

Editorial II

YOUR PORTFOLIO

A portfolio is the evidence of achievements against the planned outcomes of your professional life. It is somewhat similar to a log book which we use to document learning experiences. The difference is that the portfolio builder adds on a reflection to the experiences gained. These reflections can be descriptive, analytical or evaluative.

A portfolio as an assessment method has been used in the fine arts and architecture for many years. Its use to medical professionals is quite recent, and is now regularly used at undergraduate, post graduate and continuing education levels. It is a flexible assessment method currently used in undergraduate schools for both formative and summative assessment. The current wave of interest in portfolio assessment is due to its potential to assess performance and also outcomes such as attitudes and professionalism.

The Board of study in Anaesthesiology is planning to use a portfolio as a formative assessment tool in the future for the postgraduates. There is a prescription set for the contents of a portfolio for the postgraduates in anaesthesia and it should contain evidence of achieving the learning outcomes of training in anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine.

Portfolio building by an individual will encourage self directed learning, reflection on practice and self assessment. It will promote creativity and problem solving skills. It will identify to an assessor the strengths and weaknesses of a student and a 'struggling' performer. The disadvantages of

portfolio building are the large amount of paper work involved and the amount of time taken to complete. This could be overcome by an e based portfolio. As an assessment tool, it would be difficult to identify whether the work submitted belongs to the person and whether an individual would reveal his/her weaknesses. There is also an ethical issue of the privacy and confidentiality of personal documents submitted.

There is current interest in Sri Lanka and the rest of the world regarding continuing professional development. Revalidation of profession is talked of in some countries and the process would be based, in most parts, on a portfolio assessment. Therefore all medical professionals would benefit by collecting their own portfolio.

References

1. Davis MH et al. Portfolio based learning and assessment in medical education, *Medical Teacher*, **22(4)**, 370-386
2. General Medical Council (2000) Revalidating doctors: Ensuring standards, Securing the future (London, GMC)

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THE COLLEGE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS OF SRI LANKA

CME LECTURE SERIES – 2011

Every third Saturday of the month

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Venue: Dept of Surgery Lecture Hall, NHSL

THE COLLEGE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS OF SRI LANKA

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Venue: LRH New Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Accident Service Building, LRH

Course commences – 5th February 2011 (3 weekends)

Part 1 B February – 2011

Venue: LRH New Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Accident Service Building, LRH

Course commences – 12th February 2011 (10 weekends)

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