Abstract for HSCP research meeting  (poster presentation)

Title: Review of CPD in Medical Laboratory Science Profession

Academy of Medical Laboratory Science (AMLS) CPD Sub-Committee

Contact mail@amls.ie

Irene.regan@olchc.ie

Introduction

Continuous professional development (CPD) is defined as the continued education outside of formal training with the means of demonstrating ongoing commitment to continuing education and professional development.

Objective

The objective of this audit was to review the CPD available to AMLS members, to assess participation of AMLS members in CPD activities and to make recommendations.

Method

Participation in CPD organised by the AMLS is designed to enhance scientific knowledge and appropriate expertise, acknowledge formal recognition of professional / educational activities and to keep abreast of changes and developments in the field of Medical Science. CPD includes activities, e.g. courses, conferences and workshops, as well as journal club participation, scientific publications, lecturing and teaching. CPD is a three-year cycle. Participants are required to obtain 150 points during that time. A number of initiatives have been performed by the AMLS to increase participation in CPD. These include on-line CPD and on-site (hospital visits) CPD training workshops. An audit of CPD participation for AMLS members was performed by the AMLS office. A review, which included a survey, of the 2013 Annual Conference was performed by the AMLS CPD sub-committee.

Results

The Academy of Medical Laboratory Science (AMLS) has a long established CPD programme with its official launch in 1998. Currently there are 1,200 AMLS members, 78% of whom are currently registered for ‘on-line’ CPD. The AMLS organised 11 Hospital Laboratory visits (since May 2013) to promote CPD and train members, resulting in additional 100 CPD registrants and 56 journal club editors. Recommendations have been made for future conferences following a review of the 2013 National Conference. It is difficult to assess the CPD status of Medical Scientists who are not members of the AMLS, however, accreditation bodies recommend CPD as a requirement for all staff involved in Laboratory Accreditation.

Conclusions

CPD consists of any educational activity which helps to maintain, develop or increase knowledge, problem-solving, technical skills or professional performance standards all with the goal that members can provide better standards in their applied role. However, there are challenges to ensure and assess full participation. The AMLS have been working to improve the types of CPD offered and
participation. CPD will also be a requirement for Statutory Registration for Allied Healthcare Professionals.