Challenges for Clinical Leaders in Hospital Practice

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To be a competent and compassionate clinician with empathy is the aspiration of every physician. In hospital practice the outcome of one's treatment depends on the collective effort of the team caring for the patient. The cooperation of the pathologist, radiologist, and many other medical colleagues as well as the nursing and other paramedical staff is essential for a successful outcome. Naturally, the consultant in charge will be the leader of such a team. Medical officers of different grades of seniority and other hospital staff with their own outlook to the service will have to be managed by the leader in such a way that the patients' welfare takes priority. The physician needs training for this onerous task of providing leadership.

The workshop on medical leadership at the recently held annual sessions of the Ceylon College

of Physicians and the incorporation of an hour-long discussion of case scenarios based on failed medical leadership at every outstation meeting of the CCP is a welcome move to develop leadership skills among physicians. The booklet, edited by three experienced physicians, P L Ariyananda, A S Dissanayake and D Munidasa, is based on twenty case scenarios of failed medical leadership with discussions on how to prevent and overcome such situations. The scenarios are contributed by ten physicians with a breadth of experience. These discussions cover clinical situations of failed interpersonal relationships, disagreements with the administration officials, place of leadership role for the nursing staff, the need to know the laws of the country and conflict resolution. It is a practical guide to all physicians playing a leadership role in the care of patients.

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