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Laptops to Postgraduates

The Board of Management of the PGIM, as you are aware, allowed the Book Allowance to include purchase of a Laptop before going abroad. This was thought to be a great boost to enthusiastic PGs who could not afford their private Laptops.

The project came up with a major snag when objections were raised in the higher offices in the MOH. Someone thought the laptop needed to be in the MOH inventory.

Quick action by the Director PGIM and Secretary Health saw to it that the project would be implemented and benefit PGs. Many have used the new facility already. PGIM is getting ready with a WiFi facility at the roof top.

Postgraduate Convocation

Postgraduate Convocation and the Conferment of postgraduate degrees and diplomas of the University of Colombo was held under the patronage of Rt. Rev. Dr. Oswald Gomis the Chancellor University of Colombo on the 30th July 2007 at the BMICH.

The occasion was graced by the elite academics of the Island and was an event with overwhelming joy and happiness to all those who were conferred with postgraduate degrees and diplomas and to their family members watching their near ones have the privilege of obtaining the highest recognition for all their sweat and toil.



Out of 535 postgraduate degree recipients, 245 medical graduates were conferred with Postgraduate Degrees (MD/MS) with 39 of them being honoured with MD in General Medicine.

Of a total number of 603 diplomates, 171 were recipients of postgraduate diplomas related to study courses conducted by the PGIM-with a majority of 76 of them being awarded with the Diploma in Family Medicine .

Memorial prizes, Gold medals and Distinction passes were up for grabs for those top notch performers.

Director, PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff did the honours of presenting the postgraduates to the Chancellor for the award of Medical Degrees and Diplomas.

PARKING- Outside PGIM

This has become a huge problem to trainers and trainees alike. Director PGIM has appealed to the Municipality and some facilities have been set in motion for approval of SSP City Traffic and CMC Commissioner. We have now reserved parking outside the PGIM.

PGIM Library- Hijacked!

The Director NHSL requested the library building for renovation for six months. It is now over 2 ½ years and the contractors haven't handed back.

The Director NHSL now has another plan to use the renovated library to house the OPD facilities temporarily when the Foreign Donors demolish the OPD block.

The Secretary Health promised to give us a temporary and permanent solution soon. The DDG(MS), NHSL Director and the Director PGIM were asked to meet and present solution to Secretary Health. The old Blood Bank is a possible site.

GMOA is watching the developments as many of its members have started complaining. GMOA has sounded the ministry about this recently.

PGIM Starts an e - Health Outreach Programme / SNeHA Project

The PGIM in Collaboration with ISHED (Institute for Sustainable Health Education & Development) with Technical assistance from Worldspace has begun a series of Lectures which are transmitted via Worldspace receivers to distant areas. At present there are over 20 such sites in Sri Lanka. These receivers use a system called CLASS (Combined Live Audio & Slide Show) to transmit the voice and powerpoint slides of the orator to distant nodes. The system is independent of an internet connection and needs a computer and a WorldSpace Receiver to run. This is more cost effective than internet based initiatives. The first programme was given by Professor Harry McConnel (President of ISHED) & Prof Rezvi Sheriff of the PGIM on the topic of AIDS on 6th September 2007 This Outreach Program aims to establish Distance Education via the CLASS system in Sri Lanka. The technical hitches are being sorted out by Mr Roshan Dikkumbura & Dr. Rikaz Sheriff of the SNeHA project.

Mastering OSCE...!

A workshop was conducted by the BOS in Venerology with regard to OSCE Component of MD exams, at the PGIM auditorium on the 12th September 2007 under the auspices of Professor Lilani Rajapakse. Dr. Indika Karunathilake, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine Colombo functioning as the key resource person, delivered lectures and was instrumental in conducting interactive sessions attended by members of BOS in Venerology.

All PGIM Diplomas to be called Postgraduate Diplomas

Distance Learning – A novel approach to get your Diploma in Family Medicine...

The PGIM proudly launches its latest Distance Education (DE) programme in November 2007 for Diploma in Family Medicine (DFM). This will be a totally new approach to the existing DFM, which is a one year face to face program. Those who interested are requested to forward their duly filled applications to the Director/PGIM before **15th October 2007**. Applications can be downloaded from the PGIM web site (www.cmb.ac.lk/pgim)

This new DE program is planned to benefit the primary care doctors throughout the country who are unable to attend the lectures based in the PGIM regularly. Unlike the existing course, the DE course will be a 2 year course interspersed by few face to face sessions. With a clinical component of similar extent and individual tutor mentor support, trainees are expected to do the final assessment of the same quality and standard.

The 1st of the series of the course implementation workshops was held on 2nd September, 2007, with the participation of the DE Resource Team and the BOS in Family Medicine, who also played a major role in phase 1 of course development. More workshops to introduce GPs to this effort being planned

Although the initial course will be conducted using print medium, measures are afoot to convert it to an Online Distance Learning program delivered through the internet using the Moodle software. Practical training sessions for the PGIM staff introducing these technical aspects have already begun and among the leading participants are Professor Rezvi Sheriff Director/PGIM and Dr. Joel Fernando the new DE Coordinator/PGIM. Ms Upamali (MERC) and Dr. Rikaz is supportive to the efforts. This team of 4 is getting familiarized with the Moodle Software.

The project has been chosen to be funded by the Asian Development Bank, under the Distance Education Modernization Project (DEMP) of the MOH. Mr. Paul Avon an International Course Design Specialist from DEMP visited the PGIM on 7th September 2007 as a further step forward in this process.

Symposium on Care of the Critically Ill

The BOS in Anaesthesiology, PGIM conducted a Symposium for both the Trainers and Trainees in Anaesthesiology on Care of the Critically Ill. It was held at the PGIM on the 20th and 21st of July 2007. It was a huge success with good number of participants turning up with Professor Rezvi Sheriff Director PGIM gracing the inauguration.

Commonly encountered topics with academic interest were dealt in depth and the symposium was attended by many distinguished Consultant Anaesthetists from Colombo and suburbs seen amongst keen trainers. It was a full house. The new BOS in Multidisciplinary Study Courses have set up a Curriculum Development Sub Committee to develop a course in Critical Care.



MSc in Health Informatics

MOU with University of Oslo is planned towards developing a study programme in Health Informatics. Prof. Shyam Fernando is the Chairperson of the Curriculum Development Sub Committee and Dr. Vajira Dissanayake is helping the PGIM to get the links.

A workshop for library users

A user education workshop was organized by the PGIM Library on the 24th of Aug. at the PGIM premises in a bid to promote skills essential in maneuvering the web and digital resources among library members. The event was sponsored by the HELLIS Network an affiliation of WHO

A workshop on Pathology

A workshop on High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Flowcytometry was worked off on the expeditions of Professor Arundathi Kurukulasuriya and Dr. Senani Williams on the 21st of July 2007.

Professor Kurukulasuriya did elaborate on basic principles and interpretation of Flowcytometry thus enabling trainees to interpret flowcytometry graphs, a contemporary diagnostic tool hardly being used in Sri Lanka. Dr. Senani Williams expanded upon basic principles of HPLC making way for trainees to appreciate a wide array of haemoglobin abnormalities Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne, Secretary/ BOS in Pathology was the chief organizer. It was a fruitful study session.

Workshop on Medical Administration

A workshop was held with a view of restructuring and developing a new curriculum for MSc and MD courses in Medical Administration. It was conducted on the 28th of June 2007 at the PGIM with a participation of representatives from the Ministry of Health, WHO, Universities and other related institutions. Director PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff delivered the welcome address.

Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage, Secretary Health, Dr. Wimal Jayantha Secretary, BOS in Medical Administration, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon Consultant from the WHO, Dr. Lucian Jayasooriya Sri Lanka College of Medical Administrators, Dr. Reggie Perera of HPRA (Health Policy Research Associates) and Mr. Thilakasiri Senior Consultant SLIDA also made observations in connection with the restructuring of the curriculum. Dr. Ludowyke was the key rapporteur.

Event concluded with the formulation of amendments for the restructuring. A small group meeting was scheduled to finalise report to be presented to Board of Management Dr. Shanthi Dalpatadu and Dr. Samarage assisted by Dr.(Mrs) Gauthamadasa will make sure of the final report.

Entry criteria to sit PGIM examinations

- A Medical degree registered * with the Sri Lanka Medical Council
- Satisfactory completion of internship acceptable to the Sri Lanka Medical Council.
- Satisfactory completion of one year of post internship in medical practice in a University/Public Sector Institution in Sri Lanka acceptable to the PGIM as at the date of closure of applications.
- Any other requirement/s stipulated by the Board of Study concerned that has/have been approved by the Board of Management.

*foreign nationals who seek registration in respect of selection tests should possess a medical degree registrable with the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

Dental surgeons should possess one year of dental practice acceptable to the Board of Study in Dental Surgery after graduation.

Entry to the training programmes is by Selection Test/ on the basis of PGIM Diploma.

(A quota for the Private Sector is presently available for most courses)

The 27th Anniversary PGIM Academic Sessions 18th - 20th October 2007 at the PGIM premises.

This will be an event with immense academic interest and will be attended by many luminaries in the medical profession.

The annual PGIM debate will be held as a component of this on the 20th October on “Selection of sub specialty should be done at entry to the training programme” with a view of considering merits and demerits of deciding on sub specialty before MS/MD qualification. This will be the star attraction on the closing day and the audience will be privileged to witness a wonderful display of oratory skills of some of the reputed medical personnel.

In addition to free paper sessions there will be a host of other academic activities in the form of Plenary lectures, Symposia and poster sessions. Professor Diyanath Samarasinghe will dwell upon “Inter personal relationships among medical professionals” and would definitely be a treat to listen to added to Professor Rifdy Mohideen’s “Recent hypertension trials; implications and controversies”.

The curtains will be brought down at the Anniversary Sessions with a traditional Sri Lankan Fellowship Dinner at the newly built roof top facility of the PGIM building, which would be a fitting finale to two full days of academic activities. Mouth watering cuisine will be on offer made to traditional Sri Lankan recipes and would sure to tantalize your taste buds to its fullest. The atmosphere will be truly authentic with the oriental music provided by a live band in attendance to keep the crowd spell bound.

PGIM Staff News

- Dr .Joel Fernando is seen assuming duties as the Distance Education Co-ordinator/ PGIM from 01st of July 2007. He will oversee the DEMP Project.
- Drs. Ruwan Kuruppu and Paboda K.W.P Guruge are the newly recruited Pre-Intern Demonstrators to the MERC, PGIM assumed duties from 23rd July and 20th August respectively.
- Mr. Roshan Dikkumbura was recruited as a Temporary Technical Assistant to the SNeHA- e Outreach Programme Project on 02nd of August 2007. Dr. Rikaz Sheriff was recruited to this Project of ISHED Australia as a Temporary Project Coordinator. They will work with the MERC Staff for six months.
- Assistant Registrar/General Administration Ms Sanjeevani Ranasinghe is left the PGIM to join University of Peradeniya.
- Assistant Registrar Ms. Manuja Dananngoda from the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology joined the PGIM and takes over the Gen. Admin/ Establishment Branch.
- Annual PGIM Staff trip organised by the Welfare Society of the PGIM was a fun filled excursion to Nuwara Eliya on the 25th of August with an overnight stay at his holiday bungalow provided by the Director PGIM on courtesy basis.



Renovation of the PGIM Cafeteria

The PGIM canteen was reopened on the 17th September 2007 after a fine face lift.

Newly elected canteen committee hosted the PGIM staff to a morning tea in a goodwill building exercise. Director could not take part as he was fasting !

EXAMINATION RESULTS (15TH JULY-15TH SEPTEMBER)

Examination	Exam. Date	Sat	Passed	%
Certificate				
Certificate in Computer Applications	25-06-2007	11	10	90.9
PG Diploma				
Diploma in Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases	18-06-2007	29	28	96.55
Diploma in Venerology	02-07-2007	10	8	80
MD/MS Final				
MD Radiology	25-06-2007	7	3	42.85
MD Anaesthesiology	13-07-2007	13	9	69.23
MS Surgery	16-07-2007	37	18	48.64
MD Paediatrics	16-07-2007	12	4	33.33
MD Medicine	24-07-2007	77	20	25.97
MD Clinical Oncology	27-07-2007	4	4	100

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Dr. Indika Liyanage
Dr. Nilupuli Mendis
Dr. Ruwan Kuruppu
Dr. Paboda Guruge
Ms. Upamali Wijeratne

Feedback.....
This is the fifth 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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e' Library to Matara

An e Library built at a cost of 4 million rupees was declared open by the Director in a ceremony held at the Matara General Hospital recently. It consists of 4 computers equipped with ADSL facility was a brainchild of Dr. Aruna Munasinghe (Consultant Physician Matara G.H) and has been funded by Dr. Red-diy's Laboratories Ltd.



**First south asian regional symposium
On evidence based health care**

The Symposium was worked off at the PGIM Auditorium on the 24th of August 2007 with the participation of representatives from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Australia. The project was organized by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) in collaboration with the coordinating site for the South Asian Cochrane Network (SACN) Faculty of Medicine Ragama. It was a packed house audience



with the Director PGIM Professor Rezvi Sheriff gracing the occasion delivering the

welcome address and extended a hearty welcome to both local and foreign dignitaries.

The event got under way with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. Among the top ranked local faculty representatives attended the function were Professor Dulitha Fernando, the Dean Faculty of Medicine, Colombo, Professor Jayantha Jayawardene, the Dean Faculty of Medicine University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Professor Lalani Rajapaksa, Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo and Dr. Palitha Abeykoon WHO Consultant.

Through out the day there were enthralling Presentations, panel discussions and Interactive sessions conducted by both local and foreign resource persons. Professor Prathap Tharyan. Coordinator for SACN and also the Professor of Psychiatry Christian Medical College Vellore India stole the limelight by being part of most of these activities. Dr. Chrisantha Abeysena Site Coordinator for SACN in Sri Lanka who was the Chief Organizer of the event also spoke on the occasion. All the foreign resource persons and some of the senior most local officials were hosted at a special Director's Lunch by the Director PGIM. Dr. Pushpa Jayawardene delivering the vote of thanks did acknowledge the WHO for their monetary contributions and paid a glowing tribute to the PGIM staff for being at the helm of affairs.

Facilitation Fees

The Ministry of Health owes the PGIM nearly 30 million rupees which causes difficulties to the PGIM to run its programmes effectively. The Secretary Health has promised quick relief.

The Board of Management has decided to revert back to the former system of direct payment by new students and for them to get refunds individually. This will apply to all new training courses commencing 01/01/2008. This will not apply to those already in midcourse.

Cynosure of the Inauguration.

18th October 2007: The Inaugural PGIM Oration of the 27th Anniversary PGIM Academic Sessions will be delivered by Vidyajyothi Professor Eric Karunanayake on "Postgraduate Research : Relevance to National Development". This is expected to be the high point.

An Evening of Entertainment
PGIM Fellowship Dinner
At the newly extended Roof Top facility of the PGIM
20TH OCTOBER FROM 8.00 P.M ONWARDS
MESMERISE YOUR SELF
AT THE PINNACLE!!
WITH A LIVE BAND IN ATTENDANCE
For Reservations
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