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User Seminar-Current trends in accessing electronic health resources

A very useful HeLLIS user seminar on “Current trends in accessing electronic health resources” organized by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with PGIM, was held at the PGIM on 31st January 2013. Prof P.S.Wijesinghe Deputy Director, PGIM welcomed all the participants and resource persons. Forty seven professionals participated in this workshop. The objective of the workshop was to acquaint professionals in the field with easy access to medical websites including HINARI, PUBMED, WHO and Reference management Software (EndNote). Mrs. Dilhani Munasinghe, Assistant Librarian, PGIM,



Mrs. Chithra Abeygunawardene, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Kelaniya, Mrs. Shyamali Thebuwana, Librarian, WHO country office, Colombo, Mrs. Anuja De Silva, Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo were the Resource persons. The seminar was coordinated by Mrs. T. Sritharan, Senior Assistant Librarian.

Workshops

Medical Education Resource Centre (MERC) organized a series of workshops on Medical Education for postgraduate trainers. That series contained seven workshops on various topics on postgraduate education and assessments. First workshop was held in September 2012 and the last and final one was held in February 2013. Nominees from each Board of Study and specialty boards participated in those workshops.

Five days workshop on “How to get your research published” was organized by MERC for postgraduate trainees. It was held in February from 18th to 22nd at PGIM. Trainees from various postgraduate courses took part and gained knowledge on how to do and publish research.

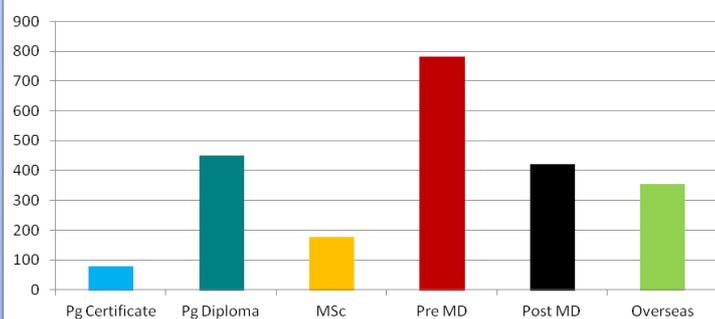


Resource persons from various faculties and hospitals took part in the workshop in order to make it a glowing success.

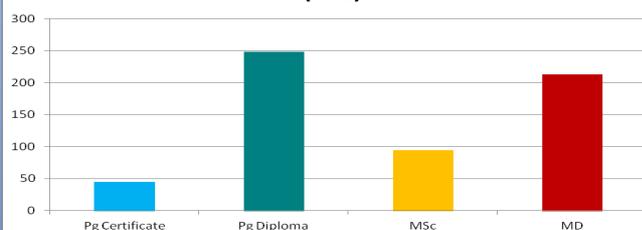
PGIM Statistics—2012

Achievements of postgraduate education in medicine in Sri Lanka over the years.

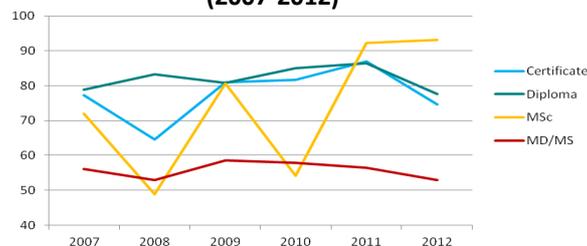
Total Number of students at different stages of training -2012 (2387)



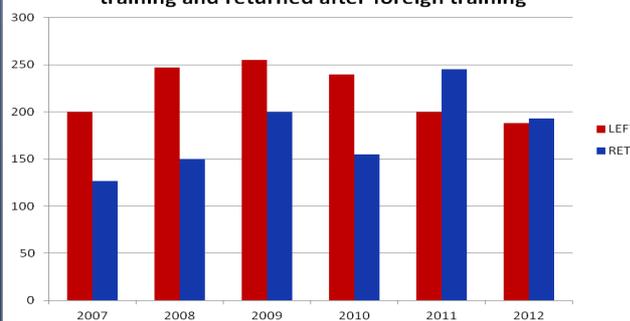
Number of new students enrolled in 2012 (642)



Pass rates at different examinations of the PGIM (2007-2012)



Number of PG trainees left for foreign training and returned after foreign training



Health informatics

By Dr. Achala Upendra Jayatilleke, Senior Lecturer, PGIM.

Health informatics is a relatively new field in Sri Lanka which emerged in 1970s, and is considered as a medical specialty nowadays. Health informatics, also called Health Information, Medical Informatics, or Biomedical Informatics is a discipline at the intersection of information science, computer science, and health care. Health Informatics deals with the resources, devices, and methods that are required to optimize the acquisition, storage, retrieval, and the use of information on health as well as biomedicine.

The medical history of a patient can be defined as a set of information obtained by a medical doctor by asking specific questions from a patient or bystander; the ultimate aim of obtaining this information is to formulate a diagnosis and provide the relevant medical care. In the clinical training of medical students, the first thing they are taught is how to get a proper medical history. After this essential first step, all the following steps of the medical care are related to management of information. Hence, medicine is a field of intensive information that should be utilized with speed and accuracy.

Until recent past, health informatics was not recognized as an essential element of medical care in Sri Lanka. Most of the information on health was recorded on paper, making its utilization difficult. Unlike in fields like banking sector or corporate sector, information and communication technology (ICT) took a long time to infiltrate the health sector due to the complexity and uncertainty associated with it. However, the medical professional as well as the policymakers has now recognized the importance of health informatics, and thus funding and training on health informatics have increased during the past decade.

Although computers have infiltrated the field of health, it is not necessary for all the health care providers to learn how computers operate. It is similar to the situation that a person does not have to understand how the internal combustion engine works to drive a car. Yet, the basic knowledge on computing does help in the maximum utilization of health informatics, and identifying its functional failures or areas that need to improve. However, expert biomedical-computing skills are needed by the health professionals who have committed their career to develop computer systems for health and biomedical informatics.

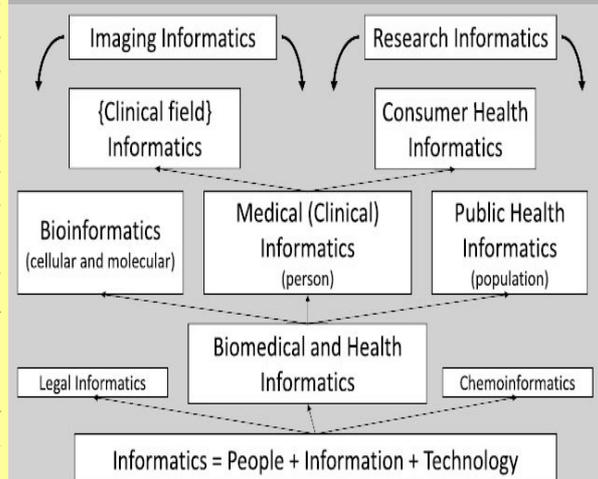
Health informatics combine knowledge from medical, healthcare administration and information technology. An expert in health informatics knows about information technology, how to apply the technology to solve practical problems and how to manage complex processes of implementing new solutions into organizations. Beside these generic competencies, experts in Health Informatics also know about the industry, both from the point of view of providing medical services, and from the point of view of managing complex medical organizations and processes. Experts in Health Informatics can, in other words, help the industry effectively to adopt information technology to innovate and improve its medical services and the way they are managing. However, an important thing that should be kept in mind is that computerization is not a substitute for poor documentation.

Until recently past there were no recognized institutions that offered training in Health Informatics for medical professionals in Sri Lanka. In 2010, being the path finder of the field of Health Informatics in Sri Lanka, the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) commenced a MSc program in Biomedical Informatics. Being the only postgraduate institution in the country which provides training for graduate medical doctors, PGIM has produced over 75 Health Informaticians to the country so far.

References

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Major subcategories of Health Informatics



Source: Hersh W. A stimulus to define informatics & health informatics technology. *BMC Medical informatics & decision making*. 2012;09:24.

Staff News—New Appointments

Senior Lecturer – PGIM



Dr. Achala Upendra Jayatilleke assumed duties as a Senior Lecturer in Medical Education with an interest in Biomedical Informatics in November 2012. He has obtained his MBBS from University of Peradeniya in 2001. Dr. Jayatilleke obtained his MHS and PhD degrees from the University of Tokyo in 2007 and 2010 consecutively and returned to Sri Lanka in 2010. He obtained an MBA from University of Peradeniya in 2011 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems Management from the University of Colombo in 2013. Before joining the PGIM Dr. Jayatilleke served as a Lecturer in Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. His interests are Health Informatics and Epidemiology of injuries.

Internal Transfer

Assistant Registrar-Academic Division



Mrs. S.A.A.M. Perera was appointed as the new assistant registrar of the Academic Branch, on 31.12.2012. She took over from Miss. E.P.I. Premaratne. Previously Mrs. Perera was the assistant registrar in General Administration Division. She graduated from University of Moratuwa (2009) and followed a postgraduate degree in Master of Economics at University of Colombo (2012).

Retirement



Mr. G. Dayananda joined PGIM as a labourer in 16th June 1980. Before joining the PGIM he worked as a labourer in University of Colombo for 5 years. He has served for 32 years in PGIM as a special Grade labourer. He retired on 05th December 2012.

Obituaries



Mr. K.K.L. Premathilake who was working as a cycle orderly in PGIM, passed away on 24th October 2012.

He joined the PGIM on 01st of February 1985 and worked as a special grade cycle orderly.

Mr. Premathilake was an active member of the PGIM welfare society as well. He was at the age of 59 when he died. May he attain Nibbana!

New courses started at the PGIM in 2013

PGIM introduced several new courses for post-graduates in 2013. The six new courses commenced are,

1. Postgraduate Diploma in Anatomy
2. Postgraduate Diploma in Physiology
3. Postgraduate Diploma in Health sector disaster management
4. Postgraduate Diploma in elderly medicine
5. Postgraduate MSc in Human nutrition
6. Postgraduate MD emergency Medicine

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Letters to the editors with useful suggestions will be featured.



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Feedback.....

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