Dear Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to 2013. I have no doubt that for many of you the year has already got started with a bang and the end of year break seems like something that happened years ago. The world didn’t end in December 2012 and life goes on. So too for our College. Another year of exciting prospects and new Diplomates and Fellows begins. I thought we would start this new series of this Newsletter by publishing the Colleges of Medicine’s Mission and Vision statements. I have recently done this for my Department and believe that there is much to be gained by promoting these statements of intent. They are more than nice to have visions of the future for an organisation but for those of us who are intimately involved in Organisations, they should be the fuel that drives our actions and deeds.

In addition I have included the Regulations as they pertain to FC Paed Part I and Part II in order to clarify the requirements for the examination. These should be familiar to all doctors who wish to enrol for a Paediatric higher degree. Finally, let me introduce one of our Colleges’ major role players, Prof Alan Davidson. Alan is the Chair of our Sub-Speciality Programme and is the person who twice annually has to convince many of us to examine and convene the sub-speciality certificate examinations. Thank you Alan for all this hard work.

I wish you all a great 2013 and trust you will maintain your relationship with our College. I look forward to seeing you at an exam soon!

Enjoy again!

Robin J Green

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INTRODUCING:
Associate Professor Alan Davidson

Alan qualified with a Diploma in Child Health (South Africa) in 1995, Fellow of the College of Paediatricians (South Africa) in 2001 and Certificate in Medical Oncology (Paediatrics) in 2004. He also holds a MPhil (University of Cape Town). He is Associate Professor, University of Cape Town and Head: Paediatric Haematology-Oncology. Alan serves on a number of Medical Committees including as Director of Postgraduate Education: Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town.

Alan has made a valuable contribution to Paediatrics through maintaining the standards of excellence and clinical results for which UCT is renowned, by managing human and material resources, and building relationships with the relevant specialty and sub-specialty services; notably surgery, haematology and anatomical pathology, and radiotherapy.

He has served on the Council of the College of Paediatrics of South Africa since 2008 and has taken an active role in the FCpaed II and Sub-specialty sub-committees. As a key member of the Sub-specialty sub-committee (which he now chairs), he has helped to produce a template that has been used to revise the structure of all the sub-specialty certificate exams. He was instrumental in devising logbooks for the Fellowship in Paediatrics and the Sub-specialty Certificate in Medical Oncology (Paediatrics) which served as a template for all sub-specialties.

From 2006 to 2010 he was Chair of the South African Children’s Cancer Study Group. Alan has published widely and has delivered many local and international Congress papers.

Prof. Alan Davidson (UCT)

CMSA: Mission and Goals

MISSION

1. To sustain and improve postgraduate medical education and training in Southern Africa as an independent examining body, recognised both nationally and internationally.

2. To play a continuing role in providing guidance on issues affecting medical standards and the structure and function of health care services.

3. To remain an autonomous body for promoting and maintaining ethical and professional standards.

GOALS

1. Examing/Accreditation Body

To be:

1.1 A national examining body for medical / and dental personnel, and if required, for the professions allied to medicine in South Africa and possibly in sub-Saharan Africa.

1.2 A body responsible for the approval of teaching and training facilities for purposes of accreditation.

2. Education

To provide:

2.1 Postgraduate medical and dental education, and if required, for the professions allied to medicine.

2.2 Assistance in recertification of medical and dental professionals.

3. Advisory

To advise on:

3.1 Medico-political issues.

3.2 Ethical issues.

3.3 Restructuring of health care.

4. Liaison/Networking

To establish appropriate contact at all levels of health care.
1. STRUCTURE

1.1 The examination comprises Part I and Part II: Part II must be passed within six years of passing Part I, failing which Part I will have to be repeated.

2. CONCURRENT ADMISSION TO PARTS I AND II

2.1 Part I and Part II may be taken concurrently if all training requirements for entry into Part I and Part II have been completed.

2.2 If the candidate at one and the same examination session passes Part I but fails Part II, he will receive credit for Part I and may proceed to Part II at a subsequent examination.

2.3 If the candidate at one and the same examination session fails Part I but passes Part II, no credit will be given for passing Part II.

3. ADMISSION TO THE PART I EXAMINATION (to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

3.1 The candidate must hold a post internship qualification to practise medicine which is registered or registrable with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

3.2 The CMSA Senate, through its Examinations and Credentials Committee, will review the eligibility of candidates (this may include their professional and ethical standing) before admission to the examination is accepted.

4. SYLLABUS

4.1 Basic Sciences and therapeutics of importance to the care of the paediatric age group, which includes:

4.1.1 The normal and abnormal growth and development of the infant and child.

4.1.2 The embryology and anatomy applicable to the above.

4.1.3 Relevant epidemiology, statistics, genetics, physiology, biochemistry, cell biology, patholog microbiology and pharmacology.

4.1.4 The principles of therapeutics.

NOTE: When accepted for the examination, candidates receive detailed guidelines on the syllabus.

5.0 CONDUCT OF THE PART I EXAMINATION

5.1 Paper 1: 3 hours
85 Multiple choice questions. These will consist of:
• 20 X-type (multiple true or false)
• 50 A-types (single correct answer)
• 15 R-types (extended matching questions)

5.2 Paper 2: 3 hours
6 scenario-based questions worth 30 marks each (approximately 30 minutes each), and requiring short answer responses ranging from 1 to 10 marks.

5.3 Paper 3: 3 hours
16 short notes type questions each worth 10 marks (approximately 11 minutes each). These questions will be similar in format to questions asked in previous exams.

5.4 All written papers will only be published in English.

5.5 Candidates retain the option of answering written examination questions in Afrikaans.
6. ADMISSION TO THE PART II EXAMINATION
(to be read in conjunction with the Instructions)

6.1 A candidate may be admitted to the Part II examination if he/she has:

6.1.1 passed Part I or intends taking Parts I and II concurrently
6.1.2 been qualified to practise medicine for a period of not less than five years, including the two years of internship
6.1.3 completed a minimum of 30 months of full-time training in an approved paediatric registrar post with an HPCSA registrar number
6.1.4 evidence of completion of either the APLS or PALS course, within the 5 years preceding application to the examination

6.2 The CMSA may accept part-time training that constitutes up to 50% of the candidates total training time as a registrar provided that the candidate has undertaken this training in a part-time training programme that has been approved by the Health Professions Council of South Africa and the candidate submits evidence to this effect

6.3 Submitted a Portfolio (applicable to registrars who commenced training from 1 January 2011)

7. SYLLABUS FOR THE PART II EXAMINATION

7.1 In broad terms the examination will cover the principles and practise of paediatrics and child health

7.2 When accepted for the examination, candidates will receive detailed guidelines on the syllabus

8. CONDUCT OF THE PART II EXAMINATION

8.1 A written examination comprising three papers, each of 3 hours duration:

8.1.1 Paper 1: a written data interpretation test, will consist of 20 questions, each worth 10 marks (Approximately 9 minutes each).

Paper 2: will consist of 16 short notes type questions, worth 10 marks (approximately 11 minutes each)

Paper 3: will consist of 4 Scenario-based questions worth 40 marks (approximately 45 minutes each, and requiring short answer responses ranging from 1 to 10 marks)

8.1.2 All written papers will only be published in English

8.1.3 Candidates retain the option of answering written examination questions in Afrikaans

The mark for section 8.1 will be derived from a combination of the three written papers

8.2 A clinical examination comprising: three cases studied at the bedside. The cases are presented to the examiners and discussions will include a comprehensive review of the clinical conditions and the relevant special investigations and management

8.3 The written and clinical sections will each count for 50% of the final mark. The distribution of the marks for the three written papers will be 16.6% each (data interpretation, short notes and scenario based questions).

8.4 The minimum written examination mark for invitation to the clinical examination is an average \( \geq 45\% \) for the full written examination PLUS candidates must pass 2 of the 3 written papers (ie a subminimum of 50% in 2 of the 3 papers).
The Final Word

Website
Please go to the website and view our activities.
www.collegepaeds.ac.za