



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2008

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Complied by
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“All’s well that ends well”

SC/FR Application No. 135/07 & 136/07 before Chief Justice S.N.Silva ,Justice Sripavan and Justice Ratnayake was decided on 1-12-2008.

The Petitioner was the Society of Registered and Assistant Medical Officers (SRAMO) and the Sri Lanka Medical Council was the respondent. This case was settled in terms as laid down in the letter dated 28 November 2008 sent by the Registrar to the SLMC lawyers viz. Mr. S.A. Cader of. Julius & Creasy. The letter states, inter alia that the petitioner should follow a full time course conducted over a period of three years which includes clinical training in the main clinical specialties of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics and other subjects such as Forensic Medicine, Pathology, Community Medicine, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Microbiology, Parasitology, Immunology and Human Genetics. The letter also stated that there should be continuous and final assessments by a panel of examiners with experience in conducting the final MBBS of the faculties of Medicine in Sri Lanka. After successful completion of the evaluation process they would be granted Provisional Registration to do the Internship. After successful completion of the internship training they would be registered under section 29 of the Medical Ordinance.

This settlement was a great victory for the Council. It may seem a Pyrrhic Victory.

In addition to the settlement, the court ordered that “connected legal proceedings in all courts to terminate on the basis of the foregoing arrangements”

This meant withdrawal of the contempt charges against the Registrar and myself and the 54 Cases for compensation filed in the District Court by the RMPs.

The case where the Registrar and I were charged for contempt of court was very stressful to us as we had to be present in the Court of Appeal and stay there for many hours on many occasions.

This RMP issue arose in 1997 as a result of a letter No. Ad Sec/Prof/AMO/QQ of 14 August 1991. In fact, in a letter signed by Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya, Additional Secretary (Medical Services) with copies sent to DGHS and DDG(MS) it is stated in the final para that the SRAMO wanted no pay leave to be given to 50 of their members to study medicine in Russia. They had stated that they were not interested in whether the course was recognised or not by the SLMC.

In April 1977 when the SLMC was made aware of attempts being made to arrange an abbreviated course in Russia for the AMP’s, Professor Panditharatne, the then Registrar of the SLMC wrote to Mr. Fowzie the then Minister of Health requesting him to prevent such a course as such a qualification would not be recognised by the SLMC under any circumstances. Deputy Minister of Health, Mrs.Pavithra Wanniarachchi, we discovered had written two letters to the Minister of Health in Russia encouraging the Russian authorities to start such a course. These requests were made on 26-1-1998 and on 17-6-1998. The Russian authorities too wrote to us but the SLMC always opposed this course. In August 1997 (letter No.CB/B/15/93(1) of November 1996, Dr.Lucian Jayasuriya, Additional Secretary/Health

(letter No.CB/B/15/93(1) of November 1996) wrote that no-pay leave for two years could be granted to RMO/AMO to study abroad.

On 11th June 1999, Professor Panditharatne once again wrote to the Head, International Office, St Petersburg State Medical Academy (SPSMA) stating that none of the degrees awarded by this institution would be recognised as long as they have the programme for the RMO/AMO. Professor Panditharatne had on two further occasions informed SPSMA about non-recognition of the course for RMO/AMO and informed Dr. V. Jeganathan, then Director General of Health Services on 23rd November 1998 and Dr. A. Kahadanaliyanage, Deputy Director General (Medical Services) on 13th May 1999 about the non-recognition of the so-called degree given to AMO's and RMO's from SPSMA in Russia.

In 21-12-2000, the Government Registered Medical Officers Association and its Secretary filed a case in the Court of Appeal (Case No.1498/2000) seeking for a mandate in the nature of writs of certiorari. The first respondent was Mr. John Seneviratne, then Minister of Health, the second respondent was the Secretary, Ministry of Health and the third respondent by name was Dr. Beligaswatte, then Director General of Health Services. The fourth respondent was SLMC and the fifth respondent Professor Panditharatne, Registrar SLMC. On 2-7-2002, while the case was in the Court of Appeal, Dr. Reggie Perera, Secretary/ Health wrote to the Attorney General (A/G) stating that the present Minister of Health Hon. P. Dayaratne had instructed him to inform the A/G. that he had decided to be neutral in this case and that he was prepared to accept the court order.

During the proceedings of the case, the SLMC pointed out that it would not be possible to cover the syllabus which should have been covered in six years in the three (3) year abbreviated course. .

The SLMC initially had de-recognised the three year course but on legal advice had withdrawn the dercognition. The court issued a writ of certiorari directing the SLMC to take steps in terms of the law to duly recognise the MD Degree awarded to the AMOs/RMOs.

The court mentioned about the inability of the SLMC to produce a copy of the letter the SLMC sent to SPSMA initially recognising the six year course and also the fact that the Minister, the Ministry Secretary and the DGHS had not filed any objections to the petition. An appeal to the Supreme Court was unsuccessful.

In fact, Mr. Y.J.W. Wijetilleke, Deputy Solicitor General at a subsequent inquiry conducted over this by Dr.A. Kahandaliyanage stated that the SLMC was well represented by Counsel and that the non-participation of the Ministry officials was one of the main reasons for the verdict against the SLMC.

In this episode, the politicians encouraged RMOs/AMOs to follow this abbreviated course in spite of several protests by the SLMC and Dr.Lucian Jayasuriya, then Additional Secretary awarded no pay leave to the RMOs /AMOs to follow the course.

What is intriguing is that the Health Ministry concealed the letter which stated that the RMOs/AMOs were not interested in registration by the SLMC when they received the qualification from SPSMA.

The SLMC asked for interpretation of the Court of Appeal decision and two PCs, Mr. Shibly Aziz and Mr.D.S. Wijesinghe agreed that this amounted to recognition of the qualification.

At the meeting of the SLMC, members unanimously approved this recognition (although some later denied) and the process of recognition. When a few had been recognized, the GMOA and SLMA together with Professor Lalitha Mendis, then Director PGIM protested vehemently at the SLMC action.

Professor A.H.Sheriffdeen who was President SLMA, on January 13, 2005 stated that the legal opinion we have obtained says that the court order could be interpreted to mean that the SLMC should abide by the law which governs it in registering foreign medical graduates. If one goes by this interpretation it is blatantly obvious that the SLMC should refuse to accept the applications from those submitting documents for courses of study and training which the SLMC has not approved.

Professor Sheriffdeen in fact was a member of the SLMC from 1996 to June 2003 and was well aware of the events and also the innumerable attempts made by the SLMC to prevent the acceptance of the abbreviated qualification, Professor Sheriffdeen says could be interpreted. Why could his lawyers not say 'should' instead of 'would' and Professor Sheriffdeen is no legal expert to interpret the law while the SLMC was humble enough to obtain advice from two PCs.

As there was a howl of protests by the medical profession and medical students and a few in the SLMC itself, the Hon. Minister of Health requested me to stop the recognition process till a Committee appointed by him gave its findings.

The recognition was then stopped and with Dr. Athula Kahandilayage, Director of Health Services as Committee Chairman, it consisted of representatives from the AMO's/RMO's, the President and Registrar SLMC, Professor Sheriffdeen, President SLMA, Professor Lalitha Mendis (Director PGIM) and a representative of the GMOA.

Dr. Kahandilayage had been Deputy Director of Health and was in various Committees which approved to no-pay leave to the AMOs, RMOs, DSG from the AG's department was present initially to offer legal advice.

The Committee met several occasions and after many months, the Chairman forwarded a report which recommended that this matter be referred to another Committee which was discussing matters concerning administration and also advising that the latter qualification be not recognized. Subsequently the latter Committee stated that these matters were not within their purview.

Finally the present Registrar, Dr. Nonis and I were charged by name for contempt of court in the Court of Appeal. Obviously Professor Sheriffdeen's interpretation and the stand taken by the Profession were not what the Court of Appeal felt.. The Court of Appeal trial went on till November 2008. Because of the brilliance of Mr. Shibly Aziz and the hard work and intelligence of Mr.S.A.Cader one of the Senior Attorneys of Julius & Creasy we won the Battle.

Some members of the Council felt that other lawyers too be retained in the trials connected with this. However, retaining these Lawyers cost the SLMC much money and had it not been for Mr. Shibly Aziz P.C. and Mr. S.A. Cader, the consequences could have been disastrous.

Another case was filed by foreign graduates who had followed a genuine course against the SLMC as the SLMC was unable to conduct the Act 16 examination as it feared that the AMOs,RMOs too would apply for it. This case was filed before the resolution of the contempt of court case.

Justice Shirani Bandaranayake gave a judgement distinguishing the two groups namely the petitioners and the MD Degree holders of three years duration by stating that they could not be treated as equals and therefore could be treated differently.

All the cases where Mr.Shibly Aziz P.C. appeared for the SLMC have been favourable to the SLMC.

I thank the Registrar, members of the Council and the office staff for their cooperation in a year that ended well for us.

Vidyajothi Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe,
MD (Ceylon) FRCP (London) FRACP
PRESIDENT - SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL -2008

Dr. H.H.R.Samarasinghe

Prof. S.P.Lamabadusuriya (up to 30 September 2008)

Prof. H.R. Seneviratne (from 01 November 2008)

Prof. W.I. Amarasinghe

Prof. P.L. Ariyananda (up to 11 May 2008)

Prof. T.R. Weerasooriya (from 12 May 2008)

Dr. K.Sivapalan

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 (from 28 January 2008)

Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva

Dr.Ananda Samarasekera

Prof.Lalitha Mendis

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

Dr.K.M.Zahir

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>DATE OF COMPLETION OF TERM / RESIGNATION DURING THE YEAR</u>
Dr. H.H.R.Samarasinghe	04.06.2004	
Prof. S.P.Lamabadusuriya	01.07.2003	Re-appointed from 01 July to 30 September 2008
Prof. P.L. Ariyananda	22.03.2007	Resigned 25 April 2008
Dr.K.Sivapalan	10.03.2003	Re-appointed from 10.03.2008
Prof.A.R.Wickremasinghe	13.09.2006	
Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana	08.08.2006	
Dr. B. Lalith Perera	21.11.2007	
Dr. S.Sivapriyan	21.11.2007	
Dr.L.A.Ranasinghe	06.06.2006	
Dr.Nanda Amarasekera	15.01.2003	Re-elected from 16.01.2008
Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva	15.01.2003	Re-elected from 16.01.2008
Dr.A.Samarasekera	02.06.2004	
Prof. Lalitha Mendis	18.10.2005	
Dr.T.Wickremasuriya	02.05.2005	
Dr.A.M.L. Beligaswatte	25.06.2005	
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon	25.06.2005	
Prof. D.A.Fernando	24.04.2006	
Dr.H.A.P.Kahandaliyanage	21.11.2007	Ex-Officio
Dr. U. Ajith Mendis	22.11.2007	Ex-Officio
Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan	27.07.2007	
Prof. Prasad D. Amaratunga	31.08.2007	
Dr.K.M.Zahir	18.10.2005	

Dr.H.H.R.Samarasinghe 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. S.P.Lamabadusuriya and Prof. H.R. Seneviratne were elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. W.I. Amarasinghe was elected by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya under section 12 (1) (b) of the Medical Ordinance.

Prof. P.L. Ariyananda 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, Prof. T.R. Weerasooriya was elected by the Faculty Board.

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

Dr.K.M.Zahir was elected under section 12 (1) (d) of the Medical Ordinance by persons registered under Section 41.

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

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.

STAFF OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

Registrar	- Dr. N.J. Nonis
Assistant Registrar	- Dr. H.M.S.S.D. Herath
Clerks/Typists	- Mrs. G.T.Buultjens Mrs. C. Hettiarachchi Mrs. K.H. De Silva Mrs.R. Dissanayake Miss. C. Gunatilleke Mrs. P. Chinnakone
Computer Applications Assistant	- Mrs. M. Maddumage
Computer Analyst (Contract basis)	- Mr. Nisal Piyatilleke
Receptionist	- Miss. D.Senanayake
Librarian /Clerk to Coordinate Exams	- Mrs. N.Wijedasa
Peons	- Mr. W.Sarath Kumara - Mr. Gayan Wijesinghe

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.Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)

- Prof. S.P.Lamabadusuriya
- Prof. Lalitha Mendis
- Dr. L.A. Ranasinghe
- Dr. S. Sivapriyan
- Prof. A.R. Wickremasinghe (in the absence of Dr. Ananda Samarasekera)

2. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Chairman - Dr.H.H.R.Samarasinghe (President)

- Dr.Nanda Amarasekera
- Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva
- Dr.T.W.Wickremasuriya
- Dr.P.A.Abeykoon
- Dr. B.L. Perera
- Dr. S. Shanmuganathan
- Prof. E.A. Prasad D. Amaratunga
- Prof. Jyantha Jayawardana
- Dr. H.B.J.C.K. Ariyaratne

3. FOREIGN DEGREES COMMITTEE

Chairman - Dr.Nanda Amarasekera

- Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva
- Dr.K.Sivapalan
- Dr. Ajith Mendis

4. ETHICS COMMITTEE

- Chairman - D.H.H.R.Samarasinghe (President)
- Dr.Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)
 - Dr.Nanda Amarasekera
 - Dr. S. Sivapriyan
 - Dr. K.M. Zahir

5. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Chairman - D.H.H.R.Samarasinghe (President)
- Dr.Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)
 - Dr.Nanda Amarasekera
 - Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva
 - Prof. S.P.Lamabadusuriya
 - Prof. Lalitha Mendis
 - Prof. P.L.Ariyananda
 - Prof. W.I. Amarasinghe
 - Prof. Dayasiri Fernando
 - Dr. Palitha Abeykoon

6. COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER SPECIALIST REGISTER

- Chairman - Dr.Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)
- Dr.Nanda Amarasekera

8. COMMITTEE ON INTERNSHIP

- Chairman - Dr.Ananda Samarasekera (Vice President)
- Dr.Nanda Amarasekera
 - Dr.Sarath Gamini De Silva
 - Prof. S.P. Lamabadusuriya
 - Dr. B.L. Perera
 - Dr. S. Sivapriyan

9. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Chairman - D.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 (ERPM/Act 16 exam/ERPDS)
15. Issue of Certificates of Completion of ERPM/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 2008

1. 465th Meeting held on 04 January
2. 466th meeting held on 25th January
3. 467th meeting held on 22 February
4. 468th meeting held on 28 March
5. 469th meeting held on 25th April
6. 470th meeting on 23rd May
7. 471st meeting held on 27 June
8. 472nd meeting held on 25 July
9. 473rd meeting held on 22 August
10. 474th meeting held on 26th September
11. 475th meeting held on 24th October
12. 476th Meeting held on 21 November
13. 477th meeting held on 19 December

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL – 2008

1. Special meeting held on 05th September

IMPORTANT DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETINGS OF THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

I. 465th Meeting held on 04 January

20 Members were present.

(1) Matters of Interest to the Council

i. **Continued Professional Development** – The Council decided that there should be a mechanism to coordinate all CPD activities and the Council has a responsibility regarding this. CPD should be on-going and progressive. The Council should write to the SLMA, SLDA, IMPA and Colleges and find out what CPD activities are going on. There should be a CPD Centre in Sri Lanka as in Thailand. A committee was appointed with Dr. H.H.R.Samarsinghe, Dr. Ananda Samarasekera, Dr.Nanda Amarasekera, Dr.Palitha Abeykoon, Prof.S.P. Lamabadusuriya, Prof.Lalitha Mendis, Dr.Suresh Shanmuganathan, Dr.S.Sivapriyan and Dr. Lalantha Ranasinghe. It was decided to co-opt the DDG, Planning, DDG, ETR and Dr. S.Sivakumaran to the Committee. Dr.H.M.S.S.D.Herath would be the Coordinator/Convenor for the Council.

ii. **Patients for Patients' Safety** – A summary of a meeting held on 30th November 2008 was circulated. Dr. Palitha Abeykoon explained that a meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia sponsored by the W.H.O. and this meeting was held to explain the outcome of that meeting to the national groups involved. This matter was also discussed at the SEARO meeting of Medical Councils as an agenda item. There are two aspects to this, healthcare providers and the patients who should have a partnership. The Council noted the contents of the document.

iii. **Survey of performance of interns who had their education from medical schools abroad** – The Registrar informed that on a request at a previous meeting of the Council, he wrote to Specialists in Base and Provincial hospitals asking their views on the performance of interns who had their medical education abroad. There were 52 replies and a chart giving their response was circulated. It appears that over 75% feel that their theoretical knowledge is lacking compared to local graduates, 85% feel that their clinical skills are lacking and 87% are of the opinion that they should be given some form of training before they are appointed as interns. One way of doing this is to extend the period of internship but it would be taken as a punishment as they would not get appointed as post-interns immediately. The Council proposed that there should be attachments before they are appointed as interns. It was decided to write to the Secretary, Ministry of Health regarding this.

iv. **Gazette notification of Regulations under the Private Medical Institutions Act** – The Registrar, explained that there was a gazette notification dated 4th December 2007 which was circulated at the meeting of the Private Health Institutions Regulatory Council held on 3rd January 2008. It states that a medical practitioner or dentist who provides any service at a private institution should inform the patient or those who accompany him the fees for the services he provides and display the charges outside his place of practice. The Council noted its contents and decided to await its implementation. The Registrar also informed the Council that another regulation is being drafted regarding generic prescribing. The Council decided to

write to the Minister and highlight that there are a multiplicity of brands registered for one drug, that the decision to dispense a particular drug should not be left to the pharmacist and there are no qualified pharmacists in all pharmacies, there should be facilities for testing for quality and publicity to be given for quality failures. The Director General of Health Services stated that this is not a new concept but appears as Regulations under the CDD Act.

v. A National Drug Policy is being formulated and a National Drug Regulatory Authority would be set up. The views of all the stakeholders are being considered.

II. 466th meeting held on 25th January

14 Members were present.

i. **Election of Three Members to the Council** - As an urgent matter, issues with regard to the election of three members to the Council were discussed. Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe explained that at the meeting of the Management Committee held on 24th December 2007, it was realized that there was insufficient time for voters to send the votes. The closing date was notified as 11th January 2008. It was decided by the Management Committee that voting should be extended to 3.00 p.m. on 25th January 2008 and to notify in three newspapers. Dr.S.Sivapriyan brought to the notice of the Council that Dr. Ariyaratne, one of the contestants has not received his ballot paper. The Registrar explained that at the Council meeting held in October, it was decided to send ballot papers by post to every registered person if there is an election. Following discussion, the Council decided by a majority vote to allow those who request a ballot paper and declare that they have not received a ballot paper by post be issued with a specially marked ballot paper. The voting would end at 3.00 p.m. today.

ii. Matters arising from minutes

(a) **Coordinators for ERPM** – The Council was informed that Dr.S.Anantharajah has agreed to be the Coordinator for medicine. The Council agreed to appoint Dr.Ruwan Fonseka as Coordinator for Surgery, Dr.Sarath De Silva for Paediatrics, Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana for Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Dr. Nilukshi Abeysinghe for Forensic Medicine, Dr.H.M.S.S.D.Herath for Community Medicine and Dr. Mrs.A. Samarasekera for Pathology. Dr.H.M.S.S.D.Herath would be overall Coordinator with Prof. Jayantha Jayawardana for Colombo South and Dr.Lalantha Ranasinghe for Colombo North.

(b) **Prescribed Standards for Undergraduate Medical Education** – The Hon. Attorney General has written to the Ministry regarding the contentious issues. The Ministry has to write to all the recognized schools abroad are awaiting the supply of addresses by the Council. Three months notice has to be given for replies.

iii. **Management Committee** - Minutes of the meetings of the Management Committee held in November and December 2007 were circulated. The following matters were discussed:

(a).A member queried regarding the photographs published in newspapers regarding a child who was operated by the OMF Surgeon at General Hospital, Badulla. The President explained that the OMF Surgeon was summoned before the Committee and advised not to bring the media into the operating theatre or publish photographs of patients without obscuring their identity. He also explained that the Ethics Committee is meeting along with

certain persons who are not in the Council and some laymen to revise the guidelines on ethics.

(b). A member brought to the notice of the Council that some persons who are treated in government hospitals free of charge bring various forms to claim insurance cover for such treatment. It was decided to write to the DGHS and ask him for a ruling as this is an administrative matter.

iv. **Education Committee**

(a). The draft of the Application Form for Recognition of Medical Schools was circulated. The Council approved it with the inclusion of the Appendix for assessing clinical skills of the students. It was decided that the same form could be used as the questionnaire for information from local faculties before the Council visits for assessment.

v. **Foreign Graduates**

(a) **Recognition of B.L.D.E. Association's Sri B.M.Patil Medical College, Bijapur, Karnataka, India** – The President informed the Council that this school was listed in the publication of 2002 and did not appear in the list published in 2005. Dr. Nanda Amarasekera studied the curriculum and recommended recognition but not the internship as it does not conform to the requirements by the Council. The Council approved its recognition.

(b) **ERPDS** - The results of the exam held in October 2007 at the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Peradeniya were circulated. It was noted that there were seven candidates and four have passed. Prof. Dayasiri Fernando and Dr. Lalantha Ranasinghe explained the 'closed' marking system.

vi. **Temporary Registration under Section 67 A** - The list of persons registered under Section 67A from 1st November 2007 to 31st December 2007 was circulated.

A discussion ensued regarding the procedure for evaluating the skill and knowledge of the applicant. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the Council to assess the skill and knowledge. If the members of the Committee considering applications are of the opinion that they are not competent to assess the skill and knowledge of a person in a particular specialty, they could invite a representative from that particular College to advise the Committee.

vii. **Preliminary Proceedings Committee**

The summaries of meetings of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee held in November and December 2007 were circulated. The Council noted its contents.

The Registrar informed the Council that at the meeting of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee held on 24th January 2008, the Committee decided to refer a letter written by Dr. Rajitha Senaratne regarding the request for his explanation on a complaint against him. He has claimed that the Registrar and the President has violated his privileges as a member of parliament by calling for his explanation on a matter before parliament. He has complained to the Speaker and the Privileges Committee regarding this. Although he stated that a copy of that letter was attached, it was not attached. The Council decided to obtain legal opinion as there is evidence that it was not a Consultative Meeting.

viii. **Any other matters**

(a). The Registrar explained that the Council staff have requested payment for un-availed leave for the year 2007 as in the previous year. The Management Committee requested them to opt for either the UGC Circulars or payments sanctioned by the council. They all have opted for both! The Management Committee decided to refer it to the council. The members pointed that this facility was withdrawn in the budget for 2007 and in lieu, public servants can accumulate and continue to work after reaching the age of retirement.

(b). Employment of Mrs. Sithy Shanaz Rila and a Cycle Orderly on a contract basis was explained by the Registrar. They would be paid an all-inclusive salary of Rs.20,000 and Rs. 8,000 respectively. The Council approved them.

III. 467th meeting held on 22 February

16 members were present.

Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr. Nanda Amarasekera and Dr. H.B.J.C.K. Ariyaratne were elected by majority votes at the election of three members to the Council. Dr. K. Sivapalan who was appointed to the Council in March 2003 would complete his term in March 2008 and the Faculty Board has re-appointed him to the Council for another term.

(i) Matters arising from the minutes

a. ERPM - Dr. Nanda Amarasekera would be the Coordinator for the Clinical Part and Dr. H.M.S.S.D. Herath would be the overall Coordinator. Part B of the ERPM would be held from 24 March 2008 onwards.

b. Medical Faculty of Rajarata University – Prof. Malkanthi Chandrasekera has completed her sabbatical leave and requested an additional allowance. This has been turned down. Although Anuradhapura hospital was designated a Teaching Hospital, additional consultants were not appointed. 171 students were admitted to the faculty in 2006 and 180 in 2007.

c. Dr. S.M. Balaji, Dental Surgeon – The Dental Council of India informed that Dr. Balaji has replied that he has not visited Sri Lanka for the last six months and has no intention of visiting in the near future.

d. Payments for Examiners at the ERPDS – Payment would be made for the Examiners as in the case of the Examiners of ERPM.

(ii) Election of members to the Council

A letter from the Secretary, G.M.O.A. regarding election of members was read. The decision to send ballot papers to all persons eligible was made by the Council. The Council decided that hereafter,

a) nominations would be called three months before an election; b) write to relevant professional bodies and Trade Unions regarding the election; c) Eligible persons could apply

for a postal vote by sending a request with a self-addressed envelope; d) voting in person would be held for those who did not apply for a postal vote; e) candidates should supply their profile of less than 100 words for circulation to those who apply for a postal vote.

(iii) Request for approval of the degree from a person who followed a MBBS Course in India

A person who applied for approval of her degree from a medical school in India declared that she would be issued the degree only after doing her internship, which is “a part of the MBBS course”. It was decided that her degree could only be approved after she obtains the degree.

(iv) Recommendations of the Ethics Advisory Committee

Several non-members such as Rev. Duleep de Chickera, Mr. D.P. Kumarasinghe P.C., Mr. Liyanasuriya, Attorney-at-law, Mr. Louis Benedict, Dr. N.W. Vidyasagara, Prof. A.H. Sheriffdeen, Dr. Enoke Corea and Dr. Malik Fernando were invited to participate in drawing guidelines on ethics for medical and dental practitioners.

(v) Draft proposals for ‘Supervised Hands On Training’ for Internship

The draft proposals were circulated to members for their views and comments

IV. 468th meeting held on 28 March

18 members were present.

(i) Matters arising from minutes

(a) ERPM Clinical Exam – A member informed the Council regarding a Senior Registrar examining patients selected for the exam with a candidate. The Council appointed a three member committee to inquire about the incident. Hereafter, hospitals from which patients are brought would be made out-of-bounds for the candidates.

(b) Prescribed Standards on medical education – the new draft would be circulated to recognized medical schools for their comments.

(c) Accounts of meeting of Network of Medical Councils in the SEAR/WHO was approved by the council.

(ii) Contribution from the Consolidated Fund - The Council received Rs. 500,000 as the Contribution from the Consolidated Fund for the year.

(iii) Salaries of Staff - Recommendations of the Finance Committee regarding payment of salaries and leave of staff were approved by the Council.

(iv) Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad – A member informed the Council that the Ministry of Higher Education is awarding scholarships to students to medical schools abroad, which are not recognized by the Council. It was decided to write to that Ministry.

(v) Medical Ethics – An article in a newspaper showing a prescription form used at the Eye Hospital, Colombo with the trade names of drugs produced by that company was discussed. The Council decided to request the Director, E.H., to withdraw the prescription form and write to the College of Ophthalmologists.

V. 469th meeting held on 25th April

10 Members were present.

(i) Matters arising from minutes

Inquiry regarding irregularities at the ERPM Part B

The report of the Committee was circulated. The Council approved the recommendations with an amendment to recommendation: (i) ‘The wards of the hospital/ group of hospitals from which patients are brought for the clinical exam of the ERPM should be made ‘out-of-bounds’ for the candidates, commencing three days before *the commencement* to the day of conclusion *of the exam*.

(vi) If a candidate violates any regulations, he/she would be debarred from sitting for the exam in the future.

(ii) Income & Expenditure

Contribution from the Consolidated Fund

The President thanked the DGHS and the Ministry for obtaining Rs. 500,000 from the Consolidated Fund for the Council for the year 2007, after submitting the Statement of Account for the year 2006.

(iii) Committees

The Education Committee

Prescribed Standards for Undergraduate Medical Education - The President explained the sequence of events regarding the drafting of Prescribed Standards. There were few corrections to be made in the latest draft and these were conveyed.

(iv) Medical Graduates Qualified Abroad

(1) Performance of candidates at the ‘New Format’ of the ERPM

A study of the performance of candidates at the New Format of the ERPM was circulated. These persons have obtained approval of their degrees from September 2004 onwards. There were 541 persons eligible to sit but only 458 have sat at least once. 220 of them (45%) have passed Part A (MCQ) and 146 (30%) have completed Part B and were eligible for internship. The Council noted the contents.

(2) Clinical training for medical graduates qualified abroad

The President informed the Council that Secretary/Health, Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage agreed with representatives of the Council at a meeting to attach medical graduates qualified abroad to hospitals where local undergraduates are not being trained. It was agreed that the DGHS sends a Circular to Consultants in non-teaching to expose these students to patients in their wards.

(3) Future of 'Old Format' of the ERPM

The Registrar explained that the 'Old Format' commenced in 1999 with requests from certain medical faculties to conduct a screening test. In 2003 when we introduced the 'New Format' we have given notice that the 'Old Format' would not be continued after 2006. However, because the 'New Format' exam could not be held because of legal problems, we continued to hold the 'Old Format' of the exam for those candidates. Following discussion, the Council decided to write to the 'Old Format' candidates individually that they would have to switch over to the 'New Format' after the exams to be conducted this year.

(4) Scholarships awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education

The President explained the problem regarding the award of scholarships to medical schools which have not been recognized by the Council. Some of these schools have applied for recognition but we are awaiting the approval of prescribed standards by parliament to consider them.

(v) Registration of Nurses from the Private Sector

The DGHS informed that he is conducting an inquiry how a Certificate was issued to a nurse from Apollo Hospital making her eligible for registration in the Council. The Council agreed that we should withhold registration until the matter is cleared.

VI 470th meeting on 23rd May

14 Members were present.

(i) The President announced the appointment of Prof. Tilak Weerasooriya by the teachers of the Faculty of Medicine, Ruhuna University to represent the faculty in the Council..

The President also expressed his appreciation to the services of Prof. P.L. Ariyananda to the Council during his tenure of membership. He requested the Registrar to send Prof. Ariyananda a note expressing the the thanks and sentiments of the Council.

(ii) Matters arising from minutes

The Council discussed the declaration of hospitals from which patients are brought to the ERPM clinical exam 'out-of-bounds' for the candidates. Following discussion, the Council decided to make such hospitals 'out-of-bounds' for one week before the commencement to the date of conclusion of the exam, and to inform the candidates.

(iii) Revision of Charges for Registration and Services by the Sri Lanka Medical Council

The charges were revised upwardly for Full Registration – Section 29/ Act 15 from – Rs. 5000 to Rs. 6000;

Dentists – Section 43 - from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 8,000;

Persons entitled to practise medicine & surgery - from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000;

Pharmacists – Section 56 –from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500;

Nurses – Section 61- Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000;

Midwives – from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500

Paramedical Assistants – from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500;

Professions Supplementary to medicine – from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500;

Act 16 exam completion certificate - from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000;

Certificate of Good Standing – from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000;

Certified Extract from Register – from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000;

No changes were made in the other charges.

The Council approved the revision of fees as suggested.

(iv) Committees

(a) Education Committee

The President announced that after making several representations to the Hon. Minister of Higher Education we received an appointment to meet him on 2nd May 2008. Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe, Dr. Palitha Abeykoon and the Registrar meet him. Prof. M.T.M. Jiffry, Vice Chairman, UGC, Prof. Janaka de Silva, Member, UGC and several other officials were present. The main discussion was on the present status of the Medical Faculty of Rajarata University. The Hon. Minister informed that steps have been taken to advertise posts in pre-clinical and Para-clinical departments of the faculty.

A lecturer in Pharmacology had been recruited. Incentives in the form of Rs.25,000 per month in addition to the salary have been offered but the response have been poor. The Hon. Minister stated that new faculties of medicine would not be opened in other universities until the existing faculties are adequately staffed.

The Council resolved that admission to such faculties should be stopped until they have minimum facilities.

(b) Internship Committee

The President stated that the proposals of the Council to change the format of the internship is getting delayed. The Registrar explained that the Committee met Dr. Terence de Silva and Dr. V.S. Pannila and the proposals were discussed. It was decided to work out the available slots in different specialties as proposed. Dr. Pannila agreed to work out those and present for the next meeting.

(v) Medical Graduates qualified abroad

(a) Prescribed Standards – The Registrar informed that a few mistakes were noted in the final draft and sent to the Legal Draftsman. These were corrected by hand and sent to the Ministry of Health. The Hon. Minister of Health has signed a letter to be sent to the medical schools for their comments. The Ministry would send it to local schools and requested the Council to dispatch them to recognized schools abroad. This is being done. According to the Medical Ordinance, a period of three months should be given to receive comments.

(b) The future of the Old Format of the ERPM

A draft of a letter to candidates who were sitting the Old Format of the ERPM was circulated. The members commented on the contents and the draft was amended and approved stating that the last written examination would be held in August and the clinical examination would be held in October 2008.

(c) **Results of the ERPDS held in April 2008**

The results were handed over by Prof. Prasad D. Amarathunga during the meeting. There were three candidates and all three have failed. Prof. Amarathunga stated that they have done very well in the theory part but have failed in the practical/viva section. He proposed to the Faculty Board to revise the format of the exam where they would not be required to sit for the theory exam again when they passed it. He would place these proposals for the meeting of the Council next month for approval.

(vi) **Temporary Registration under Section 67 A**

The list of persons registered under Section 67A from 1st November 2007 to 31st December 2007 was circulated.

A discussion ensued regarding the procedure for evaluating the skill and knowledge of the applicant. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the Council to assess the skill and knowledge. If the members of the Committee considering applications are of the opinion that they are not competent to assess the skill and knowledge of a person in a particular specialty, they could invite a representative from that particular College to advise the Committee.

(vii) **Correspondence**

A letter submitted by Dr. Ananda Samarasekera regarding the M.Sc. in Medical Toxicology by Distant Education 2008-2009 to be conducted by the PGIM was circulated. An advertisement was published in the Sunday Observer of 18th May 2008 stating that the training is by Distant Learning format (web based e-learning).

The Council noted the following with regard to this matter:

a. The course is to be conducted by ‘e-learning’, changing the concept of hands-on-training for clinical courses.

- b. There are no experienced trainers of this specialty in Sri Lanka and none with any qualification or formal training.
- c. It is not clear under which Board of Study this course is planned to be conducted.
- d. There are no adequate laboratory facilities in the country to conduct such a course, even if a foreign expert comes to the country.
- e. Persons who are not registered by the Council but registered in an equivalent body is eligible. It is not clear what an equivalent body is and who would decide whether one is equivalent to the SLMC.
- f. The PGIM has double standards as in the case of Anaesthesiology only a certificate of competency after an examination with 5 years of hands on training experience.

Following discussion, the Council decided to write to the Director, PGIM and obtain clarification on these matters.

VII 471st meeting held on 27 June

17 Members were present.

i. Matters arising from minutes

470.6.1.4 regarding the letter sent by the Director, Private Health Sector Development that registration of nurses in the private sector by the Ministry of Health, the President explained that we have informed the police and the Minister of Health that the Council is the sole authority to register nurses.

ii. Agenda items:

(a) Letter from Dr. K. Sivapalan regarding the provisional registration of medical graduates of Jaffna University

The Registrar explained that the results of the Final MBBS Exam of the Jaffna indicated 58 names of candidates who passed the exam. However, the Consultants of T.H., Jaffna wanted graduates of Jaffna University to do internship there. There had been some agreement between students and staff regarding this but the Council cannot withhold registration if the graduates wish to apply for internship elsewhere. The Council agreed with the decision to issue provisional registration.

(b) Draft regulations regarding medical certificates issued to remand prisoners/suspects

The President and the Registrar explained that these draft regulations were the result of representations the Council made to the Secretary/ Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Services Commission with regard to media publicity and criticism of members of the profession for issuing medical certificates to suspects and remand prisoners to evade arrest or being sent to remand prison.

The draft was discussed by representatives of the Council at a meeting with Secretary/ Justice, a Senior State Counsel representing the Hon. Attorney General, the Deputy Legal Draftsman, the Commissioner General of Prisons and other officials. Subsequently, this was reported to have been presented to Supreme Court.

Under the provisions of the regulations, when a Magistrate or Judge doubts the authenticity of a medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner, he can request the Council to nominate three or more specialists to examine the person and give a report to court regarding the medical condition of the patient and a recommendation where he could be treated, if necessary. The Council approved the draft regulations and to take action to inform the medical practitioners. It was highlighted that if the report of a specialist panel contradicts the report of the medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate, the Council could initiate disciplinary action against that medical practitioner.

(c) Financial Statement for the Year 2007

The President stated that the Council has Rs. 59 million in Treasury Bills but as the present rate of inflation is described as 40%, it is useless to keep the money in Treasury Bills. We would discuss the how we could utilize that money at the next Council meeting.

(d) Any other matters:

i. The President informed the Council that we have requested the medical faculties to provide details of the curriculum, staff, facilities etc. for the Council to evaluate. Five faculties have responded but Peradeniya, Ruhuna and Eastern University have not responded yet. Prof. T.R. Weerasooriya stated that he would send it soon.

ii. A member queried regarding the M.Sc. course in Toxicology and the President informed that discussion regarding the matter was initiated by a letter from Dr. Ananda Samarasekera. It should be discussed when he is present. He made valid objections regarding the course, (i) E- learning for the course, (ii) 'Lack of 'Hands on training' and (iii) Qualifications of the teachers who would conduct the course, as they should be more qualified than the students.

iii. The President informed the Council that the SLMA initiated Continuous Professional Development when Dr. Sunil Seneviratne Epa was the President. It has conducted pilot projects in some parts of the country. But these are mainly directed at General Practitioners but Academic Colleges of Specialists should organize CPD activities for their members at specialist level. They could conduct audits of their work, the reasons for transfer of their cases to tertiary care centres etc. Prof. Lalitha Mendis informed that the SLMA that it has convened a meeting of representatives of Academic Colleges to discuss CPD activities and invited Dr.H.H.R. Samarasinghe, President of the Council to address the meeting. He accepted the invitation.

VIII. 472nd meeting held on 25 July

14 Members were present.

i. Matters arising from minutes

a. **Letter from Dr. K. Sivapalan regarding the provisional registration of medical graduates of Jaffna university**

The letters sent by Dr. K. Sivapalan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna were circulated including the letter dated 22.07.2008, and the replies to earlier letters sent by the Registrar. Following discussion, the Council decided that: i. There should be a list from the university to confirm the eligibility of those who are awarded provisional registration. ii. The list of candidates who passed the final MBBS examination should be signed by the Vice Chancellor or by the Dean of the Faculty. It may contain the signature of the Senior Assistant Registrar as well.

The President informed the Council that Dr. K. Sivapalan has reported ten persons who have commenced internship in July 2008 to the Council. The President has directed the Registrar to write and request a complaint from the Vice Chancellor as the Dean cannot submit a complaint without an affidavit.

b. **Draft regulations regarding medical certificates issued to remand prisoners/suspects**

The President informed the Council that we have placed newspaper advertisement informing medical practitioners of this and also requested the SLMA, GMOA and the IMPA to include in the newsletters to inform their members.

c. **Financial Statement for the Year 2007**

The Council adopted the Financial Statement for 2007.

d. **Internship - Local** - A note regarding internship was circulated explaining the present format according to the Medical Ordinance. Internship done outside Sri Lanka can be recognized if it conforms to this format. There had been a sub-committee appointed by the Council in 1993 and on its recommendation the Council has decided that the period should be six months continuously in each specialty, an interruption can only be allowed for maternity leave and medical leave covered with a medical certificate acceptable to the Council.

e. **Internship - Foreign** - The problem regarding internship in places such as Manipal in India was discussed. A few months ago it was revealed that about ten interns from Sri Lanka were working simultaneously, whereas they have declared that there are only three. When it was queried, they replied that there were several consultants in the unit. Following discussion, the Council agreed that they should sit for the ERPM after obtaining the degree or being eligible to award the degree and to inform Manipal Medical College. The internship done there could not be considered to be similar to the internship in Sri Lanka.

f. **Renewal of registration of pharmacists** -. Pharmacists who are not in government service can undertake to train up to six apprentice pharmacists at a time for a

period of two years, so that the apprentice pharmacists would be eligible to sit for the pharmacists' examination conducted by the Ceylon Medical College Council. A renewal of registration of pharmacists was done in 1997. The renewal is necessary to find out the pharmacists who are eligible to train apprentice pharmacists. Under Section 26 of the Medical Ordinance, the Council has to obtain the approval of the Hon. Minister for Health for renewal and the fee to be charged. The Council approved the proposal to charge Rs. 1000/- as the prescribed fee.

g. Any other matters

- i) **ERPM** - The President stated that the candidates who are sitting for the ERPM and their parents think that the Council is manipulating the results of the exam and that only a pre-determined number are passed. Even the politicians believe this. At the ceremony to hand over the appointments to interns, in the presence of their parents, the Minister has stated that the Council is discrimination against foreign graduates. He stated that it is necessary for the Council to inform them and the public that the same examiners who conduct the Final MBBS exams of medical faculties conduct the ERPM. The Council agreed that we should publish a statement in the press giving the correct position. This should also appear in Sinhala and Tamil as well.
- ii) **Patients' Charter** - The President informed the Council that he and the Registrar were invited for a meeting at the Ministry for a discussion on a 'Patients' Charter'. Following discussion at the Management Committee, it was decided to write to the Secretary/ Health and find out the proposals to obtain a consensus view of the Council.
- iii) **Telemedicine** - The President informed the Council that we received a letter from the G.M.O.A. regarding 'Telemedicine'. The Council has not been officially informed of the proposals and the implications. Dr. Ajith Mendis stated that he is also not aware of the proposals and would inform the Council when he obtains information from the Secretary/Health.

IX. 473rd meeting held on 22 August

19 Members were present.

The President welcomed Prof.Malini Udupihille as a member of the Council representing the teachers of the faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences of Rajarata University.

The President also informed the Council that the Dean has informed that the teachers of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo have elected Prof. S.P. Lamabadusuriya to the Council until 30th September 2008 when he retires from the faculty. The Council decided to request the Faculty Board to appoint a member to the Council with effect from 01 October 2008.

1. Matters arising from minutes

- (i) **Local Internship** – The Council decided that a meeting of the Internship Committee should be summoned to discuss the details such as places available and obtaining Treasury concurrence for the financial aspects of the proposals.
- (ii) **Foreign Internships** – The President informed that a Special meeting of the Council should be held to discuss and decide whether foreign internships should be accepted and whether a provisional pass certificate should be accepted as having passed the final examination. It was decided to summon a meeting of the Council on 5th September 2008.

2. Correspondence

- (a) The report on the seminar held by the seminar held by the SLMA on the National CPD Certification of Sri Lankan Doctors and a copy of a letter written by Co-Chairpersons of the Membership Committee on Professional Development Course for Sri Lankan Doctors were circulated.

A member stated that the College of Forensic Pathologists suggested introducing a Module on Ethics and Legal aspects of Medicine to the undergraduate curriculum and a Module for every postgraduate programme. Some aspects are taught in the undergraduate curriculum but not introduced to postgraduate programmes except in Forensic Medicine.

The President proposed that the SLMA and in particular Dr. Sunil Seneviratne Epa should be commended for bringing CPD to the attention of the medical profession in Sri Lanka and initiating action. He queried whether important articles in Journals could be circulated by some organization to members of the profession. Medicine Update is one such attempt by the College of Physicians but only a summary is available. Although it is better than not having anything, members should have access to the whole article. Specialists also don't get an opportunity to update their knowledge by going abroad and working every five years. Most of the CME programmes are patronized by postgraduate trainees and how the trainers get CME is not known.

A member commented that there are several active Clinical Societies functioning in the periphery. Regional meetings are organized in collaboration with Colleges or the SLMA. Members were of the opinion that the Colleges should play a more active role regarding CPD. The certificates issued by the SLMA would be helpful if a person is going abroad for employment. Even when a doctor gets patronage from a drug company to attend an overseas meeting, it is criticized by some members of the profession and Ministry officials.

- (b) **Letter from the Director, PGIM regarding a Board of Study in Basic and Medical Sciences**

The President explained that this is a sequel to a letter he wrote to the PGIM and there is no training available in this country for someone interested in doing higher studies in Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology etc. The Director, PGIM has asked for the views of the Deans of medical faculties. The Deans should get the views of the academic staff of the faculties and inform the Director, PGIM.

3. Any other matters

The President requested Prof. Malini Udupihille to inform the Council the present status of the faculty. She stated that two batches have been admitted and the third batch would be admitted in September. Each batch has about 180 students and it is too excessive for a newly established faculty without adequate staff. The first batch has finished the 2nd MBBS exam and would start the clinical training in September. The results are not officially out but it is said that they are comparable to students in other faculties. The para-clinical departments would get a new building in January 2009 and some Junior Lecturers have been engaged. The Health Ministry should appoint additional clinical staff for a Teaching Hospital. Kurunegala, Thambuttegama, Dambulla and Polonnaruwa could be made use of for some clinical training. Prof. Udupihille appealed to the Council to make representations regarding the number of students admitted.

The members were of the opinion that adequate incentives should be given to qualified persons who volunteer to teach at Rajarata University. The Council should declare that the degree would not be recognized and refuse to grant Provisional Registration. The Council gave an encouraging report after visiting the faculty last year but there was only one batch at that time. There were two professors of Anatomy conducting the teaching programme. Now there are none, only 'Pre-interns' are teaching anatomy.

The Council resolved to meet the Hon. Minister for Higher Education and inform him that we would recommend to the Minister to de-recognize the faculty.

X. Special meeting held on 05th September

16 Members were present.

The meeting was convened to discuss (1) The eligibility for Approval of Degrees of Medical Graduates qualified abroad and (2) Exemption from doing internship in Sri Lanka.

The Registrar to read out the legal definition of 'employment' and as stated by Mr.S.A. Cader of Julius & Creasy, in Black's Dictionary of legal terms, employment is defined as 'work for which one has been hired and is being paid for by an employer'. The opinion of Mr. Shibly Aziz P.C. has been obtained following a discussion the President, Vice President and the Registrar had with him. A copy of a certificate issued to a medical graduate by Manipal Academy of Higher Education is also circulated, in which the document referred to as a 'Provisional Pass Certificate' states that 'the person has 'provisionally declared as passed the Final MBBS' and 'to become eligible for the award of the degree by the University, he/she will have to undergo compulsory rotating internship training for a period of twelve months in the prescribed manner'. The 'Guidelines for Internship training' by the Medical Council

of India from the internet was obtained and this states, the intern has to do Community Medicine for 3 months, Medicine for 2 months, Surgery including Orthopaedics for 2 months, Obstetrics & Gynaecology for 2 months, Welfare planning for 15 days, Paediatrics for 15 days, Ophthalmology for 15 days, Otorhinolaryngology for 15 days and casualty for 1 month. When added this adds up to 12 months. In addition, an elective posting for two of the eight subjects listed has to be done, 15 days in each subject. In this document, under 'Other details' it is stated that the candidate has to do the rotational internship after passing the final MBBS for 12 months to the satisfaction of the College authorities and the University concerned to award the degree and full registration.

Members made the following suggestions:

- i. Regarding the first matter, some universities award the degree only after completion of the period of internship. There is provision to give those who qualified outside Sri Lanka internship appointments under Section 29 (2) (iii) (b) (ii) provided they have passed the special examination. The issue is whether the Council is satisfied that they have passed the final MBBS exam.
- ii. The letter sent by parents of the students of Manipal University stated that they expected that when they admitted their children to that medical school, they expected the internship done there to be recognized by this Council.
- iii. It has to be clarified whether during the MBBS course the students do any clinical appointments other than what they do for internship, whether they have any assessment after internship and whether they are paid during internship. The Registrar informed the Council that he is not sure whether the curriculum of the medical school is available as it has been recognized in the distant past. We should inquire from them what clinical appointments are done during the MBBS course according to each year.
- iv. The performance of candidates from Manipal at the ERPM have been the best and the parents were aware of that. Whatever decision has to be made prospectively without affecting the students who are already there. Until a clarification is made, the status quo should be maintained.

The Council then decided to convene a meeting of the Internship Committee and call those who have applied for exemption from internship before it and find out about their internship. They should be requested to bring their record books, log books etc. It was decided to consider these issues at the meeting of the Council in October.

XI. 474th meeting held on 26th September

17 members were present.

Matters arising from minutes

(1) Internship at Manipal Hospital, India

A member stated that the Internship is comparable to the internship being done in Sri Lanka. There was no evidence that there were more than four interns in a unit. It was

not part of the final year appointments and they were paid a salary during internship, although it was small. The appointment was in a resident capacity as they were provided 'on-call' rooms.

Following discussion, the Council agreed that the status quo with regard to recognition of internship at Manipal should remain.

(2) **Court Cases**

With regard to the District Court cases filed by AMPs with MD diplomas from St. Petersburg, the Registrar was requested to contact Council lawyers and Mr. S.A. Cader of Julius & Creasy explained the present position. He informed the Council that the plan of action of the petitioners was to postpone these cases after the Fundamental Rights cases before the Chief Justice (SC/FR 135 & 136/2007) are taken up. But our lawyers have objected to it and asked for trial. As some of the petitioners of District Court cases are also petitioners in the FR cases, the trial has not commenced. All documents, including the judgment delivered by Dr. Shirani Bandaranayke were listed and would be used at the appropriate time. It was noted that the averments submitted to court are not sent to the Council.

(3) **Income and Expenditure**

The Registrar informed the Council that we have about Rs. 13 million in our current account. Following discussion, the Council decided to transfer any amount over Rs. 3 million in the Current Account to Treasury Bills.

(4) **Committees**

Education Committee

- (i) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 was circulated and a recommendation was made regarding the Old Format of the ERPM. There are numerous appeals and arguments for continuing the exam in the same format. Following discussion, the Council decided to continue the Old Format as at present and review it in two years. Only two members objected to the decision.
- (ii) The minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee had with representatives of the PGIM on 12 September 2008 was circulated. The M.Sc course in Medical Toxicology and the Diploma in Sports Medicine were discussed. Following discussion, it was decided to request the PGIM to include a 'hands on' training component for the M.Sc course in Medical Toxicology. Regarding the Diploma in Sports Medicine written by a medical practitioner, it was decided to write to him and explain that the matter is not within the purview of the Council but the University of Colombo.

(5) **Medical graduates qualified abroad**

- (i) Results of ERPM Part B held in June/July 2008 were circulated. The Council noted the contents and confirmed the results. .

(ii) Results of ERPM Part A held in September 2008 were circulated. The Council noted the contents and confirmed the results. It was noted that 40 have sat for Paediatrics in the 'Old Format' and none have passed.

(iii) Declaration by Examiners of ERPM – a draft of a declaration to request examiners of the ERPM to sign before taking part in the exam was circulated. It was corrected and approved.

(iv) The Council was informed that the DGHS has issued a Circular for attachment of medical graduates who get approval of their degrees from the Council to non-teaching hospitals to follow as observers in specialties to be tested at the ERPM.

(6) Internship

Local - A request from the Consultants of Base Hospital, Karawanella for appointment of interns was circulated. The DDG (MS), Dr. Terence de Silva as Acting DGHS has in his recommendation stated that as it is, there are insufficient numbers available for appointment as interns. Following discussion, the Council decided to accept the request. The Ministry should have a priority list and advertise for internship appointments according to that.

(7) Other registrable categories - Nurses

Registration of Nurses in the Private Health Sector by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council (PHSRC) – From the time the PHSRC was set up, representatives of the Private Nursing Homes Association who are members of the PHSRC were demanding the registration of nurses in the private sector who are not eligible for registration by the SLMC, to be registered by the PHSRC. Despite the objections of the Registrar, the PHSRC is going ahead with the move for registration of nurses.

On the advice of the Management Committee, the Registrar wrote to the Hon. Minister and the Hon. Attorney General to advise the Secretary, Ministry of Health, the DGHS and the Legal Officer, Ministry of Health to inform the PHSRC against registering of nurses. The Council also obtained legal opinion, which stated that there is no provision under the Private Health Services (Registration) Act No. 21 of 2006 to register nurses. The legal advice was for the Council to take a collective decision and in the first instance inform the PHSRC in writing that their action to register nurses is illegal and ultra vires and give notice to inform the Council within seven days that the PHSRC would refrain from taking action to register nurses.

The DGHS convened two meetings with representatives of the PHSRC, Sri Lanka Nurses Association, Ceylon Medical College Council and the SLMC to discuss the issue. It was decided to give them a form of registration by the SLMC through existing provisions of the Medical Ordinance, as Assistant Nurses. Following discussion, the Council adopted a resolution to inform the PHSRC to respond within seven days that it would not register nurses. If such a reply is not received, the Council would take whatever action necessary to prevent the PHSRC from registering nurses.

XII. 475th meeting held on 24th October

19 members were present.

(1) Matters arising from minutes

(i) Medical Graduates qualified abroad – Regarding the need to attach those who are pursuing undergraduate medical studies abroad for short periods during their vacations, it was decided to request a meeting from the DGHS.

(ii) Local Internship – Regarding recognition of B.H., Karawanella for internship, it was pointed out that the Council can only recognize institutions recommended by the DGHS. As the acting DGHS has stated that the numbers are insufficient at present, the Council cannot accept it for internship.

(2) **Education Committee** - The minutes of the meetings of the Education Committee to discuss the replies to a questionnaire sent to medical faculties in Sri Lanka was circulated. The Council noted the contents and decided that the Council should visit the medical schools. It was decided to visit the faculty of Ruhuna University first as the Council has never visited it and then the Eastern University. A request was made to send the questionnaire to the Dental Faculty of Peradeniya University and the Council agreed that it should be done. The document on Accreditation of Medical Schools which was prepared by the Council in collaboration with the W.H.O. and medical faculties was circulated for information of members.

(3) **Dentists** - Some applications by dental schools abroad seeking recognition of their degrees from the Sri Lanka Medical Council were considered by Prof. Prasad Amaratunga and a detailed report would be submitted. As the Special Examination for Dental Graduates qualified abroad (ERPDS) is scheduled to commence on 6th November 2008, he recommended the acceptance of applications of graduates of two dental schools, Bristol University, U.K. and Faculty of Stomatology, Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy, Russia. There were four colleges, three from India and one from Bangladesh who have applied and he is of the opinion that they should be visited for consideration of recognition. The Council accepted the recommendation.

(4) **Correspondence** - An undated letter sent by Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva to the Registrar with copies to the President and Council members was circulated. It was received on 21.10.2008. A letter sent to him by the Registrar on 02.10.2008 and a letter received from the State Education Department of New York, U.S.A. dated 24.04.2008 with a copy of a letter sent by Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva dated 21.09.2007 to CGFNS, U.S.A. with a certificate of proficiency signed by Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage as DGHS and Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva issued to a nurse trained at Allied College of Health Sciences, Peradeniya were also circulated. At the meeting of the PHSRC held on 16.10.2008, a letter from the Presidential Secretariat was read at the time the DGHS presided. The Registrar asked for a copy and when the Secretary (Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva) hesitated, the DGHS stated that the Registrar is entitled to a copy. However, later when a copy was requested, the Secretary refused and

asked the other members whether they want copies and when they said they do not want, refused to give him a copy. The letter, purportedly from the Presidential Secretariat stated that representations have been made to H.E. the President by the Private Nursing Homes Association regarding the registration of nurses and to take urgent action as the Sri Lanka Medical Council does not register them.

The Council then adopted a resolution condemning the contents and the language used in the letter by Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva. The Council requested the President to write to the Secretary, Ministry of Health to initiate an inquiry as the Registrar is carrying out the instructions of the Council. Using such language is a violation of the instructions of the Establishment Code and Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva is a public officer. The President stated that he would sign the letter.

XIII. 476th Meeting held on 21 November

16 members were present.

The President welcomed Prof. Harshalal Senevirathne, Senior Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo. as a member of the Council following the retirement of Prof. S.P. Lamabadusuriya from the faculty and proposed his nomination as a member of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee, the Education Committee and the Internship Committee. This was approved by the Council.

(1) Matters arising from Minutes

(i) Medical graduates qualified abroad

On the request of the President the DGHS expressed agreement for attachment of Sri Lankan medical students who are undergoing training abroad to non-teaching hospitals with Consultants, for short periods during their return to Sri Lanka during vacations etc. Following discussion, the Council decided that such attachments should not be a part of the curriculum and that the Council should not get involved in the process. The Council decided to inform the authorities of Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital to restrict the number of medical students from overseas when there are undergraduates from Sri Jayawardenepura medical faculty doing clinical appointments.

(ii) Prescribed Standards for Recognition of Medical Schools –

The President explained the process of approval of Prescribed Standards. The Ministry of Health sent the draft to local faculties. The medical faculty of Ruhuna University has appointed a committee and they have recommended changes to the draft. It referred to a new edition of the Benchmark Statement in October 2006 but the Deans were not aware of any changes to the previous document. Following discussion, the Council decided that there should not be any changes to the draft and to inform the Ministry accordingly. If there are any amendments, they could be done later.

(iii) Other registrable categories

The Registrar explained the action by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council (PHSRC) to register nurses in the private sector who are not registered in the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

As the PHSRC ignored the letter sent by the Registrar, following a consultation with Mr. Shibly Aziz P.C. arranged by Julius & Creasy, the Council informed them to take legal action. As a first step, the Council lawyers have written to the PHSRC the consequences of their decision. This letter was read by the President and was circulated to Council members. He also read a copy of the letter he wrote to Secretary, Ministry of Health complaining about the harassment of the Registrar by Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva, Secretary, PHSRC and requesting an inquiry. The Registrar informed the Council that he received an invitation for a meeting on 27th November 2008 from the Secretary, Ministry of Health with the DGHS, Secretary, PHSRC and the Legal Officer of the Ministry to discuss this issue. The President thanked the G.M.O.A. for writing to Secretary, Ministry of Health supporting the decision of the Council.

(2) Court Cases

The President informed the Council that the SC/FR cases 135 and 136 of 2007 was taken up on 17.11.2008 and the Council has to taken a decision today to inform court of its decision when it is taken up again on 01.12.2008. The President read the letter sent by the Registrar to the Council lawyers regarding the request of the Court to settle this matter. When the case was taken up on 17.11.2008, there were arguments regarding the terms mentioned in the letter. The Council decided on 22.06.2007 to such a compromise, the minute of which was read by the President. Following discussion, the Council decided that it would be preferable for them to follow a three year course including a component in clinical training, which should be full-time. The standard of evaluation should be that of a local MBBS graduate. Following successful evaluation, they would have to do a one year internship successfully. The Council agreed to include these terms and Prof. Lalitha Mendis was requested to meet with the President on Monday 24 November 2008 at 8.15 a.m. to draw up the curriculum.

(3) Correspondence

A letter sent by Prof. Lalitha Mendis in her capacity as President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association requesting the Council to state that evidence of Continued Professional Development would be used as a yardstick for renewal of registration to practise in the future was read by the President and circulated to members. Such an announcement by the Council that five years hence, this would be implemented would encourage the District CPD Committees to undertake such activities. The Council decided to inform the SLMA, SLDA, PGIM, GMOA, GDSA and the IMPA that this would be implemented in 2015 when renewal of registration would be done and then every five years thereafter.

XIV. 477th meeting held on 19 December

13 Members were present

1. Matters arising from minutes

(i) **Attempt to Register Nurses in the Private Health Sector by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council** – the President explained the present status where the Secretary, Ministry of Health summoned a meeting of the Registrar with officials of the Ministry of Health on the request of the Secretary to H.E. the President and he decided that only the Medical Council can register nurses. Prof. Harsha Senevirathne stated that he would arrange a meeting with the College Council. The Registrar explained that at the meeting convened by the Secretary/ Health it was agreed that regulations can be made to have an additional part under Section 62 to register nurses in the private sector. However, the officials of the Ministry do not seem to have taken any action. It was decided to write to DGHS regarding this.

(ii) **Revalidation of Medical Practitioners** – Prof. Lalitha Mendis stated that a meeting should be convened on how a re-validation programme can be implemented, with the participation of all stakeholders. The SLMA would convene a meeting with the Colleges, Ministry etc.

2. Education Committee

Minutes of the meeting Council representatives had with the Hon. Minister for Higher Education, Ministry officials and representatives of the UGC on 28 August 2008 were considered.

Present: 1. Hon. Prof. Wiswa Warnapala , Minister of Higher Education
2. Mrs. Malini Peiris, Secretary Ministry of Higher Education
3. Mr. P. Ranepura, Additional Secretary, :Ministry of Higher Education
4. Prof. M.T.M. Jiffry, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission
5. Prof. Rohan Rajapakse, Member, University Grants Commission
6. Prof. K.A. Nandasena, Vice Chancellor, Rajarata University of SL
7. Prof. Malani Uduphille, Acting Dean Faculty of Medicine Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
8. Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe, President, SLMC
9. Dr. Ananda Samarasekera, Vice President, SLMC
10. Dr. N.J. Nonis, Registrar, SLMC
11. Prof. Lalitha Mendis, SLMC Member/President SLMA
12. Dr. S. Sivapriyan, Council Member, SLMC

The President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council opening the discussion, informed that SLMC being the authority for recognition of Medical Degrees have laid down clear guidelines pertaining to foreign medical degrees. He pointed out that in such a background the quality of the medical education in the Faculty of Medicine at the RUSL is a serious concern for the SLMC. He was of the view that standards in medical education should be properly maintained as training is very important for medical professions.

The following matters were discussed.

1. Unaffordable number of students in the Medical Faculty

In the year 2008 UGC has sent around 174 students to RUSL, Medical Faculty. In addition there is a possibility of transferring medical students from the Eastern University due to the prevailing security situation. It was observed that the total number is unaffordable to the RUSL Medical Faculty. As a result, the optimum Student teachers ratio which is 7-1, has now become to 24-1. The SLMC brought this situation to the serious attention of the UGC.

2. Teaching of the Subject of Anatomy

The Faculty has employed a pre-intern for teaching anatomy. The SLMC observed that the need is for clinical anatomy and not for Anatomy and it requires persons with experience in clinical anatomy. SLMC was of the view that a solution to overcome this problem will be to amalgamate the subjects of Anatomy with Surgery and physiology with pharmacology.

3. Difficulties in Attracting Members for the Academic Staff

- i. It was explained that attracting staff for clinical anatomy has become a problem due to the salaries now paid. Even the retired teachers are not willing to serve in this distant university as they have to leave their private practice and other benefits. Therefore, an attractive remuneration package is needed to obtain services of such people
- ii. Presently, 8 lecturers and visiting staff are employed. Physiology and Biochemistry are now covered by the Senior Professors on contract basis with special approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. However, as the conditions are not attractive enough it is not possible to take senior retired Professors. SLMC was of the view that accommodation facilities should be a must to attract such professionals.
- iii. Vice Chancellor University of Rajarata explained that cadre has been approved for this Faculty and filling of the vacancies is the only problem. A cadre of 21 for academic staff has been approved. He explained that if suitable professionals are willing to come, accommodation could be provided on rent. Vice Chancellor added that he has written to the Vice Chancellors of the Universities with Medical Faculties to find suitable teachers and Jaffna University has consented to send one teacher.
- iv. Dean of the Medical Faculty was of the view that it would be better to negotiate with the PGIM regarding appointing Senior Registrars to Clinical Units of the Teaching Hospitals in general which should be elevated to Training Centres.
- v. The SLMC pointed out that PGIM students can be taken to teach if they are granted no pay leave for that period. It was decided that the Ministry of Higher Education should take up this matter with the Secretary of Ministry of Health to make special arrangements to employ the PGIM students. SLMC also pointed out that obtaining the services of intern and just passed out medical students will also have to be discussed with the Ministry of Health.
- vi. Based on the above discussion, the following recommendations were made to attract and retain the academic staff of the Medical Faculty of RUSL.
 - a.. Payment of a special allowance in the range of Rs. 50,000/- Rs. 100,000/- to the academic staff of the Faculty, in addition to the normal salary paid. This will apply to the teachers who join after retirement and also on Sabbatical leave.
 - b. To obtain the services of the consultants (visiting basis) on a payment of allowance together with a substantial allowance for traveling.
 - c. The Ministry to discuss with the Ministry of Health to get the doctors under the Ministry of Health who are recruited as academic staff promptly released.
 - d. The Ministry to discuss with the Ministry of Health to get the bonds of doctors in the Health Ministry who are selected for academic staff transferred to the Ministry of Higher Education without delay.

- e. The Ministry to discuss with the Ministry of Health to grant full pay study leave to employ the doctors who are on PGIM training programs, waiving the one year service rule.
- f. To attract senior academics from other medical faculties, local and foreign to spend their sabbatical leave by providing incentives.
- g. To provide accommodation (living quarters) to those who are employed as academic staff in a suitable location close to the hospital.

The Hon. Minister directed that a Cabinet Memorandum should be submitted seeking approval for the RUSL to employ medical professionals on special terms of conditions mentioned above in order to address the above issue. The university was advised to submit a draft Cabinet Memorandum for this purpose through the UGC to the Ministry.

4. Transportation of Medical Students – The Vice Chancellor informed that two buses are needed to transport the medical students between the faculty and the Teaching Hospital. It was decided to make a request by the Ministry to the Hon. Minister of Transport for donation of a bus.

5. Undergraduate Medical Education – The SLMC expressed concerns over the situation of the Eastern University Medical Faculty as well. Necessary information called from the University has not been received by the SLMC. UGC stated that the faculty will be advised to cooperate with the SLMC.

Prof. Malini Udupihille stated that the promises made at the meeting have not been implemented. The UGC continues to admit 180 students per batch. Doctors from the Health Department who are recruited are not released on time and there are problems with regard to medical officers who are bonded being released. There is no mechanism to transfer the bonds from one ministry to another. Para 2 has referred to the SLMC requiring teaching in Clinical Anatomy and not Anatomy. The Council members denied that it is the view of the Council.

Prof. Malini Udupihille was requested to write all the problems so that the Council could write to the Hon. Minister for Higher Education and if necessary, even to H.E. the President. Prof. Malini Udupihille agreed to write and stated that this is his medical school as he opened it.

6. Medical Graduates qualified abroad

The Secretary/Health Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage informed the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council that H.E. the President wishes to meet some members of the Council on Monday 24 November 2008 at Temple Trees with regard to the Act 16 examination. Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe, Dr. Nanda Amarasekera, Prof. Lalitha Mendis, Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva and Dr. N.J. Nonis participated on behalf of the Council. Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage, Dr. Ajith Mendis, Dr. Terence de Silva and Dr. Piyasena Samarakoon were present from the Health Ministry. There were about twenty (20) Act 16 candidates and some parents.

The candidates, who were following the 'Old Format' of the exam made presentation with regard to their grievances. The main allegations they made were:

- (i). The exam was not conducted in a transparent manner; (ii) The marks they obtain are not

divulged; (iii) The standard of the exam is too high, some questions being of 'MD' standard; (iv) Answer papers are not shown to them later and they do not know how they have performed; (v) Only about 10% of the candidates are passed at the exam; (vi) Doctors' children who sit for the exam are passed; (vii) Some of the candidates stated that they are working in the Army hospital and the Consultants have expressed that their knowledge and work is satisfactory; (viii) Most of them mentioned that they are failing in Paediatrics; (ix) A parent, who identified himself as an Ayurvedic Practitioner stated that they met Prof. Carlo Fonseka, Prof. Colvin Goonerathna and Prof. Malkanthi Chandrasekera and they stated that the exam was not fair.

The Minister stated that he gets complaints from the candidates regarding the conducting of the exam by the Medical Council. He criticized the GMOA, made allegations against the doctor who was killed in Batticaloa area and the PGIM etc. Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe stated that these are not relevant for the matter under discussion and it is not correct for the Minister to bring them up in this forum.

Council members informed H.E. the President and others that arrangements could be made for them to sit for the same MCQ papers held by the UGC for local undergraduates at the final MBBS exam but there was no response.

H.E. the President made a request that these medical graduates be given some coaching after they return and he was informed that the Council has already made representations to the Ministry in this regard to assign them to non-teaching hospitals and the Ministry has taken action.

In the end, Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe stated that he would arrange with a Paediatrician to meet the candidates individually with their answer papers and inform where they have made mistakes.

The Council discussed the report:

With regard to the courses, it was agreed that medical faculties could arrange courses for medical graduates qualified abroad when they are not involved with training of local undergraduates. The Council decided to address letters to the faculties and Academic Colleges and the information regarding such courses to be conveyed individually to candidates who fail the exam repeatedly. The Council cannot take responsibility for the contents of the course but the charges should be reasonable.

The Council decided to inform the candidates individually of the final mark at the exam. Their performance in different components could be told to them individually. Regarding the allegation that the standard of the exam is too high, the representatives at the meeting offered to have the same papers as the final MBBS but there was no response.

It was agreed to write to the UGC and request whether the Common Merit Exam papers for local faculties could be supplied for the ERPM papers in clinical subjects. A separate paper would be held for them in Community Medicine, Forensic Medicine and Pathology as at present.

The allegation that only 10% of the candidates pass was not correct. It was decided that the analysis of the performance of candidates from different medical schools should be made available to the public.

7. Professional Conduct Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Professional Conduct Committee held on 05 December 2008 was circulated.

The Chairman with seven members, the Registrar and Asst. Registrar were present.

The Committee considered twelve (12) reports forwarded by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee. It decided to conduct formal inquiries in three cases and against conducting formal inquiries in eight cases. In the other case, which was reported by the Director General of Health Services, the Committee decided that there was insufficient evidence to conduct a formal inquiry and that an audit of the work of the person against whom the complaint was made should be conducted by the Ministry. The Committee also decided to write to the PGIM that it should have taken note of the foreign trainers that the person was un-trainable.

ADDITIONS TO REGISTERS 2008

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS	
1.1 Full Registration (Section 29)	- 917
1.2 Provisional Registration (Section 32)	-1233
1.3 Temporary Registration (Section 67A)	- 113
1.4 Registration under Act No. 15	- 00
2. DENTISTS	
2.1 (Section 43)	- 136
2.2 Temporary Registration (Section 67A)	- 03
3. PERSONS ENTITLED TO PRACTISE MEDICINE AND SURGERY (Section 41)	- 15
4. PHARMACISTS (Section 56)	- 455
5. NURSES (SECTION 61)	
5.1 Female Nurses Part A	-1751
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5.4 Qualified abroad	- 00
5.4 Temporary Registration (Section 67A)	- 79
6. MIDWIVES (Section 51)	-1114
7. PARA – MEDICAL ASSISTANTS (Section 60A)	- 23
7.1 Audiologists	- 00
7.2 Electrocardiograph Recordists	- 02
7.3 Ophthalmic Auxiliaries	- 04
7.4 Speech Therapists	- 02
7.5 Clinical Psychologists	- 06
7.6 Nutritionists	- 04
7.7 Dieticians	- 03
7.8 Electroencephalograph Recordists	- 02
8. PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE (Section 60F)	- 157
8.1 Physiotherapists	- 26
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8.3 Medical Laboratory Technologists	- 105
8.4 Occupational Therapists	- 02

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.

Meetings on 18 July, 12 August, 21 August and 05 September

The Committee considered the replies to a questionnaire circulated to all medical faculties and the replies were considered and a report submitted to Council with regard to: The number of students selected per batch, Staff distribution in each department; Curricula; Infrastructure and Student Welfare facilities, Evaluations.

Meeting on 28 August

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: Admission of students; Teaching of Anatomy; Attraction of Staff from other

faculties; Teaching by clinical staff attached to the hospital; Facilities at Teaching Hospital and Transport of students between the Faculty/Hostels and Teaching Hospital.

Meeting on 12 September

The Committee discussed with members of the Board of Management of the PGIM the on-line courses leading to the award of M.Sc., without 'hands-on' training for the courses in Toxicology and Sports Medicine.

Meeting on 17 September

The Committee discussed the appeal for continuation of the 'Old Format' of the ERPM by the candidates and the Hands-on training for postgraduate courses conducted by the PGIM discussed at the meeting on 12 September.

INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

Meeting on 18 March

The Committee discussed the details of the Supervised Hands-On Training programme for internship with regard to the specialties and units available, date of implementation, further discussion with Ministry officials.

Meeting on 05 November

The Committee discussed the applications of five persons for exemption from internship in Sri Lanka and made recommendations to the Council.

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 un-registered 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:

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 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

I. 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. Complaint against 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 Gonococcus 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 practise 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 foreign trainer who informed that the person was un-trainable.

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

ERPM PART A – APRIL 2008

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NEW FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
PAPER 1 & 2	256	01	87	34.12%
PAPER 3	248	02	45	18.29%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES SAT THE EXAM **- 267**

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES COMPLETED THE EXAM **- 82**

REFERRED IN PAPER 1 & 2 **- 8**

REFERRED IN PAPER 3 **- 12**

OLD FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
MEDICINE & PSYCHIATRY	26	01	02	8.00%
SURGERY	04	01	00	0%
OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY	19	01	00	0%
PAEDIATRICS	39	01	00	0%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	31	01	02	6.67%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	10	01	1	10.00%
PATHOLOGY	03	01	00	0%

NO. COMPLETTING EXAMINATION **- 01**

**SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
ERPM PART A – SEPTEMBER 2008**

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NEW FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
PAPER 1 & 2	253	04	57	22.9%
PAPER 3	251	05	27	11.0%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES SAT THE EXAM **- 265**

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES COMPLETED THE EXAM **- 57**

REFERRED IN PAPER 1 & 2 **- 04**

REFERRED IN PAPER 3 **- 09**

OLD FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
MEDICINE & PSYCHIATRY	25	01	01	4.2%
SURGERY	07	00	00	0%
OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY	23	01	03	13.6%
PAEDIATRICS	40	00	00	0%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	31	01	07	23.3%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	13	00	1	8.3%
PATHOLOGY	05	00	00	0%

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
ERPM PART – B
MARCH/APRIL – 2008

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NEW FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
CLINICAL SECTION	45	01	19	43.2%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	21	00	13	61.9%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	22	00	11	50.0%
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	32	00	20	62.5%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
SAT THE EXAM - 60

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
COMPLETED THE EXAM - 29 (48.3%)

OLD FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
MEDICINE	16	03	00	0%
SURGERY	20	04	01	6.3%
PAEDIATRICS	12	04	02	25.0%
OBS. & GYN.	18	02	05	31.3%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	10	04	05	83.3%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	07	05	0	0%

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
ERPM PART – B
JUNE/JULY – 2008

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NEW FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
CLINICAL SECTION	108	02	54	50.0%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	98	01	48	49.0%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	92	01	65	70.7%
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	95	01	69	72.6%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
SAT THE EXAM - 112

NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
COMPLETED THE EXAM - 38

OLD FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
MEDICINE	18	03	00	0%
SURGERY	19	06	01	5.2%
PAEDIATRICS	08	00	04	50.0%
OBS. & GYN.	14	05	03	21.4%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	04	01	00	0%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	05	02	01	20.0%

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
ERPM PART – B NOVEMBER/DECEMBER – 2008

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

NEW FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
CLINICAL SECTION	110	05	66	60.00%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	99	03	70	70.70%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	85	03	57	67.05%
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	83	02	52	62.65%

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
SAT THE EXAM - 131
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
COMPLETED THE EXAM - 61 (46.56%)

OLD FORMAT

SUBJECTS	NO APPLIED	NO ABSENT	NO PASSED	% PASS
MEDICINE	20	03	07	35%
SURGERY	16	02	06	37.50%
PAEDIATRICS	08	02	03	37.05%
OBS. & GYN.	14	02	07	50.00%
COMMUNITY MEDICINE	12	02	02	16.66%
FORENSIC MEDICINE	03	01	0	00.00%

TOTAL NUMBER CANDIDATES SAT THE EXAM - 44
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES COMPLETED THE EXAM – 07 (15.90%)

REPORT ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS

ELECTION OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL

Three members of the Council elected under Section 12 (1) (c) of the Medical Ordinance, Dr. Nanda Amarasekera, Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva and Dr. D.W. Weerasooriya were due to complete their term on 14 January 2008 and an election was announced in November 2007. Five persons registered under Section 29 submitted nominations, Dr. Sidney Jayasuriya, Dr. Nanda Amarasekera, Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr. H.B.J.C. Ariyaratne and Dr. W.M.G.W. Udangawe.

The Council decided to send ballot papers to all eligible to vote and 15,375 ballot papers were dispatched by registered post. The closing date for returning the vote was extended from 11 January 2008 to 25 January 2008 in view of postal delays. Marked ballot papers, 471 were handed over in person and 416 were received by post. The counting of votes took place on 26 January 2008 and the votes received were as follows:

Dr. Sidney Jayasuriya	-	270
Dr. Nanda Amarasekera	-	547
Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva	-	601
Dr. H.B.J.C. Ariyaratne	-	445
Dr. W.M.G.W. Udangawe	-	416

Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr. Nanda Amarasekera and Dr. H.B.J.C. Ariyaratne were declared duly elected to the three posts.

FEES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Act 16 Completion Certificate	- Rs. 2500/-
2. Insertion of Additional Qualifications	- Rs. 3000/-
3. Apprentice Pharmacists - Registration	- Rs. 1500/-
- To issue extract	- Rs. 500/-
4. Approval of Degrees – Medical Graduates qualified abroad	- Rs. 7500/-
5. Certificate of Good Standing – Normal	- Rs. 3500/-
- Urgent	- Rs. 5000/-
6. Change of Name	- Rs. 1000/-
7. Identity Card	- Rs. 500/-
8. Issuing of Certified Extract from Register	- Rs. 2500/-
9. Nurses Confirmation Certificate	- Rs. 3000/-
10. Recognition of Medical School	- Rs. 50000/-
11. Restoration of Name	- Rs. 2500/-
12. Renewal of Registration	- Rs. 2500/-
13. Internship Certificate	- Rs. 1000/-
14. Certifying signature on documents	- Rs. 100/-
15. Act 16 Examination (ERPM)	

Old Format

MCQ examination - per subject	- Rs. 500/-
Clinical Examination – per subject	- Rs. 1500/-
Viva Voce - per subject	
Forensic Medicine/ Community Medicine	- Rs. 750/-
Emergency Medicine	- Rs. 1000/-

New Format

MCQ Examination – Papers 1 & 2	- Rs. 3500/-
Paper 3	- Rs. 1500/-
Clinical Examination	- Rs. 6500/-
Viva Voce -	
Forensic Medicine/ Community Medicine	- Rs. 750/-
Emergency Medicine	- Rs. 1000/-
16. Application Forms	- Rs. 20/-

AUDITOR'S REPORT - 2008

P.E. MATHEW & CO.,

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

94 1/4., YORK STREET. COLOMBO-1

TO THE MEMBERS OF SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

We have audited the balance sheet of Sri Lanka Medical Council as at December 31, 2008 and the related statements of income and expenditure and receipts and payments for the year then ended, together with the accounting policies and notes as set out on pages 02 to 11.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council Members and our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements, based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, which require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the said financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the said financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Council, evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements, and determining whether the said financial statements are prepared and presented in accordance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. We therefore believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion

In our opinion, so far as appears from our examination, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said balance sheet, related statements of income and expenditure and receipts and payments and notes thereto have been prepared and presented in accordance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards give a true and fair view of the Council's state of affairs as at December 31, 2008 and its income over expenditure for the year then ended.

The Council has maintained proper books of account and the said balance sheet and related statements of income and expenditure and receipts and payments are in agreement therewith and provide the information required by the Medical Ordinance and amendments thereto.

Sgd. Illegibly

Colombo.

May 13, 2009

R.A.Jayaweera, M.B.A., F.CA, F.S.C.M.A

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – 2008

1st quarter – January, February and March

Income	- Rs. 9,444,999.58
Expenditure	- <u>Rs. 4,761,699.05</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure	- Rs. 4,121,764.53
	=====

2nd quarter – April, May and June

Income	- Rs. 9,111,471.13
Expenditure	- <u>Rs.4,275,185.66</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure	- Rs. 4,743,805.47
	=====

3rd quarter – July, August and September

Income	- Rs. 9,184,510.31
Expenditure	- <u>Rs. 5,605,455.94</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure	- Rs. 3,291,124.37
	=====

4th quarter – October, November and December

Income	- Rs. 16,369,798.62
Expenditure	- <u>Rs. 5,527,125.55</u>
Excess Expenditure over Income	- Rs. 10,119,127.52
	=====

**TEMPORARY REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 67 A
OF THE MEDICAL ORDINANCE**

APOLLO HOSPITAL, COLOMBO

Medical Practitioners- 31

Anaesthetists	- 1
Asst. Anaesthetists	- 3
Cardiologists	- 1
Cardiac Surgeons	- 4
Cardiac Assistants	- 4
Dermatologists	- 1
ENT Surgeons	- 2
Haematologists	- 1
Nephrologists	- 1
Nuclear Med. Consultant	- 1
Neurologists	- 1
Obstetricians	- 1
Ophthalmologists	- 2
Orthopaed. Surgeons	- 1
Paediatricians	- 1
Physicians	- 2
Plastic Surgeons	- 1
Radiologists	- 2
Urologists	- 1
Dentists -	1
Nurses -	46

ASIANA EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Nurses - 2

ASIRI SURGICAL HOSPITAL, COLOMBO

Medical Practitioner/ Radiologist - 1
Nurses - 2

COLLEGE OF SURGEONS/OBSTETRICIANS/NHSL

Medical Practitioners - 16

Cardiologists	- 1
General Surgeons	- 7
ENT Surgeons	- 1
Neurosurgeons	- 1
Orthopaed. Surgeons	- 2
Obstetricians	- 4

DURDANS HOSPITAL, COLOMBO

Medical Practitioners - 10	
Cardiac Anaesthetists	- 1
Asst. Anaesthetists	- 2
Asst. Cardiac Surgeons	- 5
Cardiac Surgeons	- 2

FACULTY OF MEDICINE/ U. KELANIYA

Medical Practitioners - 3

FACULTY OF MEDICINE/ U. PERADENIYA

Medical Practitioners - 1

FACULTY OF MEDICINE/ U. RUHUNA

Medical Practitioners/ Physicians	- 8
Nurses	- 5

HEALTHY LIFE STYLES

Dentists - 1

JAPANESE EMBASSY

Medical Practitioners - 1

MEDICIENS SANS FRONTIERS

Medical Practitioners	
Anaesthetists	- 6
Surgeons	- 7
Obstetricians	- 1
Paediatricians	- 2
M.O.	- 1
Nurses	- 7

NAWALOKA HOSPITAL, COLOMBO

Medical Practitioners - 4	
Cardiac Surgeons	- 1 (12 occasions)
Cardiac Anaesthetists	- 1
Consultant in ART	- 1 (2 occasions)
Pathologists	- 1
Nurses - 10	

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Medical Practitioners – 1

RED CROSS SOCIETY

Medical Practitioners – 3

SAKURA DENTAL HOSPITAL

Dentists - 1

SRI LANKA EYE DONATION SOCIETY

Medical Practitioners - 1

This notice appeared in 'The Island' and 'Daily Mirror' of July 24, 'Sunday Observer' of July 27, and the 'Daily News' of July 28, 2008.

**NOTICE FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS REGISTERED
WITH THE SRI LANKAMEDICAL COUNCIL**

Regulations have been drafted regarding the issue of medical certificates to persons who are admitted to private medical institutions, where a Court orders a warrant of detention, commitment or remand of such a person.

The medical certificate has to be issued to the specimen in the schedule of the Regulations. The medical practitioner has to declare whether the person (suspect/remand prisoner) **is fit or not fit** to be transferred to the prison, the prison hospital, a public hospital or to be produced before the Court, as the case may be.

If the Court has reason to doubt the genuineness or the contents of the medical certificate issued by the medical practitioner, he shall order the suspect to be examined by a panel of not less than three specialists appointed by the Sri Lanka Medical Council, including one who has specialized in the disease or condition the suspect is suffering from.

The panel shall consult the medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate, request him to be present at the examination by the panel and ask for reasons for arriving at such a diagnosis and for his opinion.

After examination, the panel shall report whether the suspect is fit or not fit to be transferred to the prison, the prison hospital, a public hospital or to be produced before the Court. The Court shall order accordingly, unless for valid reasons to be recorded, it decides otherwise. If the recommendation of the medical practitioner differs from that of the panel, the Court shall refer the matter to the Medical Council for appropriate action.

The Council requests medical practitioners to take note of the regulations and act accordingly.

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

This notice appeared in the 'Daily Mirror' of July 21, 2008

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

ERPM PART A

Applications are called for Part A of the Examination for Registration to Practise Medicine in Sri Lanka to be held on 06 and 07 September 2008.

Eligibility: 1. Medical graduates who have obtained approval of the degree by the Council, following a five year undergraduate medical course.

2. Candidates who have sat before but not completed Part A.

3. Candidates who passed the Old Format of the exam but who have not completed all the written papers.

Application Forms are available at the Council office during working hours. The applications would close on Friday 08 August 2008 at 12.00 noon.

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

This notice in Sinhala appeared in the 'Divaina' newspaper on 22 December 2008

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that no individual or institution has made a request to the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) to approve a **complete** course of study to be conducted in Sri Lanka for the award of a medical degree.

For the practice of medicine in Sri Lanka, registration with the SLMC is mandatory. A degree from a recognized university is a requirement for registration.

Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris canal Road, Colombo 10.
Telephone: 2691848