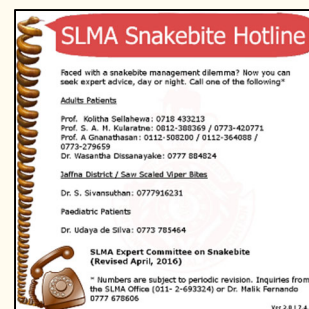


Ver. 3 -2022

- **SLMA Snakebite Hotline.** Revived in July 2010; provides telephone numbers of SBC members available 24/7 for resolving management dilemmas and help with snake identification. Publicized through Newsletters of SLMA and College of Physicians. (Status: A positive response but poor, suggesting that the news of the existence of this facility has not reached those treating snakebite. An aggressive promotional campaign is deemed necessary – such as, for a start, laminated posters for display in hospital ETUs, ICUs and medical wards. Was unable to raise funding owing to difficulty in ensuring sustainability.) The Hotline was improved and made web-based in 2017 but a software problem interfered with clear display. The format has been changed for the 2021 version available now.
- **Promotion of Sri Lanka species-specific anti-venom.** A number of initiatives were started only to fail to gain permits for necessary activities such as collection of snakes, establishment of herpetaria etc. (Status: There is one such project current (as of November 2017), at the stage of a dose-finding clinical trial, involving two SBC members independent of the committee.) These projects are proceeding.
- **Management guidelines for treatment of envenoming by other venomous animals and insects.** This is a new initiative that expands the aims and objectives stated above responding to a perceived need. One article was received: *Management of Hymenoptera* (bee & wasp) Stings and published in the SLMA Newsletter (March 2011). (Status: Not proceeded with.)
- **Updating the 1983 CMJ Symposium.** A series of CMJ articles on various snakebite-related topics were planned and articles were called for. (Status: The Committee was unable to proceed with this project on the lines planned. However, updating of the Snakebite Management Guidelines that is now in progress will cover many of the areas proposed at that time.)
- **Forming of partnerships with NGO's. Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL)** is a public interest law firm working in the environment sector. They had a National Snakebite Awareness Programme in 2010. The SBC teamed up with them (informally) to improve the quality and accuracy of their publications by providing specialised inputs (such as stressing the seriousness of hump-nosed viper bites that was first highlighted by Prof. Sellahewa) and providing editorial help in English posters and booklets. In return, SBC members were able to use the platforms they provided to reach out to the public, and some hospital staff – in the English and Sinhala media.



The SBC is currently helping the **Wildlife & Nature Protection Society (WNPS)** by providing its Snakebite Prevention & First Aid booklet text for use in the schools outreach programmes of the WNPS Youth Wing. Printing of booklets in the three languages for distribution to schools throughout the country is planned.