



Inside the Issue

Workshops at PGIM	2
DFM/DE Online Course	2
Foreign Training-Arrivals & Departures	3
Examination Results	3
HISL Sessions & MSc Toxicology Course by Distance Education	4

Signing of MOU - Distance Education Modernization Project

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreements with Partner Institutions under DEMP was held on 28th April 2008, at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Welcome address was delivered by Mr. N.S. Abeywardena the Project Director DEMP. The Chief Guest Professor Wishwa Warnapala Hon. Minister of Higher Education also delivered a speech.



Prof. Warnapala

The resource team of the DEMP and DFM resource persons Professor Rezvi Sheriff, Director PGIM, Dr. Joel Fernando the DFM coordinator and several others participated in MOU signing. Having signed the MOU the DFM course is getting ready to be converted to online mode from the present printed format.



Australian Medical Council Exams have been introduced from 1st of July 2008 to enter Australia for PGIM Trainees

This came as a shocking news to PGIM Trainees as more and more have preferred Australia to UK more recently. Director PGIM has written to AMC, State Boards, Australian Professional Colleges etc. in a last minute effort to exempt the Sri Lankan PGIM trainees. We await the decision from AMC. PGIM will do its best to get the best deal for our trainees. PGIM Director has got good news from NSW Board - The Specialist pathway is available to PGIM Trainees to apply for a College Assessment, prior to a job.

Paediatric Oncology : New Ship Ready to Sail

Paediatric Oncology, the new Sub Specialty in the field of Clinical Oncology will be commencing soon under both Boards of Study in Clinical Oncology and Paediatrics.

After several meetings of the committee appointed; chaired by the Director PGIM and which included distinguished representatives from the BOS Paediatrics, College of Paediatricians, BOS Clinical Oncology, College of Oncologists, now they are planning to enroll new students to the new Sub Specialty.

The course will be advertised in due course at the PGIM.

Director in Kuala Lumpur

Vidyajyothi Professor Rezvi Sheriff, (Director - PGIM) participated in the 2nd Asian Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative and Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008.



Inauguration of Foreign Placement Coordinating Centre (FPCC)

The Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition has initiated a programme in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat, PGIM & GMOA to facilitate and coordinate overseas placements for medical officers. Under this programme a Foreign Placement Coordinating Centre (FPCC) and an English Language Laboratory will be established at the NHSL.

As a part of this programme an Introductory Seminar on FPCC was held on the 3rd of May. The Director PGIM participated in the workshop and delivered a lecture on "Role of the PGIM" in this regard. Members of the Ministry of Health, GMOA, WHO and professional Colleges also participated.

The PGIM has its own international office to place its trainees. FPCC is seeking placements for doctors to be a skilled migrant worker from Sri Lanka.

Scholarship Money Not Enough?

Never is any sum of money enough. PG Trainees have been reminding the PGIM of the rising cost of living globally. The PGIM has a mechanism in place in the last 3 years. We write to the Sri Lankan envoy and get details and advice and fix a rate. The Ministry of Health has also got to agree. All rates have only recently been revised by the Finance and Management Committee. Scholars are reminded that these payments are sufficient for one person to live comfortably and not for a family of three or so. We have also to follow the rules set by Treasury Circulars. So the PGIM has limitations when it comes to requests for monthly stipends.

Congratulations Honorable Minister...

Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition Hon. Minister Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva was appointed as the new Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board. Minister de Silva is the 1st South Asian to hold this position which is a significant achievement for Sri Lanka as well as South Asia. Our Heartiest Congratulations to him!



Workshop on Medical Toxicology Online Course

A workshop on Medical Toxicology by Distance Education (web based e - learning) was held on 21st of April 2008 at PGIM premises. The workshop aimed at demonstrating the web based course delivery and educating module coordinators on how to develop study materials and to run a discussion in web based format. A lot of work has gone in to the preparation of the Academic aspects of the course. A series of case scenarios and detailed discussions are planned on web based platforms. A faculty from Australian University and locally trained personnel will guide the students who enroll.

Professor Ravindra Fernando the Course Coordinator, Professor Rezvi Sheriff the Director - PGIM, Professor Andrew Dawson the Director - SACTRC and other module coordinators of the course participated in the workshop.

This new MSc course in Medical Toxicology by DE (on line) will commence soon.

The Blended learning techniques in a 'Moodle' platform is a novel delivery technique to be used. The DEMP programme is being used to build up content posting on the web.

It is an ideal opportunity for MBBS doctors to get an advanced theoretical knowledge into Medical Toxicology and it prepares you with Case Scenarios and to further clinical course for MD programmes to be developed later.

Workshop on Medical Writing

A workshop on Medical Writing organized by SLMA as a part of their annual sessions was held at PGIM premises on 19th of March 2008. The workshop was chaired by Professor Colvin Goonaratne. A series of lectures were delivered by Dr. Udaya Ranawaka, Prof. H.J. de Silva and Dr. Anurudda M. Abeygunasekara on Medical Writing. Participants were awarded a certificate at the end of the workshop.

Workshop in Paediatrics

A workshop on "Revision to MD Part II (Paediatrics) Clinical Examination and Guidelines for Examiners" was held on the 28th of May 2008, at the PGIM. It was organized by the Board of Study in Paediatrics. Welcome address was delivered by Professor Harendra De Silva, Chairperson - Board of Study Paediatrics.

The workshop was followed by a series of lectures and discussions on 'Proposed New Format for the Clinical Examination', New Marking Scheme, Guidelines for Chief Examiners and other Examiners, Code of Conduct for the Examiners and Formulations of Best of Five MCQs.

Workshop on Toxicology

A workshop on Teaching of Toxicology in Medical Schools in Sri Lanka was held on the 21st of April 2008 at PGIM premises. The workshop was organized by the SACTRC in collaboration with the National Poison Centre, NHSL. Professor Ravindra Fernando gave the welcome address and it was followed by a series of lectures by different lecturers on current Toxicology curriculum. Members from Forensic departments of different faculties and members from National Poison Centre participated in the workshop. It was agreed to review the present curriculum and upgrade it to the future needs.



End of Semester Weekend Workshop for DFM/DE - 2007/2009 Batch 01

The first end-semester weekend workshop for DFM/DE Batch 01 was held on the 31st May & 1st June 2008. This enabled trainees to Meet their tutors face to face, Discuss their learning experience with tutors and Explore jointly with tutors the measures needed to promote more effective learning/teaching through Distance Education.

On the first day lectures on "An Introduction to Research in General Practice" and "Role of the Trainers and Trainees in Distance Education" were given by Prof. M.S.A. Perera and Prof. Nandani de Silva respectively. Study sessions for the first semester were discussed on the next day. A presentation on Portfolio Assessment was followed by a discussion on Problems Associated with clinical sessions. Workshop concluded with a presentation of the work plan for the second semester.

Workshops for Development of Online Programme for the DFM by DE

DFM Online Course is expected to start in November 2008. A workshop series has been planned with the objectives of Production of Course Materials for DFM Online Course and Training of Resource Persons to function as Online Tutors.



The first workshop was held on Sunday 6th of April at the New Board Room of the PGIM. This was attended by the Director PGIM. Resource persons from NODES (National Online Distance Education Service) - Dr. Chulantha Kulasekera (Course Design Consultant, DEPP), Dr. Sanath Jayasena (Course Design Consultant, DEPP) and Engineer Mr. Lalith Liyanage (Project Manager of DEMP), Family Medicine Resource Team and other resource persons from Dental Surgery and Toxicology.

The next workshop is planned to be held on the 22nd of June 2008, in which there will be inputs from Prof. Mark Lamontagne (Online Course Design Specialist and International Team Leader, DEPP).

Helping Hand from Overseas for DFM by DE Online Course

A meeting on DFM/DE Online Course was held at the PGIM on 13th of May 2008. Prof. Mark Lamontagne, the Online Course Design Specialist, and International Team Leader for Distance Education Partnership Programme (DEPP) participated in the meeting and gladly agreed to give assistance in DFM course designing. Dr. Joel Fernando and DFM/DE work team participated and they planned out a programme for upcoming work.





New Lecturer at MERC



Dr. Pandula Siribaddanna took over appointment as a Junior Lecturer of MERC, from 2nd of June, 2008. He will be guiding us in our future activities. MERC had been functioning with a permanent University Clerical Staff and four Pre-interns under the direct guidance of the PGIM Director. Dr. Pandula has been requested to oversee the MERC activities and report to the Director.

A Deputy Director post has also been created to add to MERC Academic staff.

Happily Recruited at PGIM

New permanent staff at the PGIM appointed recently, with Director, PGIM in the front and Ms. G. M. Y. Dannangoda (Asistant Registrar - General Administration) on the right hand corner (From Left to Right)



- Mr. B. A. Nilantha Bamunuarachchi (Accounts Br.-Labourer Gr. III)
- Mr. Nilantha Mendis (General Admin Br.-Computer Applications Assistant)
- Mr. K. W. Janaka Nanda Kumara (General Admin. Br.-Labourer Gr. III)
- Mr. Indika Naullage (Director's Office-Lab Attendant)
- Mr. R. A. Chandradasa (General Admin. Br.-Maintenance Supervision Gr. III)
- Mr. T. Pooniya Moorthy (General Admin. Br.-Labourer Gr. III)
- Mr. A. L. A. Madhushanka Liyanage (Examination Br.-Labourer Gr. III)
- Mr. S. M. Rameesh Maulana (Accounts Br.-Book Keeper Gr. III Seg. "B")
- Ms. P. K. Wasana (Exam Br.-Computer Application Assistant Gr. III)

Library News: Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) Database

University of Colombo, Main Library held a meeting on the 13th of June 2008, for Librarians, to facilitate Electronic Journals through PERI programme. Use of PERI Services were high in medical field as it gave us opportunities to access many reputed Journals such as Blackwell Synergy, Wylie Interscience, etc. But due to financial constraints, funds will not be allocated for the PERI Programme in 2008-2009.

The Objective of the Meeting held, was to discuss these matters in detail in exploring possible remedies and funding avenues. Ultimately the Librarians agreed, that the consortium approach is a catalyst to development and it has facilitated libraries working together.

Arrivals & Departures of PG Trainees During March/April/May 2008

Specialty	Arrivals	Departures
Anaesthesiology	2	6
Cardiology	-	1
Chemical Pathology	-	1
Community Medicine	3	3
Dermatology	1	1
Gastroenterological Surgery	-	1
General Medicine	6	9
General Paediatrics	3	4
Haematology	1	2
Histopathology	1	2
Medical Microbiology	-	1
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	-	6
Ophthalmology	3	1
Otolaryngology	-	1
Paediatric Cardiology	1	1
Paediatric Neonatology	-	1
Parasitology	-	1
Psychiatry	2	4
Radiology	4	1
Respiratory Medicine	-	1
Subfertility (Obs & Gyn)	-	1
Rheumatology & Rehabilitation	1	1
Vascular & Transplant Surgery	-	1
Urology	1	1

Examinations Performance (Final Exams) - 2008

Exam Type	Exam Date-'08	Examination	Sat	Pass
Certificate Course	10/03	Certificate of Competence in Computer Applications	15	13
PG Diploma	17/03	PG Diploma in Transfusion Medicine	4	3
	12/04	PG Diploma in Legal Medicine	3	1
	21/04	PG Diploma in Venereology	9	8
	12/05	PG Diploma in Legal Medicine	1	-
MD/MS Final	10/03	MD Anaesthesiology	13	7
	24/03	MD Transfusion Medicine	9	7
	28/04	MD Psychiatry	8	6
	05/05	MD Venereology	5	1

Maternity Leave During Post - intern Year...

Those planning their marriages, their Postgraduate Education their procreation are invited to pay attention to the new rules about long leave in their Post intern year. You may not be allowed to sit screening exams. Please check with our Academic Department.

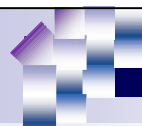
Space for PGIM Branch Library at Peradeniya

PGIM received a land from the Peradeniya University, to establish a Branch of the PGIM Library. This will be

Costliest Asset of the PGIM

PGIM purchased a Brand New Mazda car from Car Mart for official transport. Director officially received the key on 7th of April 2008 by the Manager - Car Mart. This Copper red vehicle is a great asset and is the Official Vehicle of the Director, PGIM.





EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Professor Rezvi Sheriff

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Dr. Pandula Siribaddana
Dr. Shyamali Liyanage
Dr. Nethma Padmakumara
Dr. Rasangani Premathillake
Dr. Paboda Guruge
Ms. Upamali Wijeratne

Feedback...

Your suggestions are most welcome. Please let us know what you think about the articles in this edition, what else would you be interested to see & any other useful suggestions to improve our future issues.

Please write to:

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Ext-43
E Mail:merc.pgim@yahoo.com

Research Ethics Course for PG Trainers

PGIM in collaboration with Ethics Review Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo is organizing a **Research Ethics Course** for PG Trainers. All participants will be awarded a Certificate at the end of the course. Registration fee:Rs.2000/- Date will be notified later
Further details :
MERC
0602168545
merc.pgim@yahoo.com

MSc in Medical Toxicology by Distance Education 2008 -2009

PGIM is now ready to start Medical Toxicology training by Distance Learning format (Web based e-learning). The Course is designed for the doctors who are unable to attend face to face lectures and tutorials. The course has a local and international faculty.

Application forms can be downloaded from the PGIM website (www.cmb.ac.lk/pgim) & duly completed application form with a detailed CV (may need for the screening process) should be forwarded to the Director, PGIM.

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HISL Sessions 2008
Saturday, 26th of July, 2008
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine
Auditorium
University of Colombo
No: 160, Norris Canal Road
Sri Lanka

Call for Abstracts
The Organizing Committee of
HISL Sessions 2008
Invites all Interested Individuals to
Submit Abstracts to be Considered for
Presentation During Sessions
Abstract deadline : 30th June, 2008
Details:Medical Education Resource Centre
Phone - 0602168545,
0112697758 Ext-43
Email - hissl@hotmail.com

HISL – Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka On the Strides Again

The HISL is back on track under the guidance of the newly elected President, Professor Rezvi Sheriff, Director - PGIM. The Scientific Sessions of HISL 2008 will take place on Saturday 26th of July at the Auditorium of PGIM. This event will attract a vast amount of Medical as well as ICT professionals. The programme is comprised of Symposia and Free Paper Sessions on the subject of Health Informatics delivered by International and Local experts. It will also feature interactive video conferencing with overseas countries. A subject of today , the Health Informatics is emerging fast in the field of Medicine as well as ICT , bridging the two parties , Doctors and ICT professionals. HISL Sessions 2008 will bring out the gist of Sri Lankan Health Informatics. The HISL invites all the interested doctors and ICT professionals to submit their abstracts and take part the sessions.

New Equipment to Enhance Teaching at PGIM

Delmage Medical PVT. Ltd., the sole agent for Olympus Biological Microscope in Sri Lanka, installed the Olympus Research Microscope Model BX51 with Digital Camera DP20 with output to 20.1” colour LCD Monitor, at the PGIM, University of Colombo recently. This would further upgrade the already existing Postgraduate training facilities at the Institute. This innovative technology does away with the multi-head concept of teaching and allows an entire classroom of graduates, to view the cellular image with amazing clarity and true colour reproduction, that only Olympus’s Universal Infinity Plan Semi Apochromat Objectives can deliver. The Digital camera’s Control Box, allows the image on the LCD monitor to be enhanced through a variety of options. (Cntd.)



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The images can also be stored on a Compact flash card and stored on a Personal Computer or printed for reference and case report generation; making the entire system a very user friendly and ideal teaching tool, for a new generation of Medical Professionals. This cost the PGIM 1.5 Million and now available to be used by its trainees.