

Editorial

F. C. P. S. Cardiology

The institution of the postgraduate qualification of FCPS Cardiology (Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan) is a welcome step. Also, very laudable is the attempt to define the nature and duration of training in the many clinical and investigative aspects of this speciality.

Presently, the requirements for FCPS Cardiology include a general medicine training equal to that required for FCPS Medicine (but not FCPS Medicine qualification) followed by two years training in a recognized cardiology institution. The Cardiology training requires besides clinical cardiology, rotation in an active cardiac surgery department and experience and development of expertise in the various non-invasive and invasive diagnostic techniques and their optimal utilization.

It is suggested that to re-enforce the necessity of general medicine expertise it be made mandatory for candidates to have obtained their FCPS Medicine first before being allowed to sit in their FCPS Cardiology examination (but FCPS Medicine qualification should not be required to start FCPS Cardiology training). Then, the FCPS Cardiology examination could be changed to a pure cardiology examination without any general medicine in it as the candidate would already possess FCPS Medicine. While FCPS Cardiology would aim to produce a competent and well rounded cardiologist, for those cardiologists who wish to independently run cardiac catheterization laboratories and practice interventional cardiology, a further one year of work in a properly functioning cardiac catheterization laboratory of the training institution should be made compulsory. Some of these changes would fall within the sphere of CPSP and some within the purview of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.

One very important offshoot of the start of FCPS Cardiology is the fact that for the first time we are beginning to ask the question as to what is the minimum training for a cardiologist and more importantly, who is a qualified cardiologist. Also the PMDC and the College of Physicians and Surgeons shall now have to determine foreign qualifications equivalent to FCPS Cardiology. Bon Voyage !

Editor