	03-Jul-07
14	MD (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) Part I - MCQ Paper	19-Dec-06	<b>September</b>		
15	Selection Examination for Diploma in Child Health	08-Jan-07	06	Selection Examination for Diploma in Transfusion Medicine	20-Jul-07
<b>March</b>			10	Selection Examination in Radiology	03-Aug-07
01	Ophthalmology Module I	16-Jan-07	17	MS (Dental Surgery) Part I	27-Jul-07
02	Selection Examination in Dermatology	05-Jan-07	20	Selection Examination for MSc (Community Medicine/Community Dentistry)	06-Aug-07
05	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part II	08-Dec-06	<b>October</b>		
12	Diploma in Transfusion Medicine	10-Jan-07	01	Diploma in Legal Medicine	20-Aug-07
19	MD (Transfusion Medicine)	10-Jan-07	08	MD (Ophthalmology) Part II (Old Syllabus)/ Ophthalmology Module IV (New Syllabus)	15-Aug-07
27	Selection Examination in Medicine	12-Jan-07	09	Selection Examination in Medicine	08-Aug-07
30	MD (Paediatrics) Part I - MCQ Paper	10-Jan-07	15	Diploma in Medical Microbiology	30-Sep-07
<b>April</b>			29	Diploma in Child Health	17-Sep-07
03	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part IA	23-Feb-07	<b>November</b>		
23	Ophthalmology Module II	12-Mar-07	01	Diploma in Pathology	12-Sep-07
<b>May</b>			05	Diploma in Family Medicine/MD (Family Medicine)	03-Sep-07
04	Selection Examination in Clinical Oncology	16-Mar-07	19	MD (Anaesthesiology) Part IA	26-Oct-07
08	Selection Examination in Ophthalmology	08-Mar-07	26	MD (Pathology) Histopathology	12-Sep-07
10	Diploma in Reproductive Health	07-Mar-07	26	MSc (Community Medicine/Community Dentistry)	12-Oct-07
14	Diploma in Legal Medicine	30-Mar-07	12	MD (Forensic Medicine)	28-Sep-07
14	MD (Clinical Oncology) Part II	24-Apr-07	<b>December</b>		
21	MD (Venereology)	05-Apr-07	03	MD (Radiology) Part I/Part II	02-Nov-07
25	Selection Examination for Diploma in Sports Medicine	09-Apr-07	10	Diploma in Hospital Dental Practice	09-Nov-07
<b>June</b>			17	MS (Otorhinolaryngology)	15-Nov-07
04	Certificate of Competence in Anaesthesiology	09-Apr-07			
11	MS (Otorhinolaryngology)	11-May-07			
11	MD (Psychiatry) Part I	04-May-07			
18	Diploma in Tuberculosis & Chest Diseases	04-May-07			
20	Selection Examination in Diploma in Hospital Dental Practice	28-Apr-07			
22	MS (Surgery) Part I - MCQ Paper	11-May-07			

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**  
We plan to hold 4-5 Courses & Exams in 2007 based on requests. Please enquire from MERC Office - Upamali 0602168545

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