Emerging Physiotherapy Regulation
Sri Lanka

Sanjeewa Tunpattu
BSc, DipPT, Cer.LSPwD(Japan), Cer.THP, MSLSP

Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy
Objectives

• To introduce:
  • Health system in Sri Lanka
  • Physiotherapy profession in Sri Lanka
  • Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy
  • Way forward for an independent regulatory system for Physiotherapy
Health System in Sri Lanka

• several systems of medicine exists together
  – Allopathic
  – Ayurvedic
  – Unani
  – Traditional
  – Others...

• State and Private sector
Health System in Sri Lanka

State Sector

Private Sector

Preventive

Rehabilitative

Curative

Preventive

Rehabilitative

Curative
Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- Commenced in 1950 by PTs from UK

- Sri Lankan PT students Trained oversees (UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand)

(Fernando 1987)
Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- About 500 PTs
- Work in;
  - State Hospitals
  - Private Hospitals
  - NGOs
  - Sport Institutions
  - Others
Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka Education

• Diploma in Physiotherapy (2 years)
  – 1957
  – School of Physiotherapy, Ministry of Health
  – Curriculum approved by the Charted Society of Physiotherapy UK
Physiotherapy Education in Sri Lanka

• BSc Physiotherapy (4 years)

- 2006
  1. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya.
  2. Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

- 2012
  3. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University
Physiotherapy Education in Sri Lanka

(For Diploma holders)

• **BSc (Physiotherapy) (2 years top up degree)**
  - 2014
  - Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

• **Lateral Entry to the BSc Physiotherapy**
  - 2014
  - University of Colombo
  - General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University
Professional Organizations for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy (SLSP)
  - 1980
  - Professional Body
  - Member of the WCPT since 2003

- Government Physiotherapist’s Association (GPA)
  - Trade Union
  - 1957
History of Physiotherapy Regulation in Sri Lanka

• Not available till 1987.
• Membership of the Charted Society of Physiotherapy UK (1950 – 1996)
• CSP UK registration stopped from 1996
Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- BSc./ Dip PT
- Sri Lanka Medical College Council
- Sri Lanka Medical Council
Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

• The Ceylon Medical Council (CMC) was established by the Medical Council Ordinance Act No. 24 of 1924.

• The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) was established by the Medical (Amendment) Act No. 40 of 1998
Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

• **Purpose of SLMC**
  • “protecting health care seekers by ensuring the maintenance of academic and professional standards, discipline and ethical practice by health professionals who are registered with it.”

• **Council of SLMC**
  • representation from medical faculties of the state universities as well as from professionals in the state and private sector.
Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

- The Medical (Amendment) Act No. 30 of 1987 makes provision for the registration of Para-medical Assistants.
- Radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, electrocardiograph recordists, audiologists, clinical physiologists, speech therapists, chiropodists, dieticians, ophthalmic auxiliaries and clinical psychologists.
Current regulatory system for Physiotherapy in Sri Lanka

• The Medical (Amendment) Act No. 40 of 1998 makes provision to register as professions supplementary to medicine
• radiographers, medical laboratory technologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists
Limitations of current regulatory system

• Boards of MCC and SLMC do not include any PT professional.
• Inappropriate evaluation of the entry level qualifications at MCC.
• No system for re-evaluate the skills / competencies.
• Inappropriate measures to prevent the counterfeit practice.
Way forward

• Year 2000 – Proposal for an Independent regulatory body for Physiotherapy profession in Sri Lanka

• Year 2003 - WCPT membership
Way forward

• Upgrading the entry level education of the PT profession -2006
  – BSc PT programs

• Upgrading the level education of the practicing PTs with Dip PT - 2013/14
  – Lateral entry to the BSc PT programs
  – BSc PT (external) program
Way forward

• Development of the Code of Ethics for PTs - 2014
Way Forward

intermediate actions

• Proposed to SLMCC and SLMC to include representatives from SLSP.
• Proposed to SLMCC and SLMC to conduct an examination to assess the knowledge and skills of applicants of unknown entry level educational programs.
• Conduct evaluation of Sri Lankan entry level educational programs as appropriate.
Way Forward
intermediate actions

• Request an established international regulatory body to provide support SLSP to implement the regulatory system (SLPC)

  – E.g.. Provision an affiliation to SLSP/SLPC
Thank You