

Volume 6, No. 1 (Supplement)

June 2011

ISSN 1823-2140

The National University
with an INTERNATIONAL REACH



UNIVERSITI
KEBANGSAAN
MALAYSIA
National University of Malaysia

MEDICINE & Health

The Official Journal of The Faculty of Medicine UKM

7th Malaysia Indonesia Brunei Medical Sciences Conference "TOWARDS A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATIVE APPROACH IN HEALTHCARE"



22nd - 24th July 2011

Equatorial Hotel, Bangi, Selangor,
MALAYSIA

officiated by

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Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia

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EVOLVING FACE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN BRUNEI PRIMARY CARE

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Background:

The MScPHC Programme at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) was initiated by the joint collaboration of (i) the Department of Community Health Sciences (General Practice), St. George's Hospital Medical School (SGHMS now SGUL), London, (ii) Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam and (iii) UBD in an Agreement signed on 21st September 1999. The programme aims were to monitor the participants' progress through the course by competence and performance assessments and to award a Master's of Science in Primary Health Care (MscPHC) to successful participants.

Material & Methods:

The 3 year MScPHC programme is highly academic and is delivered in a modular format. It is now well balanced with supervised clinical training in the hospitals because it runs concurrently with the Vocational Training Scheme (VTS) which is compulsory rotations of two years in the hospital and one year in general practice setting for local general practitioners (GP).

Results:

The teaching responsibilities were handed over to a group of selected GP registrars who had passed the PG Dip PHC with merit and were identified by the UK team. These tutors were trained closely with regular feedback and supervision till finally in 2008 the course was handed over completely to the local staff at the UBD. Currently the course which was mostly based on National Health Systems UK and delivery has now rounded off intricately into a more holistic course in educating the local GP on medical, social and cultural issues that are relevant to the local setting.

Conclusion:

The MScPHC also has incorporated the UBD vision and mission in enhancing the culture of research in general practitioners in Brunei Darussalam. Brunei has thus shown giant strides in providing evidence based care and training of their GP faculty to match global standards.

Keywords:

Masters of Science Primary Health Care programme (MScPHC); Primary Health Care Services; General Practitioners; training