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officiated by

Y.B Datuk Rosnah Haji Abdul Rashid Shirlin
Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia

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QUALITY OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS: “TOO MANY DOCTORS”

Kandasami P

Department of Surgery, International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Sustained economic growth in the last few decades has resulted in the demand for better medical services in Malaysia, thereby creating a 'shortage of doctors'. In responding to the 'shortage', the government approved the rapid expansion of medical schools; furthermore the Medical Council recognized several medical schools in foreign countries to facilitate aspiring doctors. As a consequence, the number of new medical graduates increased exponentially and today Malaysia with a population of 27 million produces more than 4,000 medical graduates annually. The high increase in medical graduates resulted in inadequate training opportunities for house officers. The medical profession has expressed serious concerns over the situation. The questions being posed include: Have we produced too many doctors? Have we sacrificed standards and quality for quantity? Should the authorities introduce an appraisal system to assess the quality of doctors before they are admitted into the Malaysian Medical Register? This paper will address some of these complex issues facing medical education and medical graduates.