SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

Compiled by
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Registrar

and
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Assistant Registrar

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

There is confusion about the role of the Medical Council even in the minds of medical professionals in Sri Lanka, so it is worthwhile at the onset to present a brief account of its status and expected functions.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) like other Medical Councils the world over is an integral part of the Machinery of Justice in the State. It is conferred powers by an Act of Parliament to regulate the profession. The SLMC is not a mere administrative device. Similar to other Medical Councils, it should be independent of the government. The Medical Ordinance confers this independence but makes the SLMC accountable to the Minister of Health.

Medical Councils the world over are empowered to protect, and promote the health and safety of the public by:—
• Ensuring proper standards in the training of health care workers.
• Ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine.
• Registering doctors, dentists and other health care workers.
• Regulating the practice of those registered.
• Ensuring that individual professionals have a fair and unbiased hearing at any disciplinary inquiry.

The community and patients occupy a supreme position in the conduct of its multiple duties.

I have appreciated working with a Council that is dedicated to upholding these concepts. There has been almost 100 percent attendance at Council meetings despite a membership comprising distinguished personalities of the profession with a host of other commitments.

In 2009 as in previous years, all actions of the SLMC have been based on well considered information where consequence and repercussions have been weighed and taken into account.

In 2010, Dr. Tissa Wickramasuriya, Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon and Dr. K. M. Zahir ceased to be members of the SLMC as their terms of office were over. I thank them very much for the services they rendered. The SLMC welcomed Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela who was elected to the SLMC in 2010.

I would like in this message to touch on some important issues.

THE ERPM (ACT 16 EXAMINATION) IN SRI LANKA AND LICENSING EXAMINATIONS (LE) IN GENERAL

The question of who should conduct the ERPM examination is currently before the Supreme Court (SC/FR 83/2010). Around May and June 2009, I had discussions with the Chairman UGC. When the case was heard on the 7th October 2010 the UGC was willing to hand over the ERPM to the SLMC. (By statute, the conduct of the ERPM has to be prescribed by the SLMC). The Chairman in his affidavit said “I respectfully state that the UGC which was not even party in the SC/FR application No. 124/2009 has been unwittingly brought into the matter, and however is now agreeable for the conduct of the said ERPM examination being handed back to the Sri Lanka Medical Council, which was hitherto performing this work.” The case was to be settled on October 11th 2010, but on that day the Deputy Solicitor General representing the UGC said in court that the Hon. Minister of Higher Education wishes to meet all stakeholders and come to a settlement. It is noteworthy that the Hon. Minister was not a respondent in the case.

No meeting of stakeholders was held. The case was postponed. Next, the Hon. Attorney General attempted to resolve the matter and the case was postponed to January 2011.

In the meanwhile, the SLMC appointed an Expert Committee to design a new ERPM whose logistics were more student-friendly and which was Fit-for Purpose.

Globalization and the ‘medical education industry’, has led to an increase in the movement of doctors between countries. Some countries such as Bhutan and Maldives which do not have medical schools depend wholly on doctors
qualified in foreign medical schools to run their medical services. Every year about 100-150 Sri Lankan citizens return with Foreign Medical Qualifications. The medical schools they come from show a wide variation in aspects such as student selection criteria, curriculum models, clinical skills training, level of integrated study, training in self learning and life long learning, community based medical training, family medicine training, use of information technology, exposure to behavioural sciences and professionalism and in the assessment of knowledge and skills, attitudes, communication and generic skills.

In such a milieu, globally, Licensing Examinations are assuming increasing importance because countries want to select doctors who are able to render a service appropriate to the health needs of the community and the requirements of the health service of that particular country. One of the most comprehensive 'Fit-for-Purpose LEs' is the USMLE in the US. The stated objective of the USMLE is – “The USMLE assesses a physician’s ability to apply knowledge, concepts and principles and to demonstrate fundamental patient-centered skills that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care”.

There is a three step assessment:

**Step 1** of the USMLE is a test of whether the candidate can apply important concepts of basic sciences to the practice of medicine. MCQs and some audio and video questions are included.

**Step 2** is designed to assess whether candidates can apply medical knowledge, skills and understanding of clinical sciences essential for provision of patient care under supervision. MCQs and simulated patients are used to test for history taking, clinical examination, and ability to write patient notes, make an initial differential diagnosis, and list the initial investigations to be performed.

**Step 3** is the final examination to assess whether the candidate can apply medical knowledge and understanding of biomedical science and clinical science essential for unsupervised practice of medicine. Foreign qualified graduates have to take Step 3 before residency.

Considering that both local and foreign qualified students have to sit for the USMLE, it is a great leveler of standards. Local students can sit Step 1 and Step 2 of the USMLE while they are still medical students.

The format of the USMLE exemplifies what components a LE should have to make it a ‘Fit-for-Purpose’ examination.

In the South East Asia Region, six of the eleven countries (Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand) are conducting LEs. Bangladesh is planning to do so. Four of the six countries, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Indonesia are conducting only written examinations. Thailand and Sri Lanka have a clinical component as well. Nepal is planning to introduce a clinical component. Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka conduct the LE for country citizens who have returned with foreign medical qualifications. However, in Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand in addition to Foreign Qualified Graduates, graduates who qualify from government and private medical colleges too have to sit the LE.

While other countries in the region as well as outside the region are making every attempt to improve and fine tune LEs, it is regrettable that attempts by the SLMC to do the same are presented in courts as excessive and undermined by persons with limited knowledge of the subject.

Foreign graduates who are preparing for the ERPM were offered preparatory courses by the SLMA and various professional colleges. These courses were very poorly attended. When an ERPM student requests, the SLMC arranges placements in non teaching hospitals for them to obtain clinical training.

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE ROLE OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND MEDICAL PRACTICE**

On June 4-5, 2010, the SLMC organized a National Consultation which was well attended by representatives from Faculties of Medicine, Professional
be taken on a variety of issues, e.g. the plight of students who were following medical courses in medical schools which had not been recognized by the SLMC; the plight of students who had been sent on government scholarship to such medical schools; the position of students who had transferred from a recognized medical school to a non recognized medical school. All such cases were dealt sympathetically but within a legal framework.

The SLMC finds it necessary in instances where the comprehensive questionnaire sent to these medical schools is not adequately filled despite repeated queries, to send a visiting team on site inspection. The alternative of course is to simply not recognize if there is a doubt. The SLMC has been criticized that the foreign medical school have to fund these infrequent site visits. However, it must be remembered that the medical schools stands to gain from such recognition if given, for they can then attract Sri Lankan citizens to their medical school.

THE MEDICAL COURSE OFFERED BY SAITM – THE SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTUE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT AT MALABE

The SLMC had to with legal advice counter the misleading advertisements by SAITM claiming that they were being monitored by the SLMC. There is no provision in the medical ordinance to recognize a twinning programme where part of the medical course is conducted in Sri Lanka and part in a foreign medical school.

SPECIALIST LIST

The compilation of a Specialist List has been the first step towards maintaining a Specialist Register once appropriate changes are made to the Medical Ordinance.

The qualifications required to be in the Specialist List have been decided in consultation with the PGIM and Professional Colleges. An expert panel has been set up to deal with specialist qualifications that have been obtained between 1981 and 1996. This initiative was a much needed one.
ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

The Council was extremely concerned about attempts to discredit the Medical Council especially its Registrar. No charges have been formally made or substantiated, and no doubt these attempts are being made by persons with their own agendas. I appeal to the whole medical profession to safeguard the integrity and standing of the SLMC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the SLMC, the Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Staff and all non SLMC members who have served as Consultants and on various committees, for their dedication, hard work and cooperation.

Vidyajyothi Professor Lalitha Mendis
MBBS(Cey), MD(Col), PhD(Lond), Dip.Bact(Manch)
F.Nat.Acad.Sciences,SL, Hon.Fell.SLCGP
Emeritus Professor, University of Colombo

MEMBERS OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL – SERVED IN 2010

Prof. Lalitha Mendis (President)
Prof. H. R. Seneviratne
Dr. Gamini Buthpitiya
Prof. T. R. Weerasooriya
Dr. Bhavani Gnanachandramoorthy
Prof. A. R. Wickremasinghe
Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana
Dr. B. Lalith Perera
Dr. S. Sivapriyan
Dr. Lalantha A. Ranasinghe
Dr. Nanda Amarasekera
Dr. H. B. J. C. K. Ariyaratne
Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
Dr. Ananda Hapugoda
Dr. J. A. Sirilal De Silva
Dr. T. Wickremasuriya
Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
Prof. Dayasiri A. Fernando
Dr. U. Ajith Mendis
Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan
Dr. E. A. Prasad D. Amaratunga (up to 26.03.2010)
Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake (from 30.04.2010)
Dr. K. M. Zahir (up to 17.10.2010)
Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela (from 19.10.2010)
<table>
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<th>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</th>
<th>DATE OF COMPLETION OF TERM / RESIGNATION DURING THE YEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Lalitha Mendis</td>
<td>19.06.2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Bhavani Gnanachandramoorthy</td>
<td>31.07.2009</td>
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<td>Prof. A. R. Wickremasinghe</td>
<td>13.09.2006</td>
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<td>Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana</td>
<td>08.08.2006</td>
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<td>Dr. B. Lalith Perera</td>
<td>21.11.2007</td>
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<td>Dr. S. Sivapriyan</td>
<td>21.11.2007</td>
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<td>Dr. L. A. Ranasinghe</td>
<td>06.06.2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Nanda Amarasekera</td>
<td>16.01.2008</td>
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<td>Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva</td>
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<td>Dr. T. Wickremasuriya</td>
<td>02.05.2005 01.05.2010</td>
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<td>Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte</td>
<td>25.06.2005 24.06.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Palitha Abeykoon</td>
<td>25.06.2005 24.06.2010</td>
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<td>Prof. D. P. A. Fernando</td>
<td>24.04.2006</td>
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<td>Dr. U. Ajith Mendis</td>
<td>22.11.2007</td>
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<td>Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan</td>
<td>27.07.2007</td>
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<td>Prof. Prasad D. Amaratunga</td>
<td>31.08.2007 28.03.2010</td>
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<td>Dr. Ananda Hapugoda</td>
<td>30.05.2009</td>
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<td>Dr. K. M. Zahir</td>
<td>18.10.2005 17.10.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela</td>
<td>19.10.2010</td>
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Prof. Lalitha Mendis was nominated as the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council by the Hon. Minister of Health under section 12 (1) (a) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. H. R. Seneviratne was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Dr. Gamini Buthpitiya was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. T. R. Weerasooriya was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance. On his resignation, Dr. Bhavani Gnanachandramoorthy was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. A. R. Wickremasinghe was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Dr. E. A. Prasad D. Amaratunga was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya under section 12 (1) (dd) of the Medical Ordinance.

Dr. Nanda Amarasekera, Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr. L. A. Ranasinghe, Dr. B. Lalith Perera, Dr. S. Sivapriyan, Dr. H. B. J. C. Ariyaratne, Dr. Ananda Hapugoda and Dr. J. R. Srilal De Silva were elected under section 12 (1) (c) of the Medical Ordinance by Medical Practitioners registered under Section 29.

Dr. Tissa Wickremasuriya, Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon and Prof. Dayasiri Fernando were nominated by the Hon. Minister of Health under section 12 (1) (f) of the Medical Ordinance.
Dr. U. Ajith Mendis, Director General of Health Services is an ex-officio member of the Council under section 12 (1) (g) of the Medical Ordinance.

Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan was elected under section 12 (1) (e) of the Medical Ordinance by Dentists registered under Section 43.

Dr. K. M. Zahir was elected under section 12 (1) (d) of the Medical Ordinance by persons registered under Section 41. On completion of his term, Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela was elected.

STAFF OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

Registrar – Dr. N. J. Nonis
Assistant Registrar – Dr. H. M. S. S. D. Herath
Clerks/Typists – Mrs. Gillian T. Buultjens
– Mrs. Champa Hettiarachchi
– Mrs. Roshani Dissanayake
– Miss. Chammika Gunatilleke
– Ms. Pearl Chinnakone
– Miss. Dilani Senanayake
– Mrs. Shanaz Rila
Computer Applications Assistant – Mrs. Manohari Maddumage
Receptionist – Mrs. Disna Ranathunga
Librarian /Clerk to Coordinate Exams – Mrs. Nadeeka Wijedasa
Peons – Mr. W. Sarath Kumara
– Mr. Gayan Wijesinghe
– Mr. Srinath Thilakarathna

The Registrar and the Assistant Registrar were appointed by the Council under Section 17 (1) of the Medical Ordinance.

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

1. PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
Chairman – Dr. Nanda Amarasekera (Vice President)
– Prof. H. R. Senevirathne
– Dr. L. A. Ranasinghe
– Dr. S. Sivapriyan
– Prof. A. R. Wickremasinghe

2. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE
Chairman – Prof. Lalitha Mendis (President)
– Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
– Dr. B. L. Perera
– Dr. S. Shanmuganathan
– Prof. E. A. Prasad D. Amaratunga
– Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana
– Dr. H. B. J. C. Ariyaratne
– Dr. Ananda Hapugoda
– Dr. J. A. Srilal De Silva
– Prof. Dayasiri Fernando
– Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
– Dr. Tissa Wickremasuriya

3. FOREIGN DEGREES COMMITTEE
Chairman – Dr. Nanda Amarasekera
– Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
– Dr. K. Sivapalan
– Dr. Ajith Mendis
– Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
4. ETHICS COMMITTEE  
Chairman – Prof. Lalitha Mendis (President)  
– Dr. Nanda Amarasekera (Vice President)  
– Dr. S. Sivapriyan  
– Dr. K. M. Zahir/ Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela  
– Dr. Palitha Abeykoon

5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Chairman – Prof. Lalitha Mendis (President)  
– Dr. Nanda Amarasekera (Vice President)  
– Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva  
– Prof. H. R. Senevirathne  
– Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana  
– Prof. Dayasiri Fernando  
– Dr. Palitha Abeykoon  
– Dr. Tissa Wickremasuriya

6. COMMITTEE ON INTERNSHIP  
Chairman – Dr. Nanda Amarasekera (Vice President)  
– Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva  
– Prof. H. R. Senevirathne  
– Dr. B. L. Perera  
– Dr. S. Sivapriyan

7. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Chairman – Dr. H. H. R. Samarasinghe (President)  
– Dr. Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)  
– Dr. N. J. Nonis (Registrar)  
– Dr. H. M. S. S. D. Herath (Asst. Registrar)  
– Dr. Nanda Amarasekera  
– Dr. T. W. Wickremasuriya  
– Dr. P. A. Abeykoon  
– Dr. S. Sivapriyan

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Maintenance of Registers
2. Change of Name in Registers
3. Change of Address in Registers
4. Insertion of Additional Qualifications in the Registers
5. Issue of Certified Extract from the Register
6. Restoration of Name in the Register
7. Issue of Certificates of Registration
8. Replying to inquiries regarding registration
9. Issue of Certificates of Good Standing to registered persons
10. Issue of Identity Cards to registered persons
11. Registration of Apprentice Pharmacists and issue of indentures
12. Maintaining Council Accounts and issue of Cheques
13. Approval of Degree of Medical and Dental Graduates qualified abroad
14. Conduct of Special Examination for Medical and Dental Graduates qualified abroad (Act 16 exam/ERPM/ ERPDS)
15. Issue of Certificates of Completion of ERPM/ERPDS (Act 16 exam)
16. Inquiries into Complaints
17. Retaining Counsel in Court Cases involving the Council
18. Retaining Counsel involving the Council before the Human Rights Commission
19. Recognition of Foreign Medical and Dental Schools and maintaining lists of such schools
20. Certification of Documents issued by the Council
COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD IN 2010

1. 490th meeting held on 22 January
2. 491st meeting held on 26 February
3. 492nd meeting held on 26 March
4. 493rd meeting held on 30 April
5. 494th meeting on 21 May
6. 495th meeting held on 21 June
7. 496th meeting held on 30 July
8. 497th meeting held on 27 August
9. 498th meeting held on 24 September
10. 499th meeting held on 29 October
11. 500th meeting held on 17 December

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL – 2010

1. Special meeting held on 19 February
2. Special meeting held on 20 August

IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETINGS OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL – 2010

I. 490th Meeting held on Friday 22 January

Present: President, Vice President and 16 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) Report on the Election of a member in December 2009 – A report by the Registrar on the election of a member in December 2009 was tabled. A total of 1854 applied for postal votes and 1758 were dispatched. 818 postal votes were received out of which 59 were rejected. There were 759 postal votes accepted and 29 persons voted in person on the three days assigned for voting. Hence, there were 788 valid votes. The votes were counted on 21 December 2009. Six (06) votes were rejected, 758 voted for Dr. J. A. Srilal De Silva and 24 for Dr. W. M. A. S. Jayasena. Dr. J. A. Srilal De Silva was declared elected by a majority vote.

(ii) Delay in internship appointments: A letter sent by DDGMS regarding the calling for applications for internship appointments of the 2001/02 A/L Repeat Batch from 21 December 2009 was discussed. Based on the schedule of final MBBS exams sent by Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana, the Registrar drew a schedule to overlap and to give the appointments.

(iii) Courses for Foreign Medical Graduates – The President stated that Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana informed her that the Faculty Board of Sri Jayawardenepura decided to conduct a course for ERPM candidates. He would inform the Council the details of the programme.

(iv) Medical graduates qualified abroad and the ERPM

A group of parents informed that they would go to courts and file a
case to hand over the conducting of the exam to the Council. The Council is in favour of the request of the petitioners. The results of the 'Common Merit' MCQ papers (Paper 1-4) which the Medical Graduates qualified abroad as well as students from faculties which answered the same papers at the September 2009 exam were compared. It appeared that 37.8% - 98.6% of faculty students obtained more than 50% whereas only 6.64% - 12.69% of Foreign Medical Graduates obtained more than 50% from the same papers. The lawyers representing the Council were informed that an Expert Committee is reviewing the format of the ERPM and the report of the Committee may have to be submitted to court.

(v) Foreign Degrees Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Foreign Degrees Committee held on 18 January 2010 were circulated. The President stated that schools which were removed from the 2006 list were written to and some have responded.

Recognition of Foreign Medical Schools for a limited period

A legal opinion was obtained from Mrs. L. Senaratne regarding the Nature of Recognition and she stated that limited recognition could be given with the necessary precautions.

(vi) Medical Graduates qualified from Kazan State Medical University, Russia

A graduate from this school which was not recognized by the Council filed a Fundamental Rights case (SC/FR 405/2009). The school has sent the curriculum and facilities etc. The President read the letter to the lawyer, which stated that we will recognize the degree on a “personal to the holder basis”.

(vii) Foreign Internships

The minutes of the meeting of the Internship Committee held on 19 January 2010 were circulated. The Committee recommended exemption from internship of eight applicants who have fulfilled the criteria.

(viii) Dentists

Recognition of Krishnadevaraya College of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Bangalore, India

Prof. Prasad Amaratunga and Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan who inspected this dental school in April 2009 sent a report recommending recognition. On their recommendation, the Council approved the recognition of the school.

(ix) Correspondence

Outcome of the meeting attended by the President and Assistant Registrar of the Network of Medical Councils of the South East Region of the W.H.O

A report submitted by the President and Assistant Registrar of the Network of Medical Councils of the South East Region of the W.H.O. held in Nepal from 25 to 27 November 2009 was circulated. The SLMC was represented by Professor Lalitha Mendis (President) and Dr Ananda Herath (Asst. Registrar). Other countries that were represented were: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Maldives, Timor-Leste and Nepal. DPR Korea and Myanmar were not represented.

Country papers

All countries made presentations about new initiatives and problems facing their Councils. India and Sri Lanka had the oldest Medical Councils. All others were in various stages of evolution. The Bhutan Medical Council was the youngest and Timor-Leste was in the process of setting one up.

Technical sessions

The President stated that the meeting focused on the following five areas:
1) Quality Assurance (QA) in Medical Education
2) CME/CPD activities
3) Teaching of medical ethics to undergraduates, postgraduates and doctors
4) Governance structure for the network
5) Priority activities to be carried out from 2010 to 2012

1. **Quality Assurance in Medical Education**
   
The W.H.O. and the Secretariat had developed a Guideline for Quality Assurance in Medical Education. This is now available with the Council and we would produce a minimum standard for medical education by modifying the Prescribed Standards which have been withdrawn.

2. **CME/CPD Activities**
   
   All member Councils were requested to ensure a systematic approach to CPD programmes. The re-registration, re-certification and re-validation of medical practitioners, specialists and super specialists were to be linked with their achievements and competencies. The President stated that she would like to invite the newly elected President of the SLMA to discuss about CPD/CME.

3. **Teaching of Medical Ethics to Undergraduates, Postgraduates and Doctors**
   
   A medical curriculum based on a draft commissioned from the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo was launched. It is available in the Council. It was decided that SEAR Medical Councils should hold advocacy meetings and a National meeting with faculties of medicine, PG institutes, Ministries of Health and all other stakeholders to discuss the teaching of medical ethics to undergraduates, postgraduates, doctors and specialists.

(x) **REPORT ON THE VISIT TO MANIPAL COLLEGE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES POKHARA, NEPAL**

   An invitation was received by Professor Lalitha Mendis and Dr. Ananda Herath to visit this medical school after the Network of Medical Councils meeting in Kathmandu on 25-27 November 2009. They visited Pokhara on 28 and 29 November 2009.

   A comprehensive report on the Manipal College of Medical Sciences, Pokhara, Nepal was submitted and discussed by the Council members.

(xi) **Any other matters:**

(a) **Proposal by the Management Committee to increase the fees payable to members for attendance at Council and Committee meetings**

   The Committee recommended the fee for attending Council meetings to be made Rs. 1500 (from Rs.1000) and for Committee meetings Rs. 1000 (from Rs. 500). This is in keeping with the fees paid by the PGIM and other similar bodies. This was approved by the Council.

(b) **Letter from Prof. H. R. Seneviratne, Dean, F/M, Colombo regarding the Private Medical College set up at Malabe**

   A letter sent by Prof. H. R. Seneviratne regarding the private medical school set up at Malabe was circulated. The President informed the Council that there is agitation among medical students in all faculties regarding this. We have already inserted an advertisement regarding the PMC set up by SAITM stating that we have no legal provision to monitor it.

   Copies of a letter sent by the President of the Council to H.E. the President dated 10 November 2009 regarding 1. The opening of new medical schools in Sri Lanka and 2. The process of de-recognising medical schools was circulated. She proposed the establishment of a procedure similar to that in India to evaluate the proposals for opening new medical schools.
II. Special Meeting held on 19 February 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 17 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

The meeting was convened to discuss two issues, the Private Medical College established by SAITM at Malabe and the draft Standards and Procedure for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools.

1. PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGE ESTABLISHED BY SAITM AT MALABE

The President informed the Council that following legal advice and as decided by the Council, advertisements were inserted in newspapers in October 2009 that there is no provision in the Medical Ordinance for the Council to monitor the standards of medical education at the Private Medical College established by SAITM at Malabe. Subsequently, Dr. Neville Fernando, President of SAITM requested a meeting with the President of the Council and he met the President, Registrar and Assistant Registrar on 12 October 2009. He asked why the Council inserted the advertisement and the President replied that SAITM advertisements state that the Council would be monitoring the medical school and we had to inform the public that there is no provision in the Medical Ordinance to do so. Dr. Neville Fernando stated that he would report the Council to the Hon. Minister and the President said that he can go ahead. Then he said that he could place an advertisement and the President said that the Council can counter with another. Then Dr. Neville Fernando said that he can go to courts and the President asked him to proceed. Finally, he said that he would come back to the Council in two and a half years and left the meeting. The President informed the Council that we have not heard anything from SAITM or Nizhny Novrogod State Medical Academy, Russia (NNSMA) since then.

The President brought the attention of the Council to two letters dated 17 August 2009, one addressed “To whom it may concern” and another to the Registrar, SLMC from NNSMA that they are “in the process of obtaining official permission from the Ministry of Public Health and from the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation for establishing an offshore campus of the NNSMA on the basis of SAITM”. Up to date there had been no further intimation from them. On the advice of lawyers, we have waited until the Minimum Prescribed Standards of 25 February 2009 were withdrawn. This has been done by the Minister through the Extraordinary gazette notification No. 1632/22 of 21 January 2010.

The following resolution was adopted by the Council: “Regarding the Private Medical College established by South Asian Institute of Technology and Management at Malabe, the Sri Lanka Medical Council resolves that a statement be published in the newspapers making it quite clear that the Council has no legal provision to monitor its medical education programme or to recognize the degree to be awarded at the end of that planned programme. The Council also resolves to write to Dr. Neville Fernando explaining the position more explicitly than in the newspaper notice”.

Letter to Dr. Neville Fernando

19 February 2010

Dr. Neville Fernando,
President,
South Asian Institute of Technology & Management (Pvt.) Ltd.,
147/2, Senanayake Mawatha,
2nd Lane, Nawala.

Dear Dr. Fernando,

On the instructions of the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC), I write consequent to the meeting you had with the President Professor Lalitha Mendis, myself and the Assistant Registrar Dr. H. M. S. S.
The President stated that the Council approved at an earlier meeting a proposal that recognition be limited initially to five years. The lawyers advised us to be cautious in our procedure and that there should be a clear set of standards against which medical schools could be periodically reviewed. The President in explaining the draft stated that Part A refers to the procedure for applying for recognition. The President stated that Section 29 (1) (b) (ii) (bb) of the Medical Ordinance refers to the clause “holds a Degree of Bachelor of Medicine or equivalent qualifications of any university or medical school of any country other than in Sri Lanka, which is recognized by the Medical Council for the purposes of this section having regard to the standard of medical education of such university or medical school”.

With regard to local universities, the standards have to be formulated under Section 19 (e) of the Medical Ordinance as Regulations. She further stated that there is no provision to recognize local medical schools. The Council can only give notice and visit them and then make recommendations to the Minister for which separate standards have to be formulated.

The President stated that Part B of the document refers to Conditions of Recognition. Item 2.1 refers to recognition by the designated body of that country. We would not recognize a foreign medical school unless it is recognized by the medical council of the country where it is situated. Item 2.2 refers to Minimum Standards and is taken directly from the Minimum Standards of Medical Education document. Item 1.3 refers to Substantial Change. When there is a substantial change to the medical education programme, it should be informed to the
local medical council as well as the SLMC. This may be with regard
to legal and administrative authority such as mergers, affiliation to
other universities, change of location etc. Regarding the training, the
sentence was amended to read “Clinical training, training in
Community Medicine and training in Forensic Medicine”. Such
changes may be due to duration of the course, assessments, staff to
student ratio and facilities. Items 2.4 and 2.5 states that only medical
schools located in one and the same school and in the same country
would be recognized and that hereafter no twinning programmes
would be recognized. Item 2.6 refers to affiliated medical schools
and the Council decided to add at the end of the sentence “They will
have to apply through the umbrella medical school or university”.
Regarding student selection under item 2.7, we have stated that
students should have 13 years of formal education and credit passes
in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCE A/L in Sri Lanka. If they
are to be admitted on the results from an equivalent examination in
any other country, prior permission has to be obtained from the SLMC.

The Council approved the other items in Part B which were adopted
from the document on Prescribed Standards. Part C states that
recognition would be given for a period of five years, which would
be reviewed at the end of the period for further recognition. The
performance of the students from that medical school at the ERPM
would be taken into consideration for such review. Part D refers to
the Academic Programme adopted from the document on Prescribed
Standards. Part E lists some miscellaneous items. Item 5.1 refers to
advertisements and publications which are provided to prospective
students. The Council amended the sentence to state that the
information provided should be accurate and verifiable. The Council
decided to include a clause that there should be a feedback from the
students in an anonymous manner regarding their training and
facilities.

Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana proposed the following resolution: “The
Sri Lanka Medical Council resolves that the Standards and
Procedures for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Medical Schools
other than in Sri Lanka be adopted, subject to corrections effected
with immediate effect. It resolves that stipulations regarding student
selection shall operate with effect from 01 June 2010 and that all
Medical Schools other than in Sri Lanka (Foreign) be sent a copy of
the document drawing particular attention to Student Selection (2.7),
Substantial Change (2.3), Location (2.4), Twinning of programmes
(2.5) and Academic Programme (Part D)”’. The resolution was
seconded by Dr. S. Sivapriyan and the Council adopted it.

III. 491st Meeting held on 26 February 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 13 other members, Registrar and
Asst. Registrar

(i) Matters arising from minutes:

(a) Courses for Foreign Medical Graduates – Prof. Jayantha
Jayawardana informed that the Faculty Board of Sri
Jayawardenepura would conduct a course for ERPM candidates
beginning from 08 May 2010, during the weekends. A copy of
the programme was handed over.

(b) Medical graduates qualified abroad and the ERPM

Two candidates have filed a case as it was not possible to file a
motion and open the previous case. It is coming up on 3 March
2010 (SC/FR 83/2010). We have briefed our lawyers that the
Council considers it is fair by candidates for the SLMC to
conduct the exam.

(c) Complaints:

(i) Regarding Dr. K. Manoranjan, former AJMO, Colombo,
the registered letter sent to him on 30 October 2009 was
returned undelivered. The Council decided to erase his
name from the Register on 30 April 2010.
(ii) The Council was informed that another doctor, who is the MOH, Galagedara was arrested by the police on two occasions, for rape and armed robbery. Dr. U. Ajith Mendis, DGHS informed the Council that he would inquire and take action.

(iii) The President also informed the DGHS about the inquiry into a complaint against an Intern House Officer which was conducted by a non-medical investigation officer. She has pointed out various lapses regarding the preliminary inquiry but found the doctor guilty and the case was referred to the Council for necessary action. The Council was of the opinion that such inquiries where patients complain of sexual harassment, rape etc. should be conducted by medical officers rather than by ‘lay’ persons as statements are recorded where professional secrecy and confidentiality has to be maintained. The DGHS agreed with the suggestion and stated that he would discuss the matter with officials of the Ministry, GMOA and other stakeholders.

(ii) Letter from Chairman, National Centre for CPD/SLMA regarding the award of National CPD Certificate

The President read the copy of the letter received, which was also circulated. She stated that CPD for specialists are looked after by the respective Colleges. Hence, CPD for Grade Medical Officers should be developed. A centre to coordinate and maintain a database is a necessity. She suggested appointing a committee which could convey the views of the Council to the SLMA CPD Committee. The President proposed a Committee for CPD which was approved by the Council.

(iii) Proposal to amend the application form for a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS) and to request a CGS from those who return after working abroad

The President circulated a note regarding the matter. In most developed countries, it is customary for medical councils to request a CGS from those who have worked abroad. With ‘Globalisation’, doctors are moving from one country to another and we have to consider changing our procedure. The Council had been issuing CGS to those who leave the country to obtain employment abroad. We request CGS from doctors who apply for temporary registration under Section 67A. The Council decided that a CGS should be requested from those who go abroad for two years or more. The application for CGS could ask for information as to the reason for asking a CGS and how long the applicant hopes to stay overseas. The data base should have provision to alert at the end of that period.

(iv) An analysis of performance of medical graduates qualified abroad with regard to the medical schools and countries where they were trained

The analysis was compiled for the New Format ERPM candidates who registered in the Council from September 2005 up to September 2009. This analysis is on the Council website.

(v) Request for information on entry criteria of foreign graduates

The President explained that when the Standards for Recognition of Foreign Medical Schools were formulated, we decided that foreign medical schools should be informed of minimum entry criteria for students from Sri Lanka. Hence, we are proposing to conduct a survey of the subjects and grades that the current ERPM candidates had been admitted for medical courses. Information will be obtained from ERPM candidates as well as those who apply for approval of their degrees in the future. This was approved by the Council.

(vi) Approval to purchase a land

The President explained that the Council decided to buy a plot of land on Hedges Court with the savings we had in Fixed Deposits as we thought that money was losing value. The 15 perches block was offered for Rs. 65 million, which was brought down to Rs. 55 million
through negotiations with the owner. The deeds have been cleared by Council lawyers, UDA and Colombo Municipality clearance have been obtained. The Council authorized the purchase.


A copy of a letter dated 24 February 2010 to Acting Secretary, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition from Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, Chairperson, Course Management Committee, with a copy to President, SLMC and a copy of the Order of the Supreme Court in the cases SC/FR 135/2007 and SC/FR 136/2007 were circulated.

Following discussion, the President suggested that there should be a discussion between Ministry officials and the GMOA to resolve these issues as they are mostly administrative. Dr. Ajith Mendis suggested a meeting of the Acting Secretary, Dr. Nihal Jayathilake, Dr. Indrasiri, Prof. Nilanthi de Silva and President, SLMC with the GMOA.

(viii) Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrar

The President referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Special Meeting held on 08 February 2005 which was circulated, with reference to the resignation of Prof. Panditharatne and appointment of Dr. N. J. Nonis, Assistant Registrar as the Acting Registrar. The minutes of the 440th meeting of the Council held on 18 March 2005 was also circulated where the appointment of the Registrar was made an agenda item and Dr. N. J. Nonis, the Acting Registrar was appointed as the Registrar and Dr. H. M. S. S. D. Herath was appointed as the Assistant Registrar. The President called for nominations for the post of Registrar and the name of Dr. N. J. Nonis as the Registrar and the name of Dr. H. M. S. S. D. Herath as the Assistant Registrar. There being no other names, they were declared appointed as Registrar and Assistant Registrar respectively for another term of five years.

(ix) Revision of the Standards document on Recognition of Foreign Medical Schools

Based on discussion at the Special Council meeting on 19 February 2010, corrections had been made in the Standards and Procedure for Recognition of Foreign Medical Schools document. The corrections were approved.

(x) Any other matters

(1) Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana stated that this year, the UGC has identified Colombo and Ruhuna faculties as the coordinators for the Common MCQ exam. The modalities of supplying the question papers have to be worked out with them.

(2) Dr. K. M. Zahir stated that the certificate of renewal of registration for persons entitled to practise medicine and surgery under Section 41 states only medicine and not medicine and surgery. The Registrar was requested to look into it and correct it.

IV. 492nd Meeting held on 26 March 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 19 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) Matters arising from the minutes:

(i.i) Special Meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2010

(a) Private Medical School established by SAITM at Malabe

As decided at the meeting, notices were published in newspapers, the Daily News, Daily Mirror, The Island in English, in Lankadeepa in Sinhala and Virakesari in Tamil. A letter was also sent to Dr. Neville Fernando explaining the position of the Council. There were queries from interested persons with regard to the advertisement over the telephone but there was no response from SAITM.
Guidelines on Sri Lanka Medical Council Standards, Criteria and Procedure for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools

The Standards and Procedure document adopted by the Council for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools was sent to the Council lawyers, who advised to call it a Guideline and converted it to a legal format. This was copied to the members present at the meeting and it was noted that the heading would refer to it as a Guideline. Part A with regard to Procedure for Recognition, including application, period of recognition and substantial changes were explained in more explicit terms, whereas Part B remained the same. The document was adopted by the Council and the date of approval of the document was decided to be 26 March 2010. A note comparing the reasons for having different standards for foreign and local medical schools was circulated for information of the members.

V. 491st Meeting of the Council held on 26 February 2010

(a) Recognition of Foreign Dental Schools – The President suggested that the Council have Standards for recognition of Foreign Dental Schools, similar to the standards for medical schools. Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan agreed to forward a draft in May for discussion at the June 2010 meeting of the Council.

(b) Courses for Foreign Medical Graduates – The President informed the Council that the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists are organizing another course and she expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Council, as we requested the Colleges and Faculties to organize such courses. The College of Surgeons organized a course but the response had been very poor and they decided not to go ahead with the course. The President stated that the Medical Faculty of Sri Jayawardenepura University planned to conduct a course but didn’t want to make it public she asked Prof. Narada Warnasuriya, President, Sri Lanka Medical Association whether the SLMA could sponsor it and he has agreed to cooperate by appointing a Coordinator. It is awaiting approval by the Council of the SLMA.

(c) Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad – The President informed the Council that two candidates sitting the ERPM have filed a case, SC/FR 83/2010 with the Medical Council, the UGC the Ministry of Health and the Hon. Attorney General as respondents. At the first hearing, the Court directed the petitioners to inform the petitioners in the earlier case, SC/FR 124/2009 and the case is now fixed for 21 May 2010. The ‘Old Format’ candidates who were the petitioners in the earlier case have sent e-mails criticizing the petitioners. They have also written to the Council laying down conditions such as that the UGC exam is of a high standard and should be continued but demanded that the pass mark be reduced to 40%. Council lawyers informed court that we have no objection to them carrying on with the UGC exam even if the Council is allowed to hold the exam for the petitioners in the new case.

(d) Request for information on entry criteria of foreign graduates

The Registrar informed the Council that when candidates applied for the ERPM in April, we requested them to state on what criteria they were admitted to the medical schools. Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan agreed to forward a draft in May for discussion at the June 2010 meeting of the Council.

(e) ERPM Part A to be held in April 2010

The President informed the Council that she requested the Chairman, UGC to approve the supply of all the question papers and correction of answer papers by machine by the Medical Faculty, Colombo because of its proximity as the other faculty identified to coordinate
is the Faculty of Ruhuna University. He asked the Council to go ahead as he would obtain approval from the Standing Committee. The Part B, clinical and viva exam would be held by both faculties later.

(f) **Management Committee** – A summary of the minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee held in February 2010 were circulated.

Regarding the reference to a meeting at the UGC on the setting up of a private medical school in Sri Lanka in the minute of the meeting held on 17 February, a member queried the outcome. The President informed the Council that she was invited for the meeting on an application made by ITS/Oasis Hospital to start a medical school. The UGC has stated that it cannot approve, giving reasons and the Chairman, ITS has written back. They have taken the UGC to court which has suggested that the lawyers get together and discuss the issues. There was another meeting where she also raised certain issues. She wrote to Mr. P. B. Jayasundera, Secretary to the Treasury and Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to H.E. the President regarding opening of new medical schools. These schools are coming as Degree Awarding Institutes and we have to recognize them under Act No. 25 of 1988. The Council has to set the standards with regard to entry criteria, staff and facilities etc. for these schools. According to Section 70 of the Universities Act, the Minister for Higher Education has to identify a Specified Authority to monitor the Degree Awarding Institutes. There is a gazette notification identifying the UGC as the Specified Authority for Degree Awarding Institutes. That is how this application has come to the UGC.

The UGC has formed an *ad hoc* committee for this purpose and invited her. However, she feels that it should be a Statutory Committee. It should have representatives from the UGC, SLMC, members from the Legal Profession, Treasury etc. In her letter she has mentioned that the government should have a policy on setting up medical schools in the country and if there is no such policy, the BOI need not entertain any applications. If the government wishes to have private medical schools, then there should be regulations as in India.

(g) **Medical Graduates qualified abroad**

(i) **Foreign Degrees Committee** – Minutes of the meeting of the Foreign Degrees Committee held on 18 January 2010 was circulated.

The data from China Medical University was handed over to a member who had submitted a report. He had recommended recognition. The President stated that this medical school would be given recognition for five years and reviewed thereafter. This was approved by the Council.

(ii) **Format of the Examination for Dental Graduates Qualified Abroad**

Prof. Prasad Amaratunga explained the draft proposal for the new qualifying exam. He stated that it would have two parts. Part I would have two segments, Segment A – Theory and Segment B – Practicals consisting of OSCE/OSPE and a clinical procedure to be performed on a manikin. Both segments should be passed simultaneously and a pass would be valid for two years or 4 attempts at Part II, which would consist of four clinical components with a Long Case, Minor Oral Surgical Procedure, Restorative Procedure and Removable Prosthodontics Procedure. It was also recommended that Part II can be attempted only four times, similar to the rules with regard to local dental students. The President stated that the Committee which is reviewing the ERPM would submit its report for the next meeting and both these reports could be considered together as there should be consistency.
(h) Temporary registration under Section 67A

A list of persons granted temporary registration under Section 67A of the Medical Ordinance during the months of January and February 2010 was circulated. A member queried the registration of a Cardiothoracic Surgeon to work in a private hospital in Colombo for one month. Following discussion, the Council decided to summon the Cardiologists mentioned in the letter before the Management Committee and consider applications by the 67A Committee more carefully.

(i) Annual Sessions of the SLMA

The President informed the Council that the Annual Sessions of the SLMA would be held from 1 to 3 June 2010 and on 3 June, there would be a one and a half hour session on the SLMC. On the 4 and 5 June, there would be ‘Follow-up’ meeting of the Network meeting of the medical councils held in Nepal for which funding was requested from the W.H.O. She requested the Council members to attend the meetings. Two foreign experts who are coming for the SLMA sessions would be present, as well as two others from Bhutan and Bangladesh. She also informed the Council that she has requested the SLMA for a half an hour programme for the SLMC in their joint meetings with outstation Clinical Societies.

VI. 493rd Meeting held on 30 April 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 14 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

The President welcomed Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake who was elected by the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya as a new member of the Council. He is the Dean of the Faculty.

(i) Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) Courses for Foreign Medical Graduates

The President stated that the involvement of the SLMA was approved by their Council and the course would commence in mid-June this year.


Dr. Ajith Mendis stated that he convened a meeting on 20 April 2010 to discuss the issue and the Council was represented by the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar. There were representatives of RMOO, the Legal Officer of the Ministry and Prof. Nilanthi de Silva. Although the GMOA was invited, they did not participate. Prof. Nilanthi de Silva informed those present that on the day before, she was informed by Mr. Shamindra Fernando, DSG that a case had been filed by the GMOA regarding this matter and the Minister, Secretary, DGHS, UGC, SLMC and the RMOO have been made respondents. She was given a copy of the averments but not the prayer of the petitioners. The case would be taken up by the Supreme Court on 26 April. Then the DGHS informed those present that as the matter is now before courts, it has to be sorted out there. The President informed the Council that she received a note from Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, which stated that Mr. Mohan Peiris, A/G promised to set up a meeting with the GMOA irrespective of court procedure, but the training programme remains suspended. The case had been postponed for 26 May 2010.

(c) Guidelines on Sri Lanka Medical Council Standards, Criteria and Procedure for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools

The President stated that the Guidelines on Standards and Procedure document was adopted by the Council for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools. A note was received from a member regarding twinning programmes that conduct part of the course in Sri Lanka. Such programmes based overseas totally may be recognized. Such
twinning programmes will be examined by the SLMC on a case by case basis and the SLMC reserves the right to decide without explanation. The request for recognition of a twinning programme should be made jointly by the two medical schools/universities.

(d) Letter from Chairman, National Centre for CPD/SLMA regarding the award of National CPD Certificate

The President stated that CPD was an important matter discussed at the Network meeting of Medical Councils in Kathmandu. It would be discussed at the follow-up meeting to be held in 4th and 5th June and suggested to the Convenor to call a joint meeting between the SLMC committee and the SLMA committee to come up with a working document. He could invite any other relevant person or group for the meeting. They should state how the CPD programmes could reach all doctors, what incentives could be given, the time frame to implement the proposal and the finances involved. The President stated that no one is sure who is responsible for CPD. Members said that in U.K. it is the GMC that regulates and coordinates CPD and made it compulsory.

(e) ERPM Part A to be held in April 2010

The exam was held from 19 to 22 April 2010 without encountering any problems. The question papers were provided by the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo and the answer papers were taken away by them for correction. The Committee which was appointed to suggest proposals for the ERPM if the exam is handed over back to the Council would submit its report and there should be a discussion by the Education Committee to see that there are no discrepancies between the proposals for the ERPM and the ERPDS with regard to pass mark, number of attempts etc.

(ii) Proposal for persons who wish to obtain a medical degree from an institution/university outside Sri Lanka to obtain letters of approval from the Sri Lanka Medical Council if they wish to return and practise in this country.

This is a proposal for persons who wish to obtain a medical degree from an institution/university outside Sri Lanka to obtain letters of approval from the Sri Lanka Medical Council if they wish to return and practise in this country. It proposed to advertise in the newspapers and in the website that prospective students should obtain a letter of approval from the Council prior to leaving the country. The Council would check whether the medical school is recognized and the student meets the entry criteria stipulated by the Council.

(iii) Minutes of the meeting of the Foreign Degree Committee which was held on 27 April 2010 – The minutes of the meeting of the Foreign Degree Committee which was held on 27 April 2010 was circulated and considered by the Council. The Committee considered the following applications for recognition of medical schools:

i. Dalian Medical University, China – The Committee decided that a site visit is required to verify the claims made in the application.

ii. Jilin University, China – The application was studied by three members and the Committee decided not to recommend the recognition of the medical school. This was approved by the Council.

iii. Javaharlal Nehru Medical College, Savangi, India – was considered by the Committee and it was decided to request further information.

iv. Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, India – was studied by a member and recognition was recommended by the Committee. The Council approved it.

v. Xian Jiaotong Medical University, China – was considered by the Committee and it decided to request further information.
vi. **West China School of Medicine, Sechuan University** – recognition was recommended by the Committee and the Council approved it.

Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana moved the following resolution: “The Sri Lanka Medical Council proposes that the MBBS degree of the China Medical University, the MBBS degree of the West China School of Medicine, Sechuan University and the MBBS degree of Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, India be recognized for a period of five years with effect from 30 April 2010, subject to the guidelines and criteria set by the Council”. The resolution was seconded by Dr. S. Sivapriyan and adopted by the Council.

VII. **494th Meeting held on 21 May 2010** held at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine at No.160, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

Present: President, Vice President, 16 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) **Matters arising from the minutes:**

(a) **Training Course for RMOs: Implementation of Supreme Court Decision on cases SC/FR 135/2007 and SC/FR 136/2007**

The President informed the Council that Mr. Mohan Peiris, A/G has not convened a meeting with the GMOA in spite of the court procedure as conveyed to Prof. Nilanthi de Silva and the training programme remains suspended. The case had been postponed for 26 May 2010.

(b) **Guidelines on Sri Lanka Medical Council Standards, Criteria and Procedure for Recognition of Degrees awarded by Foreign Medical Schools**

The President stated that the Guidelines on Standards and Procedure document which was adopted by the Council and amended would be published as a booklet and the important points such as entry criteria would be conveyed to recognized medical schools.

(c) **Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad** – The Registrar stated that the case SC/FR 83/2010 requesting the Council to take over the exam was taken up today, 21 May 2010 morning. The petitioners in the earlier case SC/FR 124/2009 were represented by Mr. Faiz Mustapha P.C. who informed the court that his clients do not agree to hand over conducting the ERPM to the SLMC but wish it to be continued by the UGC. The lawyer for petitioners in the present case, Mr. Razik Zarook and the lawyer appearing on behalf of the Council, Mr. Shibly Aziz P.C. argued that in that case the petitioners in the previous case can sit the exam conducted by the UGC and the petitioners in this case can sit the exam conducted by the SLMC. They also mentioned that the pass rate has drastically come down since the exam was conducted by the UGC. The Chief Justice who presided granted leave to proceed in the case and postponed it for 7 October 2010. The Council lawyers were of the opinion that non-representation by lawyers for the UGC, Ministry of Health and the Attorney General was a serious drawback in the outcome of the case. If only their lawyer said that they have no objection for the Council taking over the exam, the case would have been terminated.

(ii) **Court Cases**

A note was circulated regarding the cases pending before the courts in which the Council is involved. They are:

(a) CA Application (Writ) No. 58/2008
(b) CA Application (Writ) No. 804/2008
(c) CA Application Writ 71/2009
(d) SC/FR Application Case No. 83/2010
(e) SC/FR Application Case No. 230/2010
(f) SC/FR Application Case No. 284/2010
Education Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 10 May 2010 was circulated. Item No. 1 on the agenda referred to the results of the ERPM Part A held in April 2010. The members noted that candidates fared better in Obstetrics and Gynaecology where 101 passed the paper (33.78%). In Medicine the rate was 15.56%, Paediatrics 4.63%, Surgery 3.31% and in the Combined Paper 7.14%. Altogether, 33 out of the 354 ‘New Format’ candidates completed Part A (9.32%). In the ‘Old Format’, two candidates passed in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology paper, one completing all the theory papers. No one else passed in any other papers.

A correction to the minute was circulated which was the results of the ERPDS exam conducted in March 2010 at the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Peradeniya. It was noted that three (3) out of the eleven (11) candidates passed the exam.

Foreign Internships

The minutes of the meeting of the Internship Committee held on 11 May 2010 was circulated.

The Committee recommended exemption of 19 applicants, rejected four, referred another back to the Committee for re-consideration and seek clarification regarding the other application.

Action by the Council against persons registered who are found guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect

A note was circulated explaining the present provisions in the Medical Ordinance regarding punishments of persons who are registered in the Council who are found guilty of infamous conduct in a professional respect. Only erasure of the name from the register or in lieu of erasure, suspension from the rights, privileges and immunities conferred upon him by registration during the period specified in the order are possible. Amendments have been proposed to include other forms of punishments. Until they are passed in parliament, it is proposed to implement this hierarchy of punishments on the basis of a unanimous Council decision. Given below is the complete hierarchy of punishments:

i. that he be issued with a letter of advice;

ii. that he be issued with a letter of warning;

iii. that he gives an undertaking to the Council that he will abstain from conduct regarding which complaint had been made to the Council;

iv. that he agrees to practise his profession on specific conditions imposed by the Council;

v. that he agrees to practise under supervision of a specified person or persons for a specified period;

vi. that the Council withholds issuing a Certificate of Good Standing for a specified period;

vii. that he pays a fine not exceeding the cost of the inquiry;

viii. non-compliance with the punishments imposed above will result in erasure of the name from the register;

ix. the name would be erased from the register; and

x. that in lieu of erasure, that he be suspended for a specified period from the rights, privileges and immunities conferred upon him by registration.

The Council adopted this proposal with effect from 21 May 2010.

Disciplinary action by the Council against persons registered on whom disciplinary action had been taken by a Medical Council or Licencing Authority outside Sri Lanka

A note was circulated explaining the present provisions in the Medical Ordinance under Section 33 and the proposed amendments. There is provision in the Regulations with regard to Disciplinary Procedure...
that, if a person is convicted by a Court of Law to be summoned before the Professional Conduct Committee, requested for an explanation and request mitigating circumstances if any and impose punishments. A resolution that similar procedure should be followed (as in the case of a person who is convicted by a court of law) if he is punished by a Medical Council or Licensing Authority outside Sri Lanka was adopted with effect from 21 May 2010.

VIII. 495th Meeting held on 21 June 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 15 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad – The lawyer appearing for the petitioners in the earlier case who are the ‘Old Format’ candidates made allegations against the Council conducting the exam. They were requested to submit objections before 15 July 2010 and then the petitioners and the Council would have to file counter objections within two weeks from that day. The case is to be called again on 7 October 2010.

(b) Foreign Internships – At the last meeting of the Council, two applications which were not recommended by the Internship Committee were referred back to the Committee for review. The Internship Committee met on 15 June 2010 and the minutes are circulated.

(ii) Court Case – CA Writ Application 107/2010

The Registrar explained that this is a case filed by two Ayurvedic Practitioners requesting permission of the court to use drugs and equipment used in allopathic practice. The Council had not been made a party to the case but the Secretary, Health and the Minister were made respondents. The Director, Medical Technology and Supplies of the Ministry had summoned representatives of the GMOA for a discussion regarding the case and the Secretary, GMOA wrote to the Council as they thought it was more appropriate for the Council to represent the interests of the profession. The Management Committee considered the request and decided to intervene, pending approval of the Council. The members noted that this was a serious matter and the Council must take a firm stand. The Council approved intervention in this case and ‘brief’ our lawyers.

(iii) List of Specialists

The Registrar explained that the note circulated was a list of specialties and the required qualifications for compiling a list of specialists. As the Medical Ordinance does not provide for a register of specialists, the Council had decided to maintain a list as inquiries are made with regard to recognition of persons as specialists. The note stated that persons who were Board Certified as Specialists by the PGIM or who were entitled to the privileges of Board Certification would be included. Foreign qualifications which were earlier recognized as specialists’ qualifications would be included only up to the time when a Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training was made a requirement for recognition as a specialist. When there is any doubt regarding an application, it would be referred to a Committee which would advise the Council regarding recognition of a person as a specialist.

(iv) Any other matters

(a) Visit to International Medical University, Malaysia by the President – The President stated that she was invited by the IMU as an External Examiner and she took the opportunity to see their facilities in the medical school and the teaching hospital. She has received several letters regarding recognition of their twinning programmes with other medical schools. She explained the Council views and gave a copy of our Standards document.
(b) **Letter from Secretary/Health appointing an Intern to SJGH, Kotte** – The Registrar explained that a copy of a letter was received on Monday 14 June 2010 appointing Dr. C. C. Yapa Abeywardane as an Intern House Office Officer to Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital, Kotte with effect from 14 June 2010. This was discussed at the meeting of the Management Committee on 16 June 2010 and a letter was sent to S/Health informing that this appointment was irregular in that it was done outside the normal procedure. The Council noted that this appointed violated several issues regarding existing policy and agreements.

(c) **Letter from Dr. K. M. Zahir regarding non-inclusion of the certificate in the criteria of qualifications for registration in the Council website** – Dr. K. M. Zahir had written to the Registrar requesting to correct the qualification requirements of persons entitled to practice medicine and surgery in the Council website as it refers only to the certificate of efficiency from the Ceylon Medical College Council but not the certificate of service from the DGHS. This letter was discussed at the Management Committee and decided to be discussed at the Council meeting. It was pointed that the certificate of service is not a qualification but a requirement.

(d) **Letter from Dr. Som Nath Ariyal, President, Nepal Medical Council** – A letter sent by Dr. Som Nath Ariyal, President of the Nepal Medical Council and Chairman of the Secretariat of Network of Medical Councils addressed to the President, Sri Lanka Medical Council was circulated. He stated that the representatives from Nepal who attended the Consultative Meeting were impressed by the activities of the Sri Lanka Medical Council and that it will progress immensely under the leadership of the present President. The Network of Medical Councils of SEAR has high expectations from the SLMC and hopes for constant support, guidance for the enrichment of the Network and he is looking forward to come together for more activities with the SLMC in the near future.

(e) **Letter from Dr. Palitha Abeykoon** – The President read a letter sent by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon thanking her, the members of the Council, the Registrar, Assistant Registrar and the Council staff and conveying his best wishes to the Council on completing his term of office. He also thanked the former President, Dr. H. H. R. Samarasinghe and former members of the Council who served during the last five years. The President informed the Council that on 25 June 2010, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon and Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte would be completing their terms of office and Dr. Tissa Wickremasinghe completed his term last month. She stated that she spoke to Secretary/Health regarding re-appointment but until then she wished to thank all three of them for the services they had rendered to the Council and the contributions they made when they participated in various committees and discussions.

Dr. A. M. L. Beligaswatte addressing the Council stated that he joins Dr. Palitha Abeykoon in expressing his thanks and best wishes to the President, members and staff of the Council. He stated that he enjoyed the period he served as a member and expresses the same feelings Dr. Palitha Abeykoon conveyed. The President and members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Beligaswatte and the President stated that the Council would write individually to them.

IX. **496th Meeting held on 30 July 2010**

Present: President, Vice President, 16 other members and Registrar

(i) **Matters arising from the minutes:**

(a) **Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad – Case SC/FR 83/2010** – The President requested Council approval for her to
meet the Chairman of the UGC and request him to make a clear statement to the Attorney General’s Department regarding the conduct of the exam by the Council.

(b) **List of Specialists** – The list which was circulated at the last meeting was scrutinized by the sub-committee appointed by the Council and corrections were made. The amended list was circulated.

(c) **Letter from Secretary/Health appointing an Intern to SJGH, Kotte** – The President stated that inquiries revealed that Dr. C. C. Y. Abeywardena, the intern concerned had not reported to SJGH, Kotte to commence his internship. As a result of representations made by the Council and the GMOA, the appointment is now varied to Base Hospital, Hambantota, which is more appropriate for his ‘merit’ position. We would inquire about his commencement of internship and its continuation.

(ii) **Management Committee** – A summary of the minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee held in June 2010 was circulated. The members queried regarding the issue of letters of warning and placing a ‘red flag’ against their names in the records. Following discussion, the Council agreed that such reports should be brought before the Council before a warning is issued in writing.

(iii) **Report of the Consultative Meeting held on 4 and 5 June 2010** – The Report of the Consultative Meeting held on 4 and 5 June 2010 was circulated to members. The President thanked Dr. Gominda Ponnamperuma for preparing the report. The recommendations on CPD would be followed up. The President stated that making CPD accessible to all practitioners is the priority and the Council should work towards it. Regarding the teaching of Ethics to medical students, one of the participants from the Medical Faculty, Colombo has initiated and organized a workshop for representatives of members of all medical faculties to introduce this programme.

(iv) **Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad** – The meeting of the Foreign Degrees Committee (FDC) held on 26 July 2010 was circulated. The following matters were noted:

1. **Recognition of Medical Schools:**
   i. **Dalian Medical University, China** – The FDC considered the report of the team which visited Dalian on 21 June, consisting of Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana, Dr. S. Sivapriyan and Dr. N. J. Nonis (Registrar). It recommended recognition of the university for five years and reviewing thereafter. This was approved by the Council.
   
   ii. **Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College – Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Sawangi, India** – The application was scrutinized by a member and the Committee has recommended recognition of the medical college for five years and reviewing thereafter. This was approved by the Council.
   
   iii. **Xian Jiaotong Medical School in China** – The application was scrutinized by a member and the FDC has not recommended recognition of the medical college as the clinical training was considered inadequate, with Psychiatry for only one week. It was noted that there were two students from Sri Lanka in the medical school.

   iv. **China Medical University** – The document granting recognition for five years was signed by the Vice Chancellor and returned. A momento sent by the university to the Council was shown to the members.

2. **Twinning Programmes**

   The Committee has considered a letter from the International Medical University, Malaysia regarding its twinning programmes. It has requested recognition of twelve such programmes with two and half years being spent in the two institutions. All 12 affiliated schools are already recognized by the Council. The
FDC requested evidence of Educational Continuity at the two institutions before considering recognition.

3. Letter regarding BGC Trust Medical College, Chittagong, Bangladesh
A copy of the letter written by students of BGC Trust Medical College, Chittagong, Bangladesh was sent by the Director, South Asia Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs. The FDC decided to write directly to the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council regarding the status of the medical school.

4. Any other matters – The FDC decided to draft a check list of requirements to be filled by the Committee Evaluator when applications are scrutinized.

(v) **Foreign Internships** – At the last meeting of the Internship Committee held on 11 May 2010 it was decided to summon an applicant who had done the internship in Singapore to clarify certain matters with regard to the number of beds in the unit and the number of interns, as the reply from the authorities was not clear. The Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to exempt him from internship in Sri Lanka.

(vi) **Temporary registration under Section 67A** – A list of persons granted temporary registration under Section 67 A of the Medical Ordinance during the months of May and June 2010 was circulated. Following a prolonged discussion, the Council decided to grant registration as medical practitioners as stated in the Medical Ordinance and not as Consultants/Specialists.

(vii) **Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)** – The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 16 July 2010 was circulated. The members noted the contents and directed the Registrar to take appropriate action on the decisions.

(viii) **Correspondence – Letters from Dr. D. L. Waidyaratne and Prof. Malini Udupihille**
Dr. D. L. Waidyaratne, Consultant JMO, Anuradhapura has written regarding the absence of persons qualified in Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rajarata to coordinate the training of medical students in Forensic Medicine. Prof. Malini Udupihille explained the situation and stated that both she and the former JMO, Dr. Ajith Jayasena who is now at Matale are engaged to deliver lectures in Forensic Medicine at the faculty.

(ix) **Letter from the Secretary, GMOA regarding fees** – A letter from the Secretary, GMOA regarding fees charged for Certificates of Good Standing was circulated. Following discussion, the Council decided to charge Rs.2000 for a CGS within one week and Rs.3000 for a certificate within 24 hours.

(x) **Letter from Director/South Asia, Ministry of External Affairs regarding medical students from Bhutan** – A copy of a letter from Director/South Asia, Ministry of External Affairs regarding medical students from Bhutan was circulated. It drew attention to the decision of the Medical Council of Bhutan that graduates from Sri Lanka should do the internship in Bhutan. The other request was for the PGIM to provide a quota of 4 or 5 places for postgraduate students from Bhutan. If the PGIM accepts them and the DGHS recommends their applications, they are granted temporary registration under Section 67 A. Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana agreed to send a document which applies to candidates from SAARC countries.

X. **Special Meeting held on 17 August 2010**
Present: President, Vice President, 13 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

The meeting was convened to discuss four important issues as
decided at the last meeting of the Council on 30 July 2010. The four issues are: i) Discussion Paper on Accreditation of Medical Schools in Sri Lanka; ii) Minimum Standards and Procedure for Recognition of Foreign Dental Schools; iii) The Preliminary Report of Committee appointed of review the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine in Sri Lanka (ERPM); iv) Format of the qualifying examination for the dental graduates with foreign qualifications (ERPDS).

1. **Accreditation of Medical Schools in Sri Lanka and Courses of Study provided by them**

   This document was circulated at the Consultative Meeting of the Medical Council held on 4 and 5 June 2010 as a follow-up of the Network of Medical Councils of the Region. Prof. Lalitha Mendis reiterated that there is a booklet on ‘Guidelines on Standards for Medical Education’ published by the SEAR Network of Medical Councils. It is a generic guideline on which individual medical councils can build for their requirements.

   The most important aspects of the paper were:
   
   i. **Mission and Objectives**

   The objectives refer to the expected outcomes many of which have been incorporated by the medical faculties in this country. The Council should also exercise its rights forcefully and recommend de-recognition or at least restriction of admission. These were also accepted by the Council.

   ii. **Educational programme**

   The Council agreed that the duration of the medical educational programme should be a minimum of five calendar years, excluding any preparatory courses. The Council accepted that there should be integration and the principles of assessments should be followed and that the Council should have a Committee to look into the question of assessment at a national level.

   The President announced that further discussion on the paper would be continued at future Council meetings.

2. **Minimum Criteria, Requirements and Guidelines for Recognition of Degrees Awarded by Foreign Dental Schools**

   The draft of the document which was circulated was taken up for discussion. It is based on the similar document for foreign medical schools. Following discussion, it was agreed to change the clause regarding Twinning and Parallel Dental Education Programmes and Programmes conducted in Affiliated Institutions to be in line with the standards document for medical schools.

   Regarding Course of Study, the Council agreed to amend clause referring to duration to state “The programme leading to the BDS or equivalent degree shall be a minimum duration of four calendar years. The student shall complete the entire course within a period of eight years from the time of entry to the course”. The Council adopted the amended document and approved its publication.

3. **The Preliminary Report of Committee appointed of review the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine in Sri Lanka (ERPM)**

   Prof. Lalitha Mendis requested the members to draw their attention to the Preamble of the report which gives the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

   **Proposed changes to the ERPM**

   Dr. H. M. S. S. D. Herath explained the contents of the report. The Attributes to be assessed were i. Core knowledge; ii. Basic problem solving skills; iii. Clinical skills; iv. Communication skills; v. Management of Emergencies in Clinical Practice and Community Medicine. The first two would be tested in the Written Examination (Part A); iii. and iv. in the Clinical Section of Part B and v. in the Orals of Part B and the Written examination.
The testing of attributes are explained in detail and then the description of the skills to be tested. The new marking scale is explained in the clinical and oral examination where the examiner has to decide between a Pass (2 marks), Borderline (1 mark) and a Fail (0).

The Oral Part of Part B would have 3 components. i. Community Medicine; ii. Medical Tract with questioning in Emergencies in General Medicine and Paediatrics and iii. Surgical Tract with questioning in Emergencies in General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

**Part A – Written Papers**

It is proposed to have two tracts for the written papers – the Medical Tract and the Surgical Tract. The Medical Tract will have General Medicine, Paediatrics, Community Medicine and Psychiatry; The Surgical Tract will have General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Community Medicine with regard to maternity services. Pathology will be incorporated in all the papers. In the Medical Tract, Paper I will have MCQ of True/False type and Paper II will have MCQ of the ‘Best of Five’ type. A member queried what the components of the exam would be, for example in Surgery how many questions would be there in general surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, ENT etc. It was agreed that it should be left to the Board which sets the questions but the Council could give some guidelines. Regarding the pass mark, following discussion, the Council decided that in each tract a candidate should get 225 out of 500 (45%) to pass that tract. They would not be able to compensate the marks in one tract with the other. Regarding the option of sitting one tract at a time, it was decided that a candidate should sit for both tracts unless he/she has passed one tract.

The clinical section also has two tracts, the Medical Tract and the Surgical Tract. It was also agreed that there should be guidelines and some form of training for the examiners.

A discussion ensued regarding the Grade of Assessment by the examiners, the total and the pass marks. The marking would be 2 marks for a Pass, 0 for Fail and 1 mark for Borderline. The pass mark for Tract I is 42 and for Tract II is 45. If a candidate sits both tracts at the same time, a further concession is given by adding the marks, a candidate can pass with 80 marks. It was decided to review the mathematical calculation of the pass marks.

In Part B Oral examination, a change had been recommended that in place of the Forensic Medicine viva, there would be a viva for each tract. The viva in each station would last for 16 minutes and there would be an interval of 2 minutes between each viva. The marking would be similar to the clinical examination, a total of 8 marks being the maximum and the pass mark 5 for each station.

4. **Format of the Examination for Registration to Practise Dental Surgery (ERPDS) by Dental Graduates Qualified Abroad**

The examination will have two parts – Part I and Part II.

Part I will have two segments – Segment A – Theory – with two papers. Each paper will have 20 Short Essay Questions lasting 3 Hours. To pass the theory papers, a candidate has to pass both papers with an average of 45%.

Segment B is a Practical test with two components – Practical I will have 20-25 OSCE stations each lasting 5 minutes. Practical II will be a clinical procedure to be performed on a manikin in the laboratory. To pass the practical tests, the candidate has to score a composite 45% for segment B. Both segments should be passed at the same sitting. A pass in Part I would be valid for a period of 4 attempts at Part II of the examination. If the candidate cannot pass Part II with 4 attempts, the candidate has to re-sit Part I. There would be no restriction on the duration of sitting the exam.

The Council approved the scheme.
A resolution was proposed by Dr. Bhavani Gnanachandramoorthy, seconded by Dr. B. Lalith Perera that the changes to the ERPM and ERPDS be adopted. It was approved by the members unanimously. The ERPDS could be conducted on these lines in the future, the implementation for ERPM would have to await the decision of the Supreme Court.

X. Special Meeting held on 20 August 2010

Present: President, Vice President, 11 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

The President welcomed the members to the special meeting of the Council and commenced proceedings. The meeting was convened to discuss urgent issues such as the reported moves to establish private medical schools in Sri Lanka.

A. PROPOSALS OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC) ON THE OPENING OF PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGES (PMCs) IN SRI LANKA

Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that during the past few months, there had been a lot of talk regarding the opening of private medical schools in Sri Lanka. She had informed H.E. the President, Mr. S. B. Dissanayake and Dr. P. B. Jayasundara regarding the legal position after obtaining legal advice from experts in the field.

The draft of the memorandum of Prof. Lalitha Mendis was discussed, changes were made and approved.

1. Maintenance of standards of medical education

Prof. Lalitha Mendis explained that functions of the Council with regard to maintenance of standards of medical education is carried out by: Publishing Guidelines of Standards pertaining to entry criteria, duration of course, curriculum, staff, facilities and clinical training that are expected of local and foreign medical schools; Inspection and scrutiny of local medical schools; Scrutiny and approval of foreign medical schools for the purpose of training Sri Lanka Citizens; Conducting licensing examination; Scrutiny of postgraduate medical education; Fostering Continuous Professional Development.

2. Government Policy and Duty of the SLMC

The policy decision on whether or not to permit the opening of Private Medical Colleges (PMCs) in Sri Lanka lies with the Government. However, it is the duty of the SLMC to suggest to the government how checks and balances and regulations could be introduced to ensure that the academic and clinical skills of doctors graduating from these medical schools reach a desired standard.

3. Establishing a fool-proof system for recognition and monitoring of PMCs

The SLMC recommends that we borrow from procedures followed in India which we can amend to suit the Sri Lankan situation.

Outline of procedure in India

a) Government approval is required after a preliminary screening and the Government of India gives what is called ESSENTIAL CERTIFICATION.

b) Once essential certification is given, the medical school comes under the purview of the Medical Council of India (MCI).

c) The MCI applies the Minimum Standards drafted by them for the setting up of a new medical school. There are separate standards for medical schools with intakes of 50, 100 and 150 students. These documents contain among other things, standards for Academic Departments, Staff,
Students Selection, Teaching Hospital, Curriculum, Physical Facilities, Library and Accommodation.

d) The MCI conducts 6 inspections in all up to the time the first batch of students qualify to ensure that required facilities are available at each stage of development of the medical school and their study programme.

e) The curriculum recommended by the MCI has to be followed.

Suggested procedure for Sri Lanka

Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that there are provisions in the Medical Ordinance and the Universities Act for recognition of degrees awarded by the Degree Awarding Institutes and quoted the relevant sections. The Government should adopt a policy that Private Medical Schools could be established in Sri Lanka as Degree Awarding Institutes.

This suggested procedure should be fully discussed with the Minister of Health, Minister of Higher Education, UGC the Chairman/BOI and the AG’s Department.

Any Private Medical School (PMC) should be established as a Degree Awarding Institute according to the Medical Ordinance Medical Amendment Act No 25 of 1988 and the Universities Act Section 25 and Sections 70A - 70D of Part IXA.

Government approval or Essential Certification as in India (see 3a above) should be given after the application is examined and on the basis of a report submitted by the STANDING COMMITTEE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS OF Degree Awarding Institutes in the field of medicine.

4.1 Suggested composition of the Standing Committee to process applications of Degree Awarding Institutes in the field of Medicine

1) Chairman, Vice Chairman and two members of the UGC including the Chairman of the Standing Committee on medical and Dental courses.

2) The President, Registrar, one representative from the Education Committee and one representative from the Foreign Degrees Committee of the SLMC.

3) The Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM)

4) Deans of two state Faculties of Medicine

5) Director Training Unit of the Ministry of Health

6) Deputy Director General of Health, Medical Services or nominee

7) Representative from the Treasury

8) Investment Financier to examine in detail the financial feasibility of the project.

9) Legal officer of the UGC

10) Lawyer nominated by the SLMC

This Committee should examine the following with regard to the proposal:-

a) in respect of the Standards document of the SLMC describing standards required for academic departments, staff, student selection, hospitals for clinical training, curriculum, physical facilities, library and accommodation.

b) in respect of the Regulations for the setting up of PMCs (to be drafted).

c) verify credentials of the investors.

d) financial feasibility and the ability to deposit the required bank guarantees.

e) evidence of sustainability.

f) any other relevant matters.
4.2 Contractual Agreement

It is proposed that on the basis of this report the investors in the medical school will be granted Essential Certification through a carefully crafted contractual agreement to address all possible legal and academic problems that may be encountered so that at no point will the government be embarrassed if the medical school closes or has to be de-recognised because it does not conform on any premise.

4.3 Specified Authority

a) With reference to Section 70B(2) of the Universities Act, the Specified Authority for the establishment of Degree Awarding Institutions in medicine and allied health sciences should be the SLMC.

b) The Specified Authority shall exercise the following powers as described in 70D of the Universities Act.

c) The Specified Authority (say, the SLMC) shall make annual inspections until the first batch of students qualify.

d) The Specified Authority shall after each inspection make recommendations to the Minister of Higher Education through the UGC regarding:- Facilities that should be in place by the next annual inspection; Remedial action to be taken about deficiencies; Stopping further student intake if facilities are very unsatisfactory; Withdrawal of recognition.

4.4 Degree Awarding Institutes in the field of undergraduate medical education

The SLMC proposes that:-

a) The entire medical course should be conducted in Sri Lanka including clinical training. Therefore each DAI should have its own designated hospital(s) for the clinical training of students with provision for other supportive clinical teaching facilities.

b) The medical school should be an independent entity and not the off shore campus of a foreign medical school.

The Medical Ordinance does not permit the existence of off shore campuses of Foreign Medical Schools for the purpose of conferring a Foreign Medical Degree, e.g. an arrangement whereby pre and para-clinical courses are provided in Sri Lanka and clinical training in a foreign country is ultravires the Medical Ordinance and also educationally highly unsatisfactory. It is the clinical training that is found unsatisfactory in the case of foreign qualified medical graduates, and an arrangement whereby students are sent to foreign lands for clinical training will only compound the problem of poor standards of clinical training of patient care. The SLMC is therefore of the unanimous view that the entire medical programme especially the clinical training of any Degree Awarding Institute in Sri Lanka that is conducting medical courses should be in Sri Lanka.

c) There could be collaboration, teacher exchange etc. with foreign medical schools of good repute which already has recognition with the SLMC.

d) The medical school shall conform to the standards as regards entry criteria, duration of the course, curriculum, staff, facilities and clinical training as approved and monitored by the SLMC.

e) Students who obtain a medical degree from such a medical school which is a Degree Awarding Institute in Sri Lanka will not have to sit for the Licensing Examination (ERPM – Act 16) since the whole programme will be supervised by the SLMC.

5. The problem relating to the Malabe Medical College of SAITM

This matter could be taken up as a special problem.
It is the view of the SLMC, based on legal opinion that the MMC of SAITM cannot exist as the “off shore” campus of the Nizhny Novgorod State Academy of Medicine of Russia Federation (NNSAM) of the Russian Federation. It may however exist as a Degree Awarding Institute referred to in the Universities Act (Section 25 and 70A - 70D of Part IXA) and also in the Medical Ordinance (Medical Amendment Act No. 25 of 1988).

On the 28th May 2009, Dr H. H. R. Samarasinghe, President SLMC wrote to Dr. Neville Fernando as follows:-

“The Sri Lanka Medical Council has recognized the degree awarded by Nizhny Novgorod State Academy of medicine of Russia Federation, for the course of study conducted in Russia for a six year period. Therefore Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) has not recognized any other programme conducted in Sri Lanka or elsewhere by the Nizhny Novgorod State Academy of medicine of Russia Federation.”

Despite this letter, Dr. Fernando wrote on 17th June 2009 “we write to inform you that we will commence our course on 7th September 2009”

Dr. N. Fernando when he advertised the medical course at the Malabe Medical College (MMC) claimed that the course would be monitored by the SLMC. The SLMC placed several notices in newspapers disclaiming this and saying that there was no legal provision under the medical ordinance to monitor the MMC education programme and in a later newspaper notice stated that there was no provision to recognize the degree that maybe awarded at the end of the planned medical education programme.

On the 19th February 2010, the SLMC wrote conveying all this to Dr. N. Fernando.

Despite all this, the MMC has continued to admit students.

The SLMC recently met the Secretary/Health about this problem and advised him that the only way out of this impasse is for the MMC to establish itself as a Degree Awarding Institute for which legal provision already exists and to conduct the entire medical course in Sri Lanka.

Here too the MMC would have to conform to Standards set by the SLMC.

The Council decided to give wide publicity to these views by informing the public, so that the parents, some of whom are doctors and the public that there is a way out for the MMC of SAITM. There are distinct advantages such as that the students will remain in Sri Lanka, they will get a better clinical training and will not be required to sit the ERPM.

A resolution was adopted that copies be sent to H.E. the President, the Minister of Health, the Minister for Higher Education, Secretary/Health, UGC, BOI, Deans of Medical Faculties, FMTAs, SLMA, Professional Colleges, GMOA, IMPA, SLDA, GDSA, etc.

B. SOME CLARIFICATION BY THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC) ABOUT MEDICAL GRADUATES QUALIFIED ABROAD

The draft prepared by Prof. Lalitha Mendis was considered by the Council, amended and approved. The statement was circulated to the media.

On the 18th August 2010, the subject of medical graduates qualified overseas often referred to as Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG) was discussed by Hon. Members in the house of Parliament. This discussion was reported in the Ceylon Daily News of 19th August 2010. The SLMC wishes to address some of the main issues raised.

The main issues raised were as follows:-

1. FMG have to face a local competitive examination to practise in this country.
2. Students go to medical schools accepted by the Medical Council but the Medical Council does not accept their degree.

3. It is a serious injustice that they cannot be absorbed into service without an examination.

4. Only a few graduates pass the examination.

5. FMG face discrimination.

6. There are 8000 (Daily news report; 800 as recorded in Hansard) such graduates in the country who could not pass this examination.

7. They spend large sums of money to complete their degree.

8. They are said to have no practical knowledge – if it is so, they can be given training here.

9. One Hon. Member had spoken of standards and referred to the poor A-level results of some students who go to foreign medical schools.

With reference to (1) above, the “examination” is the Act 16 examination, now called the ERPM (Examination for Registration to Practice Medicine). It is a Licensing Examination. It is not a competitive examination. Those who pass it obtain a license to practice medicine in Sri Lanka. This is similar to the license to practice law in Sri Lanka. Even a person who has passed the Barrister’s examination in the UK cannot practice law in Sri Lanka unless they pass the examination of the Law College of Sri Lanka.

Medical graduates from state medical schools in Sri Lanka whose medical education is monitored by the SLMC and the Quality Assurance unit of the UGC do not have to sit the ERPM.

With reference to (2) above, when the SLMC gives recognition to certain medical schools overseas, it means that Sri Lankan citizens who obtain medical degrees from them will be eligible to sit the ERPM. The Medical Ordinance which has been passed by an Act of Parliament clearly states that a FMG can be registered by the SLMC if “he has passed the special examination prescribed in that behalf by the Medical Council.” This position was upheld by the Attorney General in 1997 who stated that they must pass the examination before doing Internship.

Sri Lanka is not the only country in the world that holds a Licensing Examination. Most countries do. e.g. the UK, the USA, Australia, India, Nepal, Singapore, Bhutan and Malaysia. In Malaysia, FMGs have to sit the final MBBS examination of a Malaysian state medical faculty, and if they fail the examination, do a compulsory training of 6 months in the medical school before sitting the final MBBS again. There is a similar system in the USA where candidates have to find and undergo similar attachments.

The purpose or objective of this Licensing Examination is: To determine whether the FMG is (a) Fit to do Internship and (b) Fit to practice medicine in Sri Lanka.

It is important to be certain that the person is fit to practice medicine in Sri Lanka in order to **protect the citizens of this country.**

With reference to (3) above, it is **NOT** a serious injustice that they are not absorbed into service without an examination. **It would be a serious injustice to the patients of this country to permit them to practise without first checking that they have the required knowledge, skills and abilities.**

With reference to (4) above, the Results at the ERPM have been analysed and are on the SLMC web site (www.srilanka.medicalcouncil.org – ERPM link). In June/July 2008, 34%, of those who sat completed the ERPM; in Nov/Dec 2008, 46.5%, and in May 2009 42%. From September 2009, on a Supreme Court order following a settlement (the case was not heard), the UGC was asked to conduct the ERPM. FMGs had to then sit the common MCQ papers that students from local medical schools sit. The pass rate in the written papers which was previously about 30% when the SLMC conducted the ERPM fell to 6.1%. ERPM students who realized that the SLMC conducted ERPM was easier to
pass have taken the matter to courts asking that the ERPM once again be conducted by the SLMC. It is relevant to point out that licensing examinations the world over are not easy to pass. e.g. in the UK about 15% pass the licensing examination called the PLAB Part 1 and 40% of that 15% pass the PLAB Part 2.

With reference to (5) above, the facts given in this article demonstrate that FMGs do not face discrimination. It is an unfortunate perception.

With reference to (6) above, in the last few years not more than 350-400 candidates have sat the ERPM at any one time. We are aware that others who registered their degrees with us have gone overseas and there are some who have registered their degrees with us and never appeared for the ERPM.

The standard of those returning with Foreign Medical Degrees

There is a wide variation in the knowledge and skills of those returning with Foreign Medical Degrees. Those who have qualified from certain medical schools overseas pass the ERPM easily (our analysis of ERPM results according to Foreign Medical Schools is on our website). Others are weak in their knowledge base, problem solving skills and even more so in their clinical skills. With reference to (8) above, in many medical schools overseas they do not receive the hands on clinical experience that they should receive, particularly in subjects such as Obstetrics and in Paediatrics. Some of them have no labour room experience whatsoever. These deficiencies have to be corrected after they return. The SLMC is in the process of reviewing the medical training given by Foreign Medical Schools which are on their approved list.

The opportunities available for FMGs to correct these deficiencies are:

(i) The Ministry of Health issued a Circular in September 2008, permitting FMGs to do attachments in non-teaching hospitals. Every FMG who submits papers to the SLMC for recognition of his foreign degree receives a copy of this Circular. At a meeting that the SLMC organized with FMGs in October 2009, they were informed about this and lists passed round for them to register to do attachments at hospitals of their choice. The SLMC provides letters to FMGs who wish to do such attachments. Only very few FMGs avail themselves of this opportunity. The feedback from those who did so is that the clinicians in these hospitals had been very helpful and had given them a good training. Various private individuals, Professional Colleges (e.g. the College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, College of Surgeons, College of Community Physicians, College of Forensic Pathologists) and the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) conduct classes for FMGs. The SLMA organized a very good course at the request of the SLMC. Only about 25 FMGs registered for the first course. The second course has been recently advertised.

It is regrettable that many FMGs without attempting to bring up their standard of patient care as required for practise of medicine in Sri Lanka, attempt to get into service by pressurizing the SLMC, through misinformation given to politicians.

These are very serious considerations and the objective of a licensing examination is to prevent and minimize such misadventures in addition to ensuring good and competent medical practice.

The SLMC has been mandated by Parliament, through the Medical Ordinance to ensure that standards of medical education and medical practice are maintained in Sri Lanka and this is what the SLMC makes every attempt to do.

We sympathise with the FMGs who fail the ERPM repeatedly but wish to emphasise that we have fostered opportunities to take remedial action to correct their deficiencies of training. We cannot agree to register them without passing the Licensing Examination and compromise the quality of health care delivery to the 20 million people in this country.
Selection of students for foreign medical education

With reference to (9) above, we are encouraged that in the course of the debate, an Hon. member referred to standards and the A-level results of FMGs. There is undisputed evidence that the academic achievements of those entering a course in medicine is a predictor of performance in the medical course and their ability to learn on the medical course. Therefore, requesting high achievement at A-level examinations is a sound approach to select medical students. Some foreign medical schools do this. Others do not, who see medical education as a lucrative industry and are intent on amassing money at the sacrifice of standards. After all what is it to them if foreign students return to their own countries and provide poor patient care?

It may of interest for the public to know, that although the minimum A-level criterion set by the UGC for entry to medical courses is three passes at the A-levels, in actual fact all students entering local medical faculties have higher grades. The SLMC looked at the A-level results of the last 10 students in order of Z-scores who entered Faculties of Medicine. In the year 2007 and 2008 none of them had a simple pass in any subject. In 2009, two students from the under privileged areas of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi entered with S-grades in two subjects.

The SLMC analysed the Sri Lanka A-level results and other qualifications with which 227 FMGs were admitted for medical studies to foreign medical schools. The results are as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only O-level subjects</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Non bioscience A-level subjects</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Only one subject at bioscience A-level</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Only two subjects at bioscience A-level</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv. Three simple passes at bioscience A-level</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Two simple passes and one C, B or A</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi. One simple pass and two C, B or A</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii. Three C, B or A</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

That categories i-iv (12%) were admitted for medical studies is a matter of serious concern.

The SLMC has now ruled that any Sri Lankan student who seeks medical education overseas should have three passes in physics/maths, biology and chemistry with at least two being grades C, B or A.

This stipulation is not unjustified, considering that 70% in the sample (categories vii and viii) had such results. As pointed out above, nearly all students who are admitted to local faculties of medicine fall into category viii.

iii  **PURCHASE OF PREMISSES AT No. 24, HEDGES COURT, COLOMBO 10**

The Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that we are proceeding to buy the premises at 24, Hedges Court, Colombo 10 as the title deeds of the premises next to the Council building is not satisfactory. The Council approved the purchase of the premises at Hedges Court.

XI.  **497th Meeting held on 27 August 2010**

Present: President, 15 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) **Matters arising from the minutes:**

(a) **Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad** – Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that she met the Chairman of the UGC and requested him to make a clear statement to the Attorney General’s Department regarding the conduct of the exam by the Council. The UGC has undertaken to make a positive statement.

(b) **List of Specialists**

Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that the list would be called the “List of Specialists for the Information of the Public”. A correction was made regarding those who obtained the qualifications
between 1981 and 1996 and returned to the country, that their claims would be referred to the Expert Committee.

Applications would be called for inclusion of names in the list and following discussion, it was agreed that a fee of Rs. 2000 would be charged.

(c) Letter regarding BGC Trust Medical College, Chittagong, Bangladesh – A letter was sent to Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council regarding recognition of the medical school. A reply was not received.

(d) Application form for Recognition of Foreign Medical Schools – Prof. Lalitha Mendis presented to the Council the revised Application Form prepared by Dr. Ananda Hapugoda, parts of which are in colour with footnotes etc.

(e) Letter from the Secretary, GMOA regarding fees for Certificates of Good Standing. Prof. Lalitha Mendis requested the Registrar to inform the Secretary, GMOA the Council decision to revise the fees. The revised fee was Rs. 2000 (from Rs. 5000) for an ordinary certificate and Rs. 3000 (from Rs. 6000) for an urgent certificate.

(ii) Continuous Professional Development

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Continuous Professional Development held on 12 August 2010 was circulated and discussed. Regarding Decision No. 3, it was amended to read “The CPD Committee of the SLMC may have members outside the medical council”.

Regarding Decision No. 11, besides Dr. Sunil Seneviratne Epa, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Dr. Srilal De Silva and Prof. Nandani de Silva, the Council decided to include Dr. Narada Warnasuriya, Dr. B. T. Gunasekera (Secretary, GMOA), Prof. Nilanthi de Silva, Dr. H. R. U. Indrasiri and a Representative from MEDARC, F/M, Colombo in the Committee. The name of Dr. Uditha Jayathunga who lives abroad and who is very interested in CPD activities here was suggested and approved.

Regarding the role of the Council, it was agreed that the Council would be the regulator whereas SLMA, academic Colleges and Clinical Societies etc. would be the providers.

(iii) Any other matters:

(a) Memorandum on Registration of Persons under Section 67A of the Medical Ordinance

The Registrar explained that he was called to a meeting with the Hon. Minister of Health, Ministry officials and representatives of the Association of Cardiothoracic Surgeons and Cardiac Anaesthetists for a discussion regarding their problems. One item discussed was the registration and employment of Cardiothoracic Surgeons in private hospitals in Colombo. Subsequently, there was a follow-up meeting with Secretary/Health at which representatives of other academic Colleges were also present. A request was made to change the procedure for registration by the Council calling representatives of Colleges to scrutinize the applications regarding knowledge and skill and then sending their approval to DGHS for his recommendation. This was discussed at the Management Committee of the Council and a decision was made to discuss this with the DGHS. An appointment was obtained to meet him on Tuesday 30 August 2010 to discuss the issues.

(b) Memorandum regarding the Copy of a letter written by a former member of parliament to H.E. the President regarding employment of medical graduates qualified in Russia.

The Registrar explained that he was called to a meeting with the Additional Secretary/Health, Dr. P. G. Mahipala regarding a
copy of a letter received by the Ministry from the Presidential Secretariat suggesting a reply after discussion. A former member of parliament had written that a court order was given that foreign graduates should be employed without passing the Act 16 exam but Dr. Nonis is preventing that. This was placed before the Council and the Council decided that a reply should be sent on the direction of the Council.

(c) Memorandum on the Commencement of Internship after graduation

The Registrar explained that recently, an Assistant Medical Practitioner who completed his training in 1999 was appointed to commence his internship with effect from 01.08.2010. The Management Committee requested the views of the Ceylon Medical College Council regarding this. The Registrar informed that medical graduates who qualify locally and others who qualified abroad and complete ERPM inquire whether they can postpone commencing internship for reasons such as going overseas for higher studies, joining the spouse who is abroad etc. Following discussion, the Council decided to include a clause in the amendments to the Medical Ordinance to state that internship should commence within three years of being eligible. If it is postponed for a period exceeding three years, there should be a valid excuse acceptable to the Council. It was also decided to inform the CMCC regarding this decision.

(d) Minutes and matters arising from the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 17 August 2010

1. Discussion Paper – Accreditation of Medical Schools

The President stated that this document was discussed at the special meeting held on 17 August 2010 but could not be completed due to lack of time.

Regarding Part C – Clinical teaching facilities – the Council decided to include access for training in medico-legal work and public health services. Regarding facilities at the hospitals for teaching, it was decided to include the number of operating theatres required and the availability of middle level medical staff such as Senior Registrars, Registrars and Senior House Officers in the units.

The Council also decided to include an English Competency Laboratory as a requirement.

Regarding Part D – Resources for Educational Programme – I – Finances – the Council agreed to insert a clause that there should be financial resources as deposits to pay compensation if the programme cannot be completed for any reason.

Regarding the decision of the result of the accreditation process, it was decided to develop a scale to mark on each item. It was also decided it to be credit based. The annexure on the curriculum also needs to be developed to match the outcomes. On a proposal of Prof. Lalitha Mendis, the Council decided to outsource it to the Medical Education Unit of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo.

2. Preliminary report of the Committee appointed to review the ERPM

Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that the matter was discussed at length at the special meeting and accepted by the Council. Dr. Gamini Buthpitiya sent a paper suggesting a new examination scheme for the ERPM. This would be circulated and discussed at the next Council meeting.

(e) Minutes and matters arising from the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20 August 2010

There were no corrections to the minutes circulated.
Proposals for Private Medical Colleges in Sri Lanka

Regarding the composition of the Standing Committee to process the applications of Degree Awarding Institutes in the field of Medicine, it was decided to replace the Director, Training Unit of the Ministry of Health with the Deputy Director General, Education, Training and Research of the Ministry of Health and include the Director, Quality Assurance Unit of the UGC in the Committee.

Prof. Lalitha Mendis circulated a new draft paper regarding the Problem of Malabe Medical College and this was approved to be included in the document on private medical colleges in Sri Lanka. This was approved by the Council. A member agreed to draft a table regarding clinical facilities at hospitals for teaching for intake of 50,100 and 150 students per year.

Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that a letter was received from Dr. Neville Fernando today stating to recognize the Sri Lanka Campus of Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy as the Council had recognized the degrees of graduates of IMTU, Tanzania after they were trained in a medical school in India, following a court order. The Council was informed that a reply would be considered after consulting the lawyers.

XII. 498th Meeting held on 24 September

Present: President, Vice President, 14 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

(i) Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) List of Specialists – After a prolonged discussion, it was decided to suspend the implementation of the proposed list of specialists. Further discussion would be held with the PGIM and the Colleges and the matter would be taken up later.

(b) Accreditation of Medical Schools – Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that the Council produced a document on Standards for recognition of Foreign Medical Schools and another for Foreign Dental Schools. Similarly a document is required for accreditation of local medical schools. The task of developing a few aspects of the document was given to MEDARC of the Medical Faculty, Colombo and it would be circulated and discussed at a future meeting of the Council.

(c) Preliminary Report of the Committee appointed to review the ERPM – Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated there was a meeting of the members of the Committee with a group of members of the Council regarding the closed marking system for the Clinical exam. After a prolonged discussion, it was decided to mark in the familiar percentages. Thereafter a meeting was held with, Prof. Christopher Bulstrode, Clinical Reader and Dr.Victoria Hunt an Educationist from Oxford. The planned ERPM was presented to them and their comments were invited. They said that a licencing exam should be criterion based and the candidates should be tested in core knowledge. They preferred the closed marking system for the clinical examination and stated that this should not be used for ranking. However, they said that this exam appears to be very good. Prof. Lalitha Mendis suggested that the Committee meets again and finalise the marking scheme. Another issue would be to identify what is core knowledge and experts in each specialty may have to work on that. All this would depend on the outcome of the case which would be heard on 7 October 2010. She informed the members that we attended a meeting on 23 September 2010 in parliament with the Hon. Ministers for Higher Education and Health at which this exam was also discussed. At this meeting, a suggestion was made to have a compulsory course for the FMGs. A decision has to be made whether to make it compulsory for everyone before sitting the exam or to restrict it to those who fail several times.
(d) Proposals for Private Medical Colleges in Sri Lanka – Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that this matter was discussed at the meeting in parliament on 23 September 2010 with the ministers. It was pointed out that the Malabe medical school started without any legal basis and the meeting was concluded without any decision. Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that she would circulate the views of the Council among all medical professional bodies, call for their comments and then invite them for a discussion. The Council also decided to meet the Hon. Minister of Healthcare and Nutrition and then H.E. the President.

(ii) Management Committee – A summary of the minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee held in August 2010 was circulated. A member queried the approval of the Diploma in Stomatology from Nizhny Novgorod State Medical University and was informed that it is degree considered to be equivalent to the BDS and approved to sit the ERPDS.

(iii) Committee on Continuous Professional Development – The minutes of a meeting of the committee held on 03 September 2010 was circulated. Prof. Lalitha Mendis explained that she was not present at this meeting but she was informed of the discussions. There was broad agreement on the five-point plan put forward by Dr. Ananda Hapugoda which was also discussed at the consultative meeting held in June. They are, the requirement for a statutory base for a National CPD programme; empowerment of service providers at central or district level; the availability of a budget to sustain the programme; institutionalization of an incentive scheme to take up CPD and provision of opportunities to engage in CPD activities. Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that this programme needs money and an office and requested Dr. Ajith Mendis for his help. It also needs a Director, staff and equipment. There would be a three tier system for CPD, a statutory body comprising representatives of the SLMC and the Ministry of Health who would overlook the finances and how it is spent and supervise the whole CPD programme. The second tier would be the National CPD Centre (present National CPD Committee and others if necessary) which would coordinate and arrange CPD programmes. The third tier would be at district level which would collect information on the needs of doctors, and obtain and organize CPD programmes for them. Dr. Ajith Mendis stated that he would inform the Secretary to the Ministry and follow it up.

(iv) Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad – A note regarding the entry criteria for those who seek medical education abroad was circulated. In the documents on Standards for Recognition, the Council has decided that the minimum entry criteria should be passes in Chemistry, Biology and Physics with credits in at least two subjects at the GCE Advanced Level exam in Sri Lanka or equivalent exam. Some persons have appealed to consider the marks given at London A/L or EDEXCEL as the grading and marks are not identical. Following discussion, the Council decided that the standards of the two exams are different and not comparable. Hence, the Council decision would stand. The same would apply for dental education.

(v) Temporary registration under Section 67A – A list of persons granted temporary registration under Section 67A of the Medical Ordinance during the months of July and August 2010 was circulated.

The Registrar informed the Council that he was called for a meeting the Hon Minister of Health had with the Association of Cardiac Surgeons and Anaesthetists regarding their problems. One of the items discussed was the engagement of foreign cardiac surgeons and anaesthetists by private hospitals. Subsequently, the Secretary/Health convened a follow-up meeting where most professional colleges were represented. A memorandum submitted by the President of the College of Physicians was discussed. The DGHS said that he would abide by the decision of the Council. Dr. Gamini Buthpitiya stated that it is the Board of Study and the PGIM which is the authority and not the professional colleges.

Prof. Dayasiri Fernando stated that he checked up the comments made by a Sri Lankan Cardiac Surgeon that he has to take permission.
from Indian Surgeons to operate at some hospitals but at Lanka Hospitals which is now vested with the government, this is not so. Dr. Hemantha Perera the Anaesthetist is in charge and schedules cardiac surgery. The Indian and British cardiac surgeons cover up for the local cardiac surgeons during normal working hours. A member queried the registration of a dentist at Sakura Hospital, Battaramulla and the Registrar replied that he produced proof that he is registered in USA until 31 December 2010 and was granted registration until that day.

(vi) **Meeting of the Network of Medical Councils** – Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that she received a fax today that the meeting of the Network of Medical Councils of SEAR sponsored by the WHO would be held from 30 November to 02 December 2010 in Indonesia. She stated that she would be attending as she has to present a paper on Licensing Exams. Prof. Lalitha Mendis suggested requesting Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva or Dr. S. Sivapriyan to attend the meeting. The proposal was approved by the Council.

**XIII. 499th Meeting held on 29 October**

Present: President, Vice President, 16 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar.

The President welcomed the members to the 499th meeting of the Council and commenced proceedings. The President announced the election of Dr. H. S. P. Bulathwela as a member under Section 12 (1) (d) of the Medical Ordinance.

The President informed the Council that there are three vacancies in the Professional Conduct Committee and stated that Senior and experienced members are required to serve in the Committee. From the Chair, the President nominated Prof. Dayasiri Fernando, Prof. Malini Udupihille and Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake to serve in the PCC as members. The Council approved the nomination.

The President also informed the Council that a member to represent the Dental profession is required in the Foreign Degree Committee to advise when applications of foreign dental schools are considered by the Committee. She proposed the name of Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathanth from the Chair and the Council approved it.

(i) **Matters arising from the minutes:**

(a) **Proposals for Private Medical Colleges in Sri Lanka** – Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed the Council that she received a letter from Dr. Neville Fernando, Chairman of SAITM, Malabe today inviting the SLMC, UGC and the GMOA to visit the medical school at any convenient time. The Council decided to reply that we could visit the school when it becomes a legal entity as there is no provision for such visits by the Council at present.

(b) **Committee on Continuous Professional Development** – The President informed the Council that there is agreement regarding the establishment of a CPD Authority but there is a crucial need to meet the Minister of Health and ministry officials to discuss funding for CPD.

(ii) **A matter of importance**

The President brought a matter of importance to the attention of the Council. She stated that for sometime, there had been a move to get Dr. Nonis removed as Registrar of the Council. She informed that after the hearings of the court case regarding ERPM, the Minister for Higher Education rang her and said that H.E. the President scolded him for agreeing to hand over the exam back to the Council and that there are various allegations against Dr. Nonis with affidavits and that the two petitioners in the case were put forward by Prof. Lalitha Mendis and Dr. Nonis to take the exam back to the Council, assuring the petitioners that they would be passed etc. Prof. Lalitha Mendis told him that anybody can say any lie against any person. A senior
Consultant was asked how much he has to be paid to pass three candidates who failed by a few marks. This campaign against Dr. Nonis is an attempt to weaken the Council.

A resolution was proposed stating that “The President informed the Council of a problem concerning Dr. Nonis, the Registrar. The Council having discussed the matter requested the President to send a letter to H.E. the President. The contents of the letter were discussed and confirmed. The decision of the Council was unanimous”. The resolution was adopted by the Council and the letter is annexed below.

The following resolution was also adopted: “This Council has full confidence in its Registrar, Dr. Nihal Nonis”.

To: His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse,
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

MATTER OF CONCERN AT THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

The Sri Lanka Medical Council at its 499th meeting held on 29th October 2010 unanimously requested me to write this letter to Your Excellency.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) is disturbed by the organized campaign against its Registrar, Dr. Nihal Nonis. The campaigners appear to have given misinformation to both the Hon. Minister for Higher Education and Your Excellency. The campaigners have announced on Face Book and by various e-mails that Dr. Nonis will be dismissed soon.

The SLMC as a responsible body of professionals of good standing in this country since 1927 wish to place on record the following facts:

a) We are unaware of the allegations (if any) against Dr. Nonis.

b) If there are charges against Dr. Nonis, the SLMC or Dr. Nonis should be given the opportunity to respond.

Furthermore:-

A. Dr. Nonis has served the SLMC for 22 years as a member of the Council, Assistant Registrar and Registrar. During this time, the SLMC has not received any complaint against him.

B. He copes with a heavy load of work. His responsibilities include the following:-

- Maintaining registers for about 26000 doctors, 2500 dentists, 2900 RMPs, 7300 pharmacists, 30000 nurses, 16700 midwives and about 2000 persons registered as Professions Supplementary to Medicine and Para-medical Assistants.
- Recording minutes at Council meetings and meetings of four other committees.
- Attending to all correspondence and the issue of notices.
- Scrutinizing and processing applications for registration by Foreign Qualified graduates and those seeking temporary registration.
- Other work delegated by the President, SLMC.

C. As Registrar, Dr. Nonis is not a member of the SLMC but only an employee.

D. At various times in the past, Dr. Nonis has brought to the attention of the Management Committee of the SLMC how he has been approached for manipulation of an illegal nature which he has consistently rejected. Present and former Council members will confirm these facts.

We know that certain interested parties are carrying out an organized campaign against the SLMC, so that their own
purposes can be achieved. We believe that one of the weapons they are using is the spread of utterly false rumours in the hope that the relevant authorities may be influenced by their sheer volume.

The groups that are involved in this campaign appear to be:

a) Foreign Qualified Medical Graduates who have been failing the ERPM repeatedly; and

b) Those who are attempting to get substandard foreign and local private medical schools and degrees recognized by the SLMC.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council requests an urgent meeting with Your Excellency, on this and some other matters of concern to the Council.

Yours obediently,

Professor Lalitha Mendis
President, SLMC.

The President informed the Council that she would contact the Secretary to H.E. the President and get the letter delivered to H.E. the President.

The Registrar informed the Council that he would submit an affidavit regarding the attempt to influence him on behalf of a person named Oshala Herath who is now a CEO appearing on behalf of a private medical school seeking permission to establish in Sri Lanka. He apparently has a degree from IMTU, Tanzania without ever going to Tanzania. He brought this to the attention of the Management Committee.

(iii) Representation from the GMOA – The President welcomed the GMOA delegates who had requested to meet the Council.

GMOA members present were Dr. Bimantha Gunasekera, Secretary, GMOA, Executive Committee members: Dr. Pushpitha Ubeysiri, Dr. Atapattu, Dr. Weerakkody, Dr. Palliyaguruge and Dr. Sunil. The matters they wished to discuss were the ERPM, Standards of Medical Education and practicing doctors, Private Medical Colleges with particular reference to the one at Malabe and the composition of the Council.

With reference to the ERPM, the GMOA is concerned about the attempts to interfere by interested individuals and political personalities. There were discussions in the parliament as well as in the media. This was discussed in the GMOA and it is of the view that as the supreme body which maintains standards of medical education, the actions of the Medical Council in the conduct of the exam and the standards it decides should not be interfered with. The GMOA is aware that persons outside the profession are demanding to reduce the pass mark at the ERPM and this should be resisted. The President, SLMC read the letter sent by the Chairman, UGC in this regard and this would be discussed in the Council. A member stated that the numerical value of the pass mark is not important but the doctors who practice should be safe. Another member suggested that if the pass mark of the MCQ is to be lowered, the clinical component should be strengthened and made more thorough. At any rate the Council felt that pass marks cannot be reduced on an ad hoc basis. The Chairman, UGC and Deans would be asked whether they could inform the minimum pass mark scored by candidates at the MCQs of the final MBBS who had passed the subject. A GMOA representative stated that the deficiencies of the foreign medical graduates should be compensated with a course, especially for those who fail the ERPM repeatedly. A member stated that the SLMA course should be strengthened with the help of the five colleges who could find the personnel to conduct the course. The President, SLMC stated that she could try speaking to the SLMA and those colleges.

Regarding the private medical colleges, the GMOA representatives stated that the decision to have private medical schools in the country
should be made by the public and the politicians. The GMOA is only concerned with the standards which have to be decided by the medical council. The Secretary, GMOA handed over a document regarding the stand of the GMOA regarding PMCs which would be circulated to members of the Council.

Regarding the composition of the Council, the GMOA members stated that the number of elected members have not increased in proportion to the number registered. The Registrar read the proposed amendment to increase the number of members elected under Section 12 (1) (c) from the present eight members to fifteen.

(iv) **Court Cases**  
(a) **SC/FR 83/2010** – A note sent by the Council lawyer dated 13 October 2010 with regard to the above case and the proceedings in the case in the court on 11 October 2010 was circulated. The President drew the attention of members to the last paragraph which stated “Needless to emphasise that the Medical Ordinance provides for SLMC to conduct the examination and in terms of the gazette notification the subject matter pertaining to SLMC comes under the purview of the Minister of Health and as such the Minister of Higher Education has no authority or control over the affairs and functions of SLMC and in this factual matrix I fail to understand on what basis he could request members of SLMC to attend a meeting with him to discuss issues pertaining to the application of the petitioners in SC/FR 124/2009”.

Following discussion, the Council resolved that conducting an examination and determining the pass mark is an academic matter and that politicians have no role to play. As stated in a judgement delivered two weeks ago in a case involving the PGIM, even the judges are not experts to consider such academic matters. We must place these before court at the next hearing as there are moves to hand over the whole exam to an outside body. In such an instance, the Council had been informed that the whole medical profession would take a stand and decide not to take part in such an exercise.

(b) **CA (Writ) Application 398/08** – The order in the case was circulated, where a candidate who challenged the decision of the PGIM regarding the rejection to the Sports Medicine course was dismissed by court.

(v) **ERPM**

**Copy of the letter from President, SLMC to Chairman, UGC** – A letter dated 05 October 2010 from Chairman, UGC to President, SLMC was circulated. He requested that the pass mark be made 40% as this is a licencing exam etc. This matter had already been discussed.

(vi) **Divulging marks at the ERPM** – A letter sent by the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna was circulated. It stated that the faculty is concerned about the revealing of marks at the clinical examination. Following discussion, it was decided that this is not the time to make any alternative decision regarding the matter. The President stated that she would write and explain to the faculty the views of the Council.

(vii) **Draft of Guidelines on Standards and Criteria for Accreditation of Medical Schools in Sri Lanka and Courses of Study Provided by Them** – A document drafted by the President with inputs from various sources was circulated for discussion. The President explained that it would apply only to medical schools in Sri Lanka. The document may be discussed in the faculties and she requested them to send their comments. She mentioned the important features of the draft such as the types of decisions on accreditation. Regarding a query on the accreditation done by the Quality Assurance Council of the UGC, she stated that they do certain aspects regarding the universities, faculties and departments. The Council would do in a different way and look at integration, tools of assessment etc. It is a formative exercise. This would also apply to private medical schools that may come up in Sri Lanka. We have tabulated the requirements for intakes of 50, 100 and 150
students per year. A marking scale and a rating scale is also included.
A member argued that if a faculty obtained a mark of 3 out of 5 which is ‘barely acceptable’ for every scale, the total rating is 'totally acceptable’. Hence, it was decided that the assessment scheme needs to be reviewed and comments and criticisms are welcome. This would be discussed at the meeting in December.

(viii) **Discussion on duration of MBBS courses in medical schools**
– The President stated that the MBBS course in the faculties vary in duration and needs to be discussed. Although it is stated to be five calendar years, some faculties are exceeding that due to various reasons. She would write to the faculties and get their views and the real duration of the course at present.

(ix) **Code of Ethics for members of the Faculty and Extended Faculty in Medical Schools** – The President informed the Council that she received a letter from a member of a faculty which was written confidentially regarding unethical practices of members of the faculty and even the extended faculty. The students are taught about behavioural sciences and medical ethics but even seniors do not appear to follow them. It was stated that there are Ethical Codes for the staff but there are difficulties in implementing it by the Dean. A member who is a Dean of a faculty stated that a member of the extended faculty criticised members of the faculty during a lecture and it was brought to his notice. This matter was discussed in the faculty Board and it was decided not to give that person any teaching duties.

(x) **Letter from DDG MS I regarding appointment of Authorized Officers under Act. No. 25 of 1988** – A letter from DDG MS I regarding appointment of Authorized Officers under Act. No.25 of 1988 was circulated. The Registrar explained that when the Medical Ordinance was amended in 1988, provision was made for the appointment of Medical Officers of Health and Divisional and Regional Directors of Health Services as Authorized Officers to implement provisions in the Medical Ordinance. A Circular was issued but when the officers cracked down on quacks, pressure was brought on the Health Ministry and the Circular was withdrawn. Recently, the Ministry decided to re-activate these provisions and appointed MOHs as Authorized Officers. A list of such appointments was requested but there was no response.

(xi) **Letter from Director, PGIM regarding change of designated title of Medical Virology** – A copy of a letter from Director, PGIM regarding change of designated title of MD (Virology) to MD Medical Virology and Board certification in Medical Virology was circulated. The Council noted the contents.

(xii) **Letter from President, Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka regarding the designation of a Nutritionist** – A letter from the President, Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka regarding the designation of a Nutritionist was circulated. The Registrar informed the Council that this was due to the request of some medical practitioners with qualifications in Nutrition obtaining certificates of proficiency from the Ceylon Medical College Council for practice as Nutritionists. There is a category who could obtain certificates of proficiency from the Ceylon Medical College Council for registration as para-medical assistants under the category of Nutritionists. Hence, medical practitioners with qualifications in Nutrition can register additional qualifications in the Council and practice as Nutritionists without obtaining certificates from the CMCC. The Council noted the contents of the letter.

(xiii) **Any other matters** – There was a letter from Oasis Hospital regarding the employment of a Maldivian National who requested registration under Section 67A of the Ordinance. It was decided to suggest to them to contact the Placement Centre of the GMOA.
XIV. 500th Meeting held on Friday 17 December

Present: President, Vice President, 14 other members, Registrar and Asst. Registrar

The President welcomed the members to the historic 500th meeting of the Council which had been held since the first meeting of the Council on 25th June 1925. A copy of the handwritten minutes of the meeting recorded by the Registrar, Prof. Ellison who was the Professor of Physiology of the Ceylon Medical College was shown to the members and some excerpts read out.

The President congratulated Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake on his recent appointment as a Professor in the Faculty of Dental Sciences at the University of Peradeniya. The members expressed their best wishes to Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake.

(i) Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) **List of Specialists** – The President stated that all the decisions of the Council at previous meetings have been included in the document circulated. Following discussion, the Council decided to delete the last sentence of clause number 4 as the matter is addressed in clause 5. The footnote with an asterisk was amended to read "**These qualifications have been conferred by the University of Colombo. All others have been conferred by Foreign Professional Bodies/Colleges/Registration bodies."

The Council also approved the following specialties to be included in the list as they had been approved by the PGIM:

- MD (Ophthalmology) with Board Certification in Vitreo-retinal surgery;
- MD (Medicine) with Board Certification in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics;
- MD (Radiology) with Board Certification in Interventional Radiology.

(b) **Proposals for Private Medical Colleges in Sri Lanka** – A copy of a letter sent to the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Chairman, UGC by the Secretary, GMOA was circulated. Following discussion, the Council decided to request clarifications from the Chairman, UGC and the Secretary, Ministry of Health regarding the matters raised in the letter. The Council also decided to consult lawyers regarding the issue and whether to write to Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy on the matter.

(c) **Committee on Continuous Professional Development** – The President informed the Council that we have to make an important decision regarding CPD. Dr. Ananda Hapugoda attended a WHO meeting in Bangladesh regarding CPD and presented our proposals to have a three tier structure etc. They were very impressed and suggested that we present a proposal which could be funded by the WHO. We also have to present a proposal to the Ministry of Health regarding funding for CPD. The President suggested employing a Consultant to write these proposals. At the moment there is a person available who has experience and who is committed, Prof. Nandani de Silva. It was decided to give an assignment to her to prepare the two project proposals working with the CPD Committee for a period of three months.

(d) **Meeting of the Network of Medical Councils** – The President informed that she and Dr. Sivapriyan attended the meeting of the Network of Medical Councils and a report would be presented to the Council. Dr. S. Sivapriyan presented a paper on CPD activities proposed by the Council and she presented a paper on Licencing Exams in the region. It was observed that only Sri Lanka and Thailand had a clinical exam and some countries have a licencing exam even for local graduates. There was a feeling of camaraderie and brotherhood among the delegates and exchange of ideas which were valuable for the participants.
(e) **A matter of importance** – The President informed the Council that the letter regarding the Registrar was sent to H.E. the President and there is no reply. It is hoped that the letter has muted the effect of the campaign.

(f) **SC/FR 83/2010** – The President informed the Council that the case came up for argument yesterday (16 December 2010). She requested the members to refer to the minutes of the meeting with the UGC on 06 December 2010 which she attended with Dr. S.Sivapriyan. She was unaware of the meeting until they rang her and informed her that the meeting has commenced. There was a meeting previously which was not attended by her or the Registrar as both were out of the country. There had been Deans of medical faculties, Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana and Prof. Harsha Seneviratne and also Prof. Janaka de Silva. Various proposals have been discussed, including the changing of the format of the exam and the setting up of an ‘independent committee’ to conduct the exam. By the time she went for the meeting, some members had left and Prof. Janaka de Silva and Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana were left to explain their proposals.

She explained to them that under no circumstances would the SLMC agree to the setting up of an ‘independent committee’. The SLMC, by law, is the only authority to decide on the format of the exam. The Court order stated to conduct the exam through the UGC according to the letter sent by the Registrar on 23 December 2008, which requested the use of ‘common MCQ papers’ for the exam. She drafted a reply which would be sent on approval of the Council. The other matter she noted in the minute was that they have decided to request the faculties which corrected the papers to send the marks to the UGC before they are sent to the SLMC. The President informed the Council that she would write that the marks should be sent to the Council for presentation at the Results Board, for cross checking by representatives of the faculties and the pass list could be sent to the UGC.

Prof. Harsha Seneviratne informed the Council that at the discussion, the thrust was regarding the high failure rate of the candidates and the need to provide training, especially for those who repeatedly fail. An examiner mentioned that he heard that marks are altered when it comes to the SLMC but he informed the process and he defended the SLMC. The UGC appears to be concerned about the repeated failures at the ERPM but not about faculty students who have to leave without any degree after being there for 10 or 12 years.

(ii) **Management Committee** – A summary of the minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee held in October and November 2010 was circulated. A member queried regarding the letter sent by the Colombo International Medical School and the President stated that this is another name for Oasis Medical School. Their earlier application was rejected and they appear to be presenting with a different name. They would be sent a copy when the standards are finalized. Reference to an ‘Advertisement by International Dental Care’ at the meeting on 27 October 2010 was also queried.

(iii) **Education Committee** – The Dean, Peradeniya sent the response of the faculty to the Accreditation document and the President wished that the other Deans would also do so. The skills list should also be reviewed and a final document prepared accordingly. The duration of the course in the faculties is being looked into by the faculties.

The document regarding ERPM is almost ready. A member pointed out a flaw in the marking system for the clinical exam. A meeting of the Committee would be convened to finalise the marking system.

The President informed the Council of the introduction of a book titled ‘English for medicine’. The author is Dr. Bhavani
Gnanachandramoorthy and the President congratulated her for an excellent product. Dr. Bhavani distributed a copy of the book to each member present.

The President informed the Council that a meeting of the Colleges would be summoned in January to discuss about Private Medical Colleges, ERPM and a Code of Ethics and welcomed the Council members to attend it.

A summary of the results of the ERPM Part B held in October 2010 was circulated and the members noted the contents.

(iv) **Foreign Degrees Committee** – The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2010 were circulated and the members noted the contents. The Council approved the suspension of recognition of medical schools from which no students had returned for the last ten years and the schools failed to reply the letters sent by the Council. They would be sent another letter informing of the decision and the name of the school would be deleted thereafter.

A member queried about Bolan Medical College, Pakistan – regarding the decision to allow the students to sit ERPM without recognizing the medical school. The President explained that there is no exposure for male students in Obstetrics and the Committee decided not to recommend it. However, there are three Sri Lankan students who have qualified and it was decided to allow them to sit the ERPM after following a course in an Obstetrics Unit for 3 months and in Forensic Medicine for 1 month. The school would be informed of the decision and advised not to admit any students from Sri Lanka in the future. This recommendation was approved by the Council.

The recommendation of Committee not to recognize Navodya Medical College, India, Kaunas University, Lithuania, Xian Jiaotong Medical College, China, Father Muller Medical College, India and Enam Medical College, Bangladesh was approved by the Council. They would be advised not to admit any students from Sri Lanka.

(v) **Professional Conduct Committee** – The minutes of the meeting of the PCC held on 01 November 2010 was circulated.

The Committee recommended a formal inquiry against a medical practitioner and summoning another to issue a warning. The Council noted the decisions and directed the Registrar to take action.

(vi) **Any other matters** – The President informed the Council that there had been a campaign to discredit a member, Dr. S. Sivapriyan through letters, posters and e-mails etc. regarding his activities as a Council member. Another member stated that it was not only Dr. Sivapriyan but others were also accused of doing wrong by granting registration to a group of foreign graduates without passing the Act 16 exam. Another accusation had been that Dr. Sivapriyan's brother was a beneficiary of this. However, it was revealed that he passed the Act 16 exam and obtained full registration in 1992 although he would have obtained registration under Act No. 25 of 1988 even without passing the Act 16 exam. The Registrar explained that no one knew about this part of the Act until last year and he wrote to the Legal Draftsman who replied that it was passed by parliament and is now valid in law. So, the Council granted registration to the group of foreign graduates who were employed by the Ministry as medical officers prior to 1999, when passing the Act 16 was made compulsory for employment. So far 102 medical officers have been registered under the Act No. 25 of 1988.
### ADDITIONS TO REGISTERS 2010

#### 1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

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<td>Medical Faculty, U/Sri Jayawardenepura</td>
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<td>Graduates registered under Act No. 25 of 1988</td>
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<td>Exemption from internship in Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Approval of degrees of foreign medical graduates</td>
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<td>Provisional registration of foreign medical graduates</td>
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#### 2. DENTISTS

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#### 3. PERSONS ENTITLED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE AND SURGERY (Section 41)

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<td>Assistant medical practitioners</td>
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#### 5. NURSES (SECTION 61)

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<td>Female Nurses trained locally</td>
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<td>Female Nurses trained abroad</td>
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<td>Male Nurses Part B</td>
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<td>Public Health</td>
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#### 6. MIDWIVES (Section 51)

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7. PARA-MEDICAL ASSISTANTS (Section 60A)  - 23
   7.1 Audiologists  - 02
   7.2 Electrocardiograph Recordists  - 00
   7.3 Ophthalmic Auxiliaries  - 06
   7.4 Speech Therapists  - 02
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   8.2 Radiographers  - 13
   8.3 Medical Laboratory Technologists  - 145
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**MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Meeting on 07 March

Recommendations regarding Staff: Appointments, Duty Hours, Leave, Salaries, Allowances and other emoluments

**INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS AT ERPM PART B**

Meetings on 02 April and 04 April

A three member committee was appointed to inquire into certain allegations which were made regarding a Senior Registrar in Medicine at the National Hospital, Colombo. It was alleged that he showed a candidate appearing for the exam the following day, cases that were selected for the exam. Following the inquiry, the Committee made recommendations regarding the exam: The wards of the hospitals from which the candidates are selected would be made 'Out-of-bounds' for the candidates, three days before the exam up to the conclusion of the exam; Medical Officers working in the hospitals should be informed not to discuss with others the cases that are earmarked for the exam; the Directors of the hospitals to be informed regarding the 'Out-of-bounds' period for candidates; Medical Officers who conduct classes outside the hospital should not conduct classes for the candidates in the wards; the Senior Registrar involved to be summoned and warned.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Meeting on 02 May

A meeting was held with Hon. Prof. Wiswa Warnapala, Minister for Higher Education regarding the Faculty of Medicine, University of Rajarata. The following matters were discussed: Action taken to advertise for Academic posts in the Pre-clinical and Para-clinical departments; Incentives for academic staff selected; no new medical faculties would be established until deficiencies in the existing faculties are completed.
COMPLAINTS

The Council receives complaints and can only proceed with inquiries against persons registered in the Council according to the procedure published in the government gazette. The complaints should be submitted as an affidavit unless it is submitted by a person acting in a public capacity. 'Acting in a public capacity' is defined as a Head of a Government Department, a Vice Chancellor or Registrar of a University, a Mayor or Commissioner of a Municipality or a Chairman or Secretary of an Urban Council or Pradeshiya Saba, or the Registrar. Complaints against unregistered persons are referred to the police if it appears that an offence against any provision in the Medical Ordinance is being committed.

Valid complaints are considered by the President of the Council. If it appears to him that the complaint should be inquired into, he refers it to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee. If it appears to the President that it does not require an inquiry, he refers it to the Council. All the members are given a copy of the complaint and it is discussed at a Council meeting. The members may decide not to inquire about the complaint giving reasons, refer it to another body or refer it to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee.

The following complaints were referred by the President to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee for inquiry during the year:

PPC – 229 – A complaint by a person against a medical practitioner granted temporary registration under Section 67 A to work as a Resident Anaesthetist to work in a private hospital in Colombo. It was alleged that he works as a Consultant Anaesthetist and an Intensivist at the Emergency Therapy Unit, Ambulance Service, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and the General Operating Theatre.

PPC – 230 – A complaint by a person against an Ophthalmologist for prescribing a lens which he had to purchase but claimed that it should be given free and that it is of poor quality.
PPC – 231 – A complaint by a Medical Officer against a Consultant Anaesthetist for stating that he is not mentally suitable to administer anaesthesia without supervision.

PPC – 232 – A complaint by an Attorney-at-law against a medical practitioner for crashing his vehicle on the complainant’s vehicle while using a hand phone when driving, abusing him and making a false complaint to the police.

PPC – 233 – A complaint by a person against an ENT Surgeon for operating on the wrong ear of her child with a pre-auricular sinus.

PPC – 234 – A complaint by an Inquirer into Sudden Deaths against a Dental Surgeon of a Provincial General Hospital for threatening and abusing him for not ordering a postmortem examination in a case being treated by him where the cause of death is unknown.

PPC – 235 – A complaint by the Registrar of the Council against a medical practitioner for calling himself a Consultant Physician and a Cardiologist when he had no recognized qualifications.

PPC – 236 – A complaint by a person against a medical practitioner working in a Peripheral Unit for not accepting that he was harmed by the police, not recording that in the Bed Head Ticket and speaking to him in a derogatory manner.

PPC – 237 – A complaint by a person against two medical practitioners who are Consultant Obstetricians for not referring his wife who had a twin pregnancy with abnormal placentae to a government hospital on time, resulting in the death of his wife and the babies.

PPC – 238 – A complaint by a person against a medical practitioner temporarily registered under Section 67 A of the Medical Ordinance for not properly diagnosing and treating his eye condition.

PPC – 239 – A complaint by a person against a Consultant Physician in a General Hospital who failed to refer the patient admitted to a private hospital stating lack of facilities at the government hospital but did not refer to a teaching hospital with better facilities when the patient was in a serious condition. The physician claimed expert knowledge in Intensive Care, Artificial Ventilation and Echocardiography.

PPC – 240 – A complaint by a Secretary of an Interim Committee of a sports body and a mother of a sportsman against a medical practitioner for failing to advise properly regarding the proper use of medication before an international sporting event.

PPC – 241 – A complaint by a person against a Consultant Physician and other staff in a Teaching Hospital regarding the death of a patient with Cerebral Infarction.

PPC – 242 – A complaint by a person against a M.O. (Medico-legal) of a Base Hospital for failure to recommend admission to a hospital following an alleged police assault.

PPC – 243 – A complaint by a person against a Consultant Ophthalmologist for negligence in treating him for an accidental injury to the eye.

PPC – 244 – A complaint by a person against a Consultant Obstetrician for negligence in causing the death of a patient who had a Caesarean Section and Myomectomy and died following haemorrhage due to Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation.

PPC – 245 – A complaint by a Medical Officer O.P.D. against a Medical Officer (Medico-legal) for lodging a false complaint against him to the police and harassment.

PPC – 246 – A complaint by a Consultant Physician against a Consultant Anaesthetist for attending to a patient under the care of the Physician without referral, transferring the patient to the Intensive Care Unit and mis-managing the case.
PPC – 247 – A complaint by a person against a Gastro-enterological surgeon for giving pre-medication for an endoscopy, making him sleep and not performing the endoscopy.

PPC – 248 – A complaint by an Obstetrician against a fellow Obstetrician for giving publicity to a procedure claiming that he did it as the first such procedure done in the country. It was apparently done by another medical practitioner from overseas who was not registered to practise in Sri Lanka.

PPC – 249 – A complaint by a person against a Paediatrician for prescribing drugs above the usual dose for his child.

PPC – 250 – A complaint by a person against a Consultant Pathologist for issuing a histopathological report on a Breast biopsy when a biopsy was done on the Liver.

PPC – 251 – A complaint by a person against an Obstetrician for mismanaging a patient who had a stillbirth due to cord prolapse.

PPC – 252 – A complaint by a person against a medical practitioner for causing the sudden death of a 20-year old patient as a result of prescribing paracetamol, prochlorperazine and propranolol (1/4 tablet).

PPC – 253 – A complaint by a person against a dental surgeon for his treatment which caused difficulty in chewing food.

MEETINGS OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

165th meeting held on 11 January
Four members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded. The Committee considered two other cases and decided on future action.

166th meeting held on 24 January
Four members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded. The Committee considered two other cases and decided on future action.

167th meeting held on 21 February
Three members were present. Six persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded. The Committee considered another case and decided on future action.

168th meeting held on 13 March
Three members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

169th meeting held on 3 April
Three members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

170th meeting held on 8 May
Four members were present. Four persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.
171st meeting held on 29 May
Four members were present. One person was called before the Committee and his evidence was recorded. Seven other cases and reports to the PCC were considered.

172nd meeting held on 12 June
Three members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

177th meeting held on 28 August
Four members were present. Two persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

178th meeting held on 11 September
Four members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee but only one person was present. His evidence was recorded.

179th meeting held on 25 September
Five members were present. Three persons were called before the Committee but only two persons were present. Their evidence was recorded.

180th meeting held on 10 October
Four members were present. Two persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

181st meeting held on 23 October
Four members were present. Two persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

182nd meeting held on 06 November
Three members were present. Two persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

183rd meeting held on 27 November
Three members were present. Four persons were called before the Committee and their evidence was recorded.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE
1. Meeting held on 26th February
The President, Five members, the Registrar and the Asst. Registrar were present.

The following matters were considered by the Committee:
1. A medical practitioner who was convicted of assaulting and obstructing the passage of another medical practitioner appeared before the Committee. A preliminary objection was raised by an Attorney-at-law who appeared for the medical practitioner as he has filed an appeal against the judgement. On the advice of the Attorney-at-law who is advising the Council, the matter was postponed.

2. Complaint against doctors attached to a Base Hospital regarding the death of a mother who underwent Caesarean Section and following an incompatible blood transfusion

The medical officer in charge of the Blood Bank and the Intern House Officer who did the cross-matching were summoned before the Committee. They were advised regarding their lapses.

The Committee decided to inform the DGHS to implement the recommendations of the Director, NBTC providing a 24-hour duty roster for all the Blood Banks with medical officers trained in blood transfusion procedures.

3. Complaint against a medical practitioner and a medical laboratory technologist regarding a false report of Gonnococcus in urine.
The medical laboratory technologist was summoned before the Committee and informed to stop using the strip method and to bring the strip and its literature to the Council.

4. Complaint against medical practitioner for excessive charges for visiting a patient in a private hospital and divulging information about the patient's urine report to his employer.

The Committee advised her regarding charging fees excessively and maintaining confidentiality of information regarding patients.

5. Complaint against medical practitioner for running a pharmacy close to his place of practice. He was informed that he should not be associated with the pharmacy owned by his wife and to conduct his practice further away from it. He was also informed that it is unethical to state that he is working at a Teaching Hospital in the name board at his dispensary.

II. Meeting held on 05th December

The Chairman, Seven members, Registrar and the Asst. Registrar were present.

The Committee considered twelve reports forwarded by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee:

The Committee decided to conduct formal inquiries in three cases and against conducting formal inquiries in eight cases. In the other case, where a specialist was reported by the Director General of Health Services for incompetence, the Committee decided not to conduct a formal inquiry but to request the DGHS to conduct an audit of his work and decide on action. The Committee also decided to write to the PGIM that it should have taken the report of the foreign trainer who informed that the person was un-trainable.
# Results of the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine (ERPM) – 2010

## ERPM – Part A

### Exam held in April 2010

**New Format Candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number Applied</th>
<th>Number Sat</th>
<th>Number Absent</th>
<th>Number Passed</th>
<th>% Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>15.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>33.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>3.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Community Medicine, Pathology &amp; Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 354  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 30  
Percentage passes: 8.47%

**Old Format Candidates**

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<tr>
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<th>Number Applied</th>
<th>Number Sat</th>
<th>Number Absent</th>
<th>Number Passed</th>
<th>% Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Community Medicine</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Pathology</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 34  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 01  
Percentage passes: 2.94%

### Exam held in August 2010

**New Format Candidates**

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<th>Number Sat</th>
<th>Number Absent</th>
<th>Number Passed</th>
<th>% Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
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<td>Paper 5 – Community Medicine, Pathology &amp; Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
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</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 323  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 25  
Percentage passes: 7.7%

**Old Format Candidates**

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<th>Number Sat</th>
<th>Number Absent</th>
<th>Number Passed</th>
<th>% Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>0%</td>
</tr>
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<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>01</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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<td>Paper 5 – Community Medicine</td>
<td>09</td>
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<td>01</td>
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<td>Paper 5 – Pathology</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 36  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 01  
Percentage passes: 2.8%
### EXAM HELD IN DECEMBER 2010
#### NEW FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9.45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Community Medicine, Pathology &amp; Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>44%</td>
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Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 521
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 39
Percentage passes: 7.5%

### OLD FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1 – Medicine</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2 – Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3 – Paediatrics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4 – Surgery</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Pathology</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 5 – Forensic Medicine</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 38
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 0
Percentage passes: 0%

### EXAM HELD IN FEBRUARY 2010
#### NEW FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLINICAL SECTION</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Com. Medicine Viva</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>84.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine Viva</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 85
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 43
Percentage passes: 50.6%

### OLD FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Medicine Viva</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 14
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 03
Percentage passes: 21.4%
### EXAM HELD IN JUNE/JULY 2010
#### NEW FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLINICAL SECTION</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>62.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Com. Medicine Viva</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine Viva</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 72  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 37  
Percentage passes: 51%

#### OLD FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Medicine Viva</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>50%</td>
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Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 11  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 0  
Percentage passes: 0%

### EXAM HELD IN OCTOBER 2010
#### NEW FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLINICAL SECTION</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Com. Medicine Viva</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>77.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine Viva</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
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Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 65  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 31  
Percentage passes: 47.7%

#### OLD FORMAT CANDIDATES

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<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>NUMBER APPLIED</th>
<th>NUMBER SAT</th>
<th>NUMBER ABSENT</th>
<th>NUMBER PASSED</th>
<th>% PASSED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>01</td>
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<td>0%</td>
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<td>Community Medicine Viva</td>
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<td>75%</td>
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<td>Forensic Medicine Viva</td>
<td>01</td>
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<td>0</td>
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Total number of candidates who sat the exam: 10  
Number of candidates who completed the exam: 2  
Percentage passes: 20 %
### PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES / MEDICAL SCHOOLS AT THE ERPM – NEW FORMAT – From January 2005 to December 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Medical School</th>
<th>No. of applications approved</th>
<th>No. of candidates sat ERPM</th>
<th>No. of candidates completed ERPM</th>
<th>% Completed ERPM</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Yerevan</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
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<td>Adelaide</td>
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<td>NSW</td>
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<td><strong>Bangladesh</strong></td>
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<td>Dhaka U.</td>
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<td>Chittagong</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>Gomel</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>Vitebsk</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>Tonji</td>
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<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Country/ Medical School | No. of applications approved | No. of candidates sat ERPM | No. of candidates completed ERPM | % Completed ERPM

<p>| <strong>Czech Rep.</strong>          |                              |                            |                                 |                  |
| Charles U.              | 1                            | 1                          | -                               | -                |
| <strong>Georgia</strong>             |                              |                            |                                 |                  |
| Tbilisi                | 2                            | 2                          | -                               | -                |
| <strong>India</strong>               |                              |                            |                                 |                  |
| Benares                | 1                            | -                          | -                               | -                |
| BLDE BM Patil MC        | 2                            | 2                          | 1                               | 50               |
| Christian M.C., Vellore | 3                            | 3                          | 3                               | 100              |
| Delhi M.C.             | 1                            | -                          | -                               | -                |
| Manipal U.             | 64                           | 57                         | 33                              | 58               |
| Kempegowda             | 1                            | 1                          | -                               | -                |
| Kilpauk                | 1                            | 1                          | -                               | -                |
| Lady Hardinge           | 1                            | 1                          | 1                               | 100              |
| MGM MC&amp;H                | 1                            | 1                          | -                               | -                |
| MS Ramaiah              | 1                            | 1                          | -                               | -                |
| Rajamutthiah            | 2                            | 2                          | -                               | -                |
| Sri Ramachandra         | 4                            | 4                          | 1                               | 25               |
| Thirunelveli            | 3                            | 3                          | 1                               | 33               |
| <strong>Total</strong>              | <strong>88</strong>                       | <strong>78</strong>                     | <strong>40</strong>                          | <strong>51</strong>           |
| <strong>Latvia</strong>             |                              |                            |                                 |                  |
| Riga Stradings          | 25                           | 21                         | 11                              | 52               |
| University of Latvia    | 26                           | 22                         | 10                              | 45               |
| <strong>Total</strong>              | <strong>51</strong>                       | <strong>43</strong>                     | <strong>21</strong>                          | <strong>49</strong>           |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Country/ Medical School</th>
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<th>No. of candidates completed ERPM</th>
<th>% Completed ERPM</th>
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<td><strong>Malaysia</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Pakistan</strong></td>
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<td>Aga Khan</td>
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<td>Army National M.C.</td>
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<td>Ayub M.C.,</td>
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<td>Dow M.C.</td>
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<td>Fatima Jinnah M.C.</td>
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<td>Liaquat M.C.</td>
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<td>Quaid E Azam M.C.</td>
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<th>% Completed ERPM</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total number approved degrees:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total number sat ERPM:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Percentage passes:</strong></td>
<td><strong>50 %</strong></td>
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**RECOGNITION OF DEGREES OF FOREIGN MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCHOOLS**

During 2010, the degrees of the following schools were recognized by the Council:

1. **B.D.S.** – Krishna Devaraya College of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Bangalore, India – for 5 years from 22 January 2010.
2. **M.B.B.S.** – China Medical University, China – for 5 years from 26 February 2010.
3. **M.B.B.S.** – Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College, India – for 5 years from 30 April 2010.
4. **M.B.B.S.** – West China School of Medicine, Sichuan University, China – for 5 years from 30 April 2010.
To the Members of the Sri Lanka Medical Council

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Sri Lanka Medical Council which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2010, and the related statements of income and expenditure and receipts and payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Scope of Audit and Basis of Opinion

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, the Council maintained proper accounting records for the year ended December 31, 2010 and the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Council’s state of affairs as at December 31, 2010 and its income over expenditure and receipts and payments for the year ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

These financial statements also comply with the requirements of Medical Ordinance No 26 of 1927 and amendments thereto and contain all particulars specified by the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue under S: 107(2)(a) of the Inland Revenue Act No. 10 of 2006.

Sgd. R. A. Jayaweera MBA, FCA, FCMA.
Colombo
March 29, 2011.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2010

First Quarter – January, February and March

Income – Rs.34,149,831.98
Expenditure – Rs. 8,216,410.17
Excess income over expenditure – Rs.25,939,915.81

Second Quarter – April, May and June

Income – Rs.21,531,643.10
Expenditure – Rs. 7,030,450.12
Excess income over expenditure – Rs.14,501,192.98

Third Quarter – July, August and September

Income – Rs. 24,891,204.67
Expenditure – Rs. 6,164,489.20
Excess income over expenditure – Rs.18,726,715.47

Fourth Quarter – October, November and December

Income – Rs.17,479,126.79
Expenditure – Rs. 5,803,052.84
Excess income over expenditure – Rs.11,676,073.95

TEMPORARY REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 67A OF THE MEDICAL ORDINANCE – 2010

AL-HUMAISARA NATIONAL SCHOOL, BERUWALA
Dentist – 1

ASIRI SURGICAL HOSPITAL, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 1
Nurse – 1

APOLLO SURGICAL CO. PVT. LTD.
Dentist – 1

ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM YOUTH OF SAILAN
Medical Practitioners – 3

BETHANY LIFE CENTRE, RAJAGIRIYA
Medical Practitioners – 1

CHURCH OF FOUR-SQUARE GOSPEL, NUPEGODA
Medical Practitioners – 5
Nurses – 13

DENTAL INSTITUTE, COLOMBO
Dentist – 1

DURDANS HOSPITAL, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 12
Nurses – 1

EMBASSY OF JAPAN
Medical Practitioner – 1

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, COLOMBO UNIVERSITY
Medical Practitioners – 6
FACULTY OF MEDICAL SC., SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA UNIVERSITY
Medical Practitioners – 1

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY
Medical Practitioners – 1

GASTRO-ENTEROLOGICAL & ENDOSCOPY SOCIETY OF SL
Medical Practitioners – 2

HEALTHY LIFE DIABETICS CLINIC
Dentist – 1

LADY RIDGEWAY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 3

LANKA HOSPITALS PVT. LTD., COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 24

MEDICNES SANS FRONTIERES
Medical Practitioners – 2
Nurses – 2

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT / GENERAL HOSPITAL, BADULLA
Dentist – 1

NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 12

NAVAJEEWANA HEALTHCARE CENTRE
Medical Practitioners – 1

NAWALOKA HOSPITAL, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners* – 16

OASIS HOSPITAL, COLOMBO
Medical Practitioners – 1

RELIGIOUS YOUTH SERVICES
Medical Practitioners – 11

SAKURA DENTAL HOSPITAL
Dentists – 2

SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA GENERAL HOSPITAL, KOTTE
Medical Practitioners – 1

SRI LANKA AIR FORCE
Medical Practitioners – 4
Dentists – 2

TEACHING HOSPITAL, ANURADHAPURA
Medical Practitioners – 1

TEACHING HOSPITAL, KARAPITIYA, GALLE
Medical Practitioners – 3

TEACHING HOSPITAL, KANDY
Medical Practitioners – 1

TEACHING HOSPITAL, MAHAMODERA, GALLE
Medical Practitioners – 1

TEACHING HOSPITAL, KALUBOWILA, DEHIWELA
Medical Practitioners – 1
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<td>Y.M.C.A., ERAVUR</td>
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NOTICES PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL IN NEWSPAPERS


SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

Notice to the public regarding Overseas Medical Qualifications

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) hereby informs the public that only those with medical degrees recognized by the SLMC will be eligible to sit for the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine in Sri Lanka (ERPM/Act 16 exam) and thereafter obtain registration to practice.

Those who seek admission to medical schools and hope to practise in Sri Lanka should verify whether such schools are recognized by the SLMC.

A list of such recognized medical schools is published in a booklet, which is available for sale at the SLMC office and also appear on the website:

www.srilankamedicalcouncil.org

Dr. N. J. Nonis
Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.
Telephone: 2691848


SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

REGARDING MALABE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

As a follow up to our previous newspaper notices published in October 2009, the Sri Lanka Medical Council states as follows:

Whereas the South Asian Institute of Technology and Management (SAITM) has claimed by way of newspaper advertisement etc. with regard to the Malabe Medical College, that the programme will be closely monitored by the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC),

THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL PROVISION UNDER THE MEDICAL ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 105) FOR THE SLMC TO MONITOR STANDARDS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AT THE MALABE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SAITM OR TO RECOGNIZE THE DEGREE THAT MAY BE AWARDED AT THE END OF THAT PLANNED MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

Dr. N. J. Nonis
Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.
Telephone: 2691848
SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC)

Notice to the public regarding Medical Education in Foreign or Private Medical Schools

The SLMC hereby informs the public that only those with medical degrees recognized by the SLMC will be eligible to sit the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine in Sri Lanka (ERPM/Act 16 exam) and thereafter obtain registration to practice.

Those who seek admission to obtain medical degrees from foreign medical schools and private medical colleges and hope to practise in Sri Lanka should verify whether such schools are recognized by the SLMC.

A list of such recognized medical schools is published in a booklet, which is available for sale at the SLMC office and also appear on the website: www.srilankamedicalcouncil.org

Many agents falsely assure students that a particular medical school will be recognized in the future. There is no guarantee of this until the SLMC follows the due process.

Those who enter foreign medical schools from 01 June 2010 onwards should have obtained passes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics/Mathematics with credits in at least two of these subjects at the GCE Advanced Level (Sri Lanka) or equivalent examination.

Dr. N. J. Nonis
Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.
Telephone: 2691848

This notice appeared in the ‘Daily Mirror’ and ‘Daily News’ newspapers of 22 March and the ‘Lankadeepa’ of 23 March 2010 and again on 13 December 2010 on these papers as well as the ‘Virakesari’

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING NIZHNY NOVGOROD STATE MEDICAL ACADEMY, SRI LANKA CAMPUS

An advertisement was published in the newspapers by the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy, Sri Lanka Campus which is the same as the Malabe Medical College of South Asian Institute of Technology & Management (SAITM) requesting applications for the posts of lecturers etc.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council wishes to inform the public that there is no provision in the Medical Ordinance to recognize a medical degree that may be awarded to those trained at the above institution in Sri Lanka.

This clarification is published in view of several inquiries made to the Council by members of the public.

Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please note that Applications for Registration of Apprentice Pharmacists will be accepted only on Thursdays from 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

SRI LANKAMEDICAL COUNCIL

ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL

Nominations will be received for election of ONE Member to the Council under Section 12 (1) (d) of the Medical Ordinance from 18 October 2010.

Section 12 (1) (d) of the Medical Ordinance applies to persons registered under Section 41 of the Medical Ordinance (Apothecaries/ Assistant Medical Practitioners).

Each Nomination Paper should be signed by Five (05) or more persons with valid registration under Section 41 of the Medical Ordinance indicating the full name and registration number and the consent of the person seeking election.

Nomination papers should be handed over to the Registrar, Sri Lanka Medical Council at No. 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10, before 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday 28 September 2010.

A further notice would be issued if a ballot is necessary.

Dr. N. J. Nonis
Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

This notice appeared in the ‘Daily Mirror’, ‘The Island’ and ‘Daily News’ newspapers of 17 September 2010

This notice appeared in the ‘Daily News’ and ‘Lankadeepa’ newspapers of 15 September 2010