
From The Desk of Principal

Continuing Medical Education (CME) is not a new concept. It refers to a form of education where doctors maintain their competence and continuously try to learn and attain new developments in their relevant fields. CME can be accomplished as workshops, print media, online learning, audio, video and other electronic media. These CME programmes are developed and administered by organizations/faculties who are expert in their respective fields.

In the developed countries, the idea of CME evolved in the early nineteen century. In USA a certifying agency was constituted as the “Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education”. It represents academic associations from USA, Canada, Great Britain and Europe.

CME is the most important factor for ones professional development. In North America professional development of physicians is assessed by their participation in CME programmes. In USA, CME is mandatory not only for certification but also for maintenance of professional licenses. For maintenance of professional licences, on an average every physician has to earn 40 hours of CME every 2 years. In Canada the CME requirement is even strict and stringent.

In Pakistan the situation is desolate and depressing. There is no legal requirement of CME for professional development. Lack of legal requirement of CME is one of the factors responsible for the deterioration of medical education in Pakistan. In that analogy, we have been able to establish a Department of Medical Education at Punjab Medical College, Faisalabad. It is responsible for monitoring the medical education, research activities and development of curricula in the Institution. Soon we shall be able to develop and implement the CME requirements for our faculty and that is the way to success.

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