

DO WE NEED CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION?

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Sadly, so many doctors feel fully satisfied after graduation. They use to say good bye to all scientific activities; selling or throwing their books in the nearby river because they got the certificate on which they can survive. This is, no doubt, an amputation of a vital practice and should be considered as odd if not foolish. As a Muslim, I should never forget the great sayings of our great Prophet: "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave" and "Go in quest of knowledge even unto China"

Personally, I feel that learning begins when one start practicing, and graduation is the first step in a long journey which ends by reaching the cemetery.

Life is a school in which we learn every day. Needless to say, this is particularly true in medical practice where new advancements and accomplishments are continuously occurring within days if not hours. We have to learn every day, a day which passes without learning should not be counted as a part of our life.

Day by day, knowledge and experience should escalate, and achieving this goal is not always easy. Sometimes, great effort and a strong desire are needed to improve the honest care of our dear patients.

It is really delicious to have the feeling of becoming much more knowledgeable, wise, competent, capable of following recent advances, fully aware of what is up-to-date and capable of sharing discussion even with those in the very advanced countries.

On the contrary, the feeling should be sick and sad, if we become retarded and loose the link with recent developments and advances in medical practice. To me, this is not only intolerable but is even hateful; and I do not want to survive with this feeling.

Naturally, we as human beings, have the tendency to rest, to play and to live at our leisure rather than to work, to follow and to stay active. Such a tendency should be resisted by all means. This can only be achieved by self-training which should be strengthened every day. That means we have to stick to the policy of daily reading, writing, and listening to the advices of the pioneers. We, also, should not forget to praise the Internet which is really a mercy from the Almighty God.

We should admire people with top grades of scientific levels. Dreams during the day will not see the light and will never come to existence without enthusiasm.

Daily discussion with senior or even junior colleagues is really beneficial even for what we are pretty sure about. Attending conferences and scientific meetings to exchange ideas with others is mandatory.



Although the inner motive and personal interest is still alive in some of our colleagues, we have to insist on the policy of recertification, continuous monitoring and re-evaluation, at least, every three years. A score is needed before promotions for higher levels, and particularly for financial support.

Re-certification will certainly protect our dear patients from disasters of malpractice which is the expected outcome of the lack of keeping pace with recent advances and with the tendency to stay retarded. Those who insist to stay away from recent advances should also stay away from practice. They should be kept suspended till they come back to the correct path. Ignorance in recent advances is not an excuse for malpractice which usually hurts the body and the psyche of our patients.

Staying stagnant and static is a real disaster for our respected career. We have to realize, the more we learn, the better will be the outcome of our medical service.

It comes without question, we as human beings are in need for some sort of stimulation (bonus) or promotion. If this does not work in keeping us in the proper track, then punishment or underscoring might be the right measure. A required score should be reached by any one of us; otherwise a punishment is the answer.

Finally, it is well known to everybody that a well educated doctors are always confident, wise and pretty sure of their steps. While, those who are retarded will remain hesitant, unwise and live within a vicious circle of darkness.

Depending on what is mentioned above, continuous medical education is a necessity for those in general practice and the specialists alike.