



Inauguration Ceremony of the Postgraduate Diploma in Elderly Medicine

PGIM commenced a new Postgraduate diploma in Medicine. The inauguration ceremony was held on 8th May 2013 at the PGIM auditorium. Consultant Rheumatologist Dr Lalith Wijeratne, Chairperson of the Specialty Board in Elderly Medicine welcomed the gathering. Consultant Geriatrician Dr Raja Salgado addressed the ceremony as the Guest of Honour.



4th PGIM Academic Sessions

The PGIM proudly announces its 4th PGIM Academic Sessions which is to be held from 17th to 19th July 2013, at the PGIM premises.

Pre-congress Symposia on Genetics and e-Health will be held on 17th July from 9.00 am to 11.00 am.

The Inauguration Ceremony will be held in the evening of 17th July.

The scientific sessions which will stretch over the next two days will consist of following,

Five days course on “How to Get Your Research Published”

It was held for the second time for the year 2013 from the 13th to 17th of May. The aim was to develop the skills and interest of the Postgraduate trainees, other doctors and non medical graduates. It consisted of a series of lectures conducted by professionals from different fields related to research and practical sessions in SPSS and endnote. Thirty participants took part in the course.

The first workshop for the year 2013 was held in February and was a huge success. The recent workshop incorporated the feedback suggestions of the participants of previous workshops. Dates for future workshops will be scheduled according to the requests of the trainees. For further details, please contact Medical Education Resource Centre (MERC).

PGIM Oration

Dr. Gominda Ponnampere

Symposia

1. New trends in management of the critically ill.
2. Future trends in postgraduate surgical training.
3. Reflections on psychiatric education in Sri Lanka.
4. Ovarian Malignancies.
5. Ethics in Paediatric Practice.
6. Multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation and elderly

Plenary Sessions

1. Medical Education - Prof. Lalitha Mendis
2. Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown aetiology in Sri Lanka - Prof. Kamani Wanigasooriya
3. National policy of NCD prevention - Dr. Palfitha Maheepala

Guest Lectures

1. Quality of Drugs - Prof. S. D. Jayaratne.
2. Sports Medicine - Dr. Charitha Perera.
3. Syncope and Falls management - Dr. Mahilal Fonseka

Theme Seminar on “Professionalism”

Prof. Narada Warnasooriya
Prof. Uditha Liyanage
Dr. Gominda Ponnampere

Debate

Sri Lanka is ready to revalidate the medical professionals.

Free Paper Sessions

Postgraduate Training Towards Enhancing Professionalism



4th PGIM ACADEMIC SESSIONS
17th - 19th July 2013



at the
Postgraduate Institute of Medicine

160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

The roles and responsibilities of Professional Associations

By Professor Jayantha Jayawardana, Director PGIM

A professional college also called a professional body, professional association or professional society is usually a nonprofit organization seeking to further a particular profession, the interests of individuals engaged in that profession, and the public interests. The roles of professional associations could be many. However in summary the roles include:

1. providing quality medical care
2. supporting training, continuing education and research
3. acting as consultative body on matters concerning the specialty
4. promoting co-operation, co-ordination and fellowship among members
5. assuring ethical norms in all activities

The professional colleges generally strive to achieve a balance between these roles. However there is a perception among the public that in addition to above, they also function as a trade union and a controlling body which protects the privileges of the members and the powerful positions they hold. However this is commonly rejected by professional bodies. One may argue as to what is wrong if a professional body acts to safeguard the rights of its members? However, the concern is that this attitude will make professionals to disregard ones moral and ethical obligations. This may be interpreted as a reflection of what goes in the present day society and political arena which is flourishing with greed, dishonesty, injustice and selfishness? Should we as professionals too be branded same as the rest of the society which has scant respect for moral values? Hope not. Our duty as human beings is to serve humanity and as professionals we are more duty bound than any others in fulfilling these obligations.

The word "professionalism" has many definitions and different facets and it had been existence since 1856. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines professionalism as "the conduct, aims, qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional"; in reality, professional responsibility is an integral part of the day to day practice though there is a perception that professional responsibility has been underemphasized in the practice of medicine and thus lacks compliance from the individual professional. The attributes of professionalism may include safety and welfare of the public and patients, professional ethics, legal liabilities of doctors, communication, honesty, integrity, self regulation, accountability and the image. The fees charged is another aspect that one needs to be concerned as the tendency is to refer to doctors not as saviors but as "mudalalis". However professionals are part and parcel of the society. Hence when day by day the ethical standards, values, respect to each other, law and order situation are deteriorating in the society should professionals ignore their responsibilities?

Despite the above, the education process and professional societies turn a blind eye to what is going on. Professionalism should be included in both undergraduate and postgraduate training programmes with dedicated teaching by experts/ role models. There should be adequate time allocated in the time tables for the students/trainees to realize the importance of it. Should we be only occupied and obsessed with teaching clinical skills? There is a need to lay out a road map with codes of professional conduct to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the delivery of clinical care, research, postgraduate training and conduct of examinations. As professionals, we need to internalize the codes and to realize that they have a personal stake in the application of codes as well as the process of developing the codes. These codes will promote goodwill and understanding among members of the profession which will enhance the different roles while minimizing the conflicts and legal implications. These are vital elements to further enhance the image of the profession within and outside the medical community. But unfortunately most view professional codes as static statements developed with little or no inputs. Questions of professionalism such as ethics are frequently viewed as topics outside normal discussions, attention and analysis. At present, the medical profession is also confronted by an explosion of technology, changing market forces, problems in health care delivery, bioterrorism, and globalization. As a result, physicians find it increasingly difficult to meet their responsibilities to patients and society. In these circumstances, reaffirming the fundamental and universal principles and values of medical professionalism, which to be pursued by all physicians, becomes all the more important. Hence all of us should rise to the occasion to be role models to maintain and foster professional responsibilities.

The inter-professional collaboration in the health care system and postgraduate training too may need close attention to promote team work to provide quality care for patients and to maintain standards in postgraduate training and credibility in postgraduate examinations. It is believed that Sri Lankans including doctors are weak in this area. Sri Lankans perform exceptionally well as individuals, but have limitations to perform as productive members in a team. Many have limitations and mistrust to work as effective members in a team with understanding each other with a give and take attitude. Why not develop a special tool or a mechanism in order to give healthcare learners and providers or postgraduate trainers and trainees a general understanding of other's roles and responsibilities. Inter-professional collaboration requires communication between professionals, common goal setting, problem solving skills, and a clear understanding of each member's role in the team while respecting each other. This is an essential ingredient to success and harmony. Healthcare professionals and postgraduate trainers need to understand the unique roles of each member on the team. They work in an ever-changing environment with limited resources which demands a team approach to provide optimal patient care and postgraduate training. Hence understanding the unique role of each member of the team and their unique contribution is vital to accomplish the set goals. In doing so there should be no room for personal interests, mistrust and animosity. As stated by Henry Ford, "coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success".

Much has been written about the nature of professional practice and the contribution of professionals to society. What is the degree of attention and effort made by the Colleges in the above areas such as codes of professional conduct, professionalism and inter-personal collaboration which are considered as vital for success in the private sector? Martin Luther King commented that "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people". Therefore there is a need for professional Colleges to pay more attention to these, if we were to fulfill the social contract between doctors and society, postgraduate trainers and trainees, Boards of Study and the PGIM, to market the medical profession as a civilized, responsible, accountable and exemplary profession to earn trust and admiration of the society. Employers and regulators too have an important role to play in supporting professionalism and enabling it to flourish and develop. The relevance and role of professionalism needs to be presented positively and proactively. More than any other soft skill, professionalism is the one that the society, patients, employers and trainees say "they know it when they see it".

(Based on the address by Director as the Chief Guest at the induction of the President of College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka, held on 11th January 2013)

Staff news—New Board of Management of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine

A new Board of Management was nominated for the PGIM in April this year.

Chairman—Professor H Janaka de Silva (UGC nominee)

Director/PGIM—Professor Jayantha Jayawardana

Deputy Director/PGIM—Professor Prasantha Wijesinghe

Immediate past director—Professor Rezvi Sheriff

Medical Faculty Deans— Professor Rohan Jayasekera, Colombo; Professor MD Lamawansa, Peradeniya; Dr Sampath Gunawardana, Ruhuna; Professor Mohan de Silva, Sri J'pura; Professor NR de Silva, Kelaniya; Professor M Udupihilla, Rajarata; Dr S Balakumar, Jaffna; Dr KE Karunakaran, Eastern

Dental Sciences Dean— Professor Upul B Dissanayake, Peradeniya

Faculty Representatives—Dr TS Navaratnarajah, Jaffna; Professor PR Fernando, Colombo; Professor PVR Kumarasiri, Peradeniya; Professor SH Siribaddana, Rajarata; Professor Dulani Gunasekara, Sri J'pura; Professor TP Weeraratne, Ruhuna; Dr SS Williams, Kelaniya; and Dr AN Arulpragasam, Eastern; Professor S.L. Ekanayake, Peradeniya;

UGC appointees—Professor Abdul Hussain, Professor Nandadeva Samarasekera, Professor Malkanthi Chandrasekara, Professor S D Jayaratne, Dr Harsha Cabraal, Dr S Raviraj, Professor Ranjanie Gamage

Nominees of the university Council—; Mr C Maliyadde, Mr Ranjan Asirwatham


Secretary/Ministry of Higher Education— Dr Sunil Jayantha Navaratne

Ministry of Health—Dr PG Mahipala, (DGHS); Dr Lakshmi Somathunga, (DDG, Medical Services-1); Dr Sunil De Alwis, (DDGHS, Education, Training & Research), Dr JMW Jayasundara Bandara, (DDGHS, Dental Services)

Nominee of the Secretary/Finance—Mr RMP Ratnayake

Scientific Program – 4th PGIM Academic Sessions
'Postgraduate Training Towards Enhancing Professionalism'

17 th July 2013		Day 1 - 18 th July 2013				Day 2 - 19 th July 2013			
Time	PGIM Auditorium	Time	Hall A	Hall B	Time	Hall A	Hall B		
08.30 – 10.30	Pre-congress Symposium on "Medical Genetic Services in Sri Lanka – How and where to access"	08.00-08.30	Registration		08.00-08.30	Registration			
		08.30-09.45	Symposium 1 New trends in management of the critically ill	Symposium 2 Future trends in postgraduate surgical training	08.30-09.45	Symposium 5 Case based discussion on Ethical Practices on Paediatrics	Symposium 6 Multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation of elderly		
		09.45-10.15	Key note address A holistic Approach to Professionalism Prof. Lalitha Mendis		09.45-10.15	Guest Lecture 3 Syncope and falls management Dr. Mahilal Fonseka			
10.30-11.00	Tea	10.15-10.30	Tea		10.15-10.30	Tea			
11.00-13.00	Pre-congress Symposium on eHealth in Sri Lanka eHealth initiatives (projects) & eHealth Education	10.30-11.30	Theme Seminar Professionalism Prof. Narada Wamasuriya, Prof. Uditha Liyanage & Dr. Madawa Chandrathilake		10.30-11.30	Free papers in Surgical Disciplines	Free papers in Medical Disciplines 2		
		11.30-12.45	Symposium 3 Reflections on psychiatric education	Symposium 4 Ovarian Malignancies	11.30-12.45	Debate Sri Lanka is ready to revalidate the medical professionals			
		12.45-13.30	Lunch and Poster Viewing		12.45-13.30	Lunch and Poster Viewing			
		13.30-14.00	Quiz 1 Neurology	Guest Lecture 1 Quality of drugs Prof. S.D.Jayaratne	13.30-14.00	Quiz 3 Pathology & Haematology			
14.00-14.30	Inauguration	14.00-14.30	Plenary 2- Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Aetiology in Sri Lanka Prof. Kamani Wanigasooriya		14.00-14.30	Plenary 4 National policy of NCD prevention Dr. Palitha Maheepala			
14.30-15.15	PGIM Oration	14.30-15.30	Free papers in Medical Disciplines 1	Free papers in Health services mangement	14.30-15.30	Free papers in Basic Sciences			
15.15-15.45	Titular Awards	15.30-16.10	Quiz 2 Cardiology	Guest Lecture 2 Sports Medicine Dr. Charitha Perera	15.30-16.00	Closing sessions			



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PGIM NEWSLETTER



From:
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