



SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE PROFESSION - SERVING THE NATION

Annual Report 2023





Sri Lanka Medical Association

Annual Report - 2023

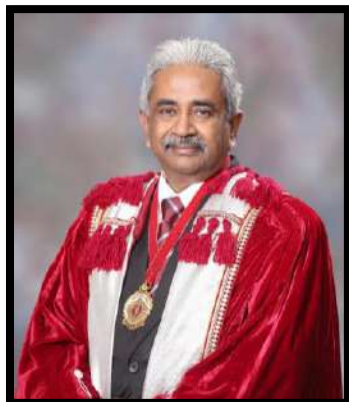
“Wijerama House”, No. 6, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

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FOREWORD



It is with great pleasure that I write this Foreword for the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) for the year 2023.

Completing a tenure of office as the President of our country's premier medical association is a journey laden with challenges, tasks, duties, and milestones. It is a position of immense honour and responsibility, offering a platform to influence change, advocate for advancements, and help to shape the future of healthcare.

I was elected as the 129th President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) on 23rd of December 2022. It was with great pride and sincere humility I took on that responsibility. It was not an easy task to follow the giant footsteps of my predecessors whose competence and commitment brought this prestigious organization to what it is today.

I and the Council for 2023 proposed as the theme for the year, **'Towards Humane Healthcare: Excellence, Equity, and Community'**. It was not a mere theme but a fervent call to action.

The broader socio-economic and political context at the time of assuming the Presidency was complex, daunting, and challenging. The severe impact of the economic crisis was beginning to be evident in the form of shortages of medicines, reagents, consumables, and equipment. There was evidence of rising cost of prices of medicines and escalation of out-of-pocket expenditure for our patients. There were definitive signs of a looming crisis in the health sector with exodus of medical personnel to other countries. Immediate attention was required to fulfil the mandate of the SLMA of *"Serving the nation – Serving the profession"*. Building on the great work carried out by previous Presidents of SLMA during the crisis ridden years. I had the full backing and the commitment of a Council who placed full confidence in various interventions that were proposed by me to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of the crisis in the health sector.

We started the year with multi-religious observations at the "Wijerama House" as done traditionally on 2nd January 2023.

During the year, seven orations, twelve monthly clinical meetings, nine regional clinical meetings, 12 media briefings, over 20 seminars, lectures, and symposia were held. The 'Saturday Talk' was held every Saturday, throughout the year. The SLMA released six media statements, addressed at policy makers on protecting the health of the citizens of Sri Lanka.

The 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress 2023, was held from 25th to 28th of July, at the BMICH. The congress was inaugurated on 25th of July and was followed by the SLMA oration. The theme of the Congress was *"Towards Humane Healthcare: Excellence, Equity, and Community"*. The Chief Guest was Professor Mohan de Silva, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Former Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Former Chairman University Grant Commission. The Guest of Honour was Professor Deepika Udugama, Chair Professor of Law and Head, Department of Law, University of Peradeniya. The annual congress comprised of six (6) pre congress seminars, the keynote address, four (4) orations, five (05) plenaries, fourteen (14) symposia and four (04) panel discussions. All were well attended. There were 187 poster presentations and 32 oral presentations. The abstracts were published as a supplement of the Ceylon Medical Journal (CMJ).

The Congress concluded with the Doctor's Concert held on 28th of July evening at the BMICH. The Academic Committee and the office staff of the SLMA worked tirelessly to make the Congress a success. The support received from the members of the Council and the Past Presidents was tremendous and my deep appreciation goes to each and every one of them. I am grateful to dedication and commitment of the Congress Co-Chairs, Prof. Rajendra Surenthirakumaran and Dr. Achala Balasuriya, and to Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, the Secretary, and the Assistant Secretaries Dr. Nimani de Lanerolle, Professor Kumara Mendis, Dr. Chathurie Suraweera and Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku. Special appreciation is also extended to Dr Harini Fernando, Dr Sumitra Tissera for their invaluable contribution and to Dr B. J. C. Perera for his continuous editorial support.

The Foundation Sessions of the SLMA were held in Jaffna on 24th and 25th of November 2023 in partnership with the Jaffna Medical Association (JMA). The immediate past President of the SLMA, Prof. Samath Dharmaratne was the Chief Guest at the Foundation Sessions which were held at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. The E. M. Wijerama Endowment Oration was delivered by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Past President SLMA, and the Sir Marcus Fernando Oration was delivered by Professor Gayani Tillekeratne, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Duke University School of Medicine, Assistant Research Professor, Duke Global Health Institute, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

The Medical Dance 2023 was held at Hotel Galadari on 8th of December 2023. The dynamism, enthusiasm of Dr Pramilla Senanayake, who gave leadership to the Dance Committee, ably assisted by Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe, made it a grand success with over 220 Guests attending the Dance. I would like to extend my deep appreciation to Dr. Kristo Fernando for contributing immensely for the success of the Medical Dance 2023.

While initiating and carrying out the routine activities of the association such as clinical meetings, symposia, seminars, lectures, workshops etc., and holding Annual Academic Sessions, our attention had to be immediately directed to advocacy on urgent issues affecting public health. This required engaging with the public, the administrators and policy makers. Throughout the year, based on scientific evidence, the SLMA was able to engage with the public through media on various issues related to diseases as well as the healthcare delivery system. SLMA was an authoritarian, impartial and credible source of information for the media and public. We were also proactive. We could identify quite early, emerging health issues including those which might cause undue panic among the public (eg. Nipah virus) and provide accurate and timely information. Wide coverage was offered to SLMA in both print and electronic media, a reflection of our credibility.

A central issue that SLMA had to extensively address has been irregularities associated with the medicinal drug approval process by the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) and purchase of medicines by the Health Ministry. SLMA lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and continued to take up a principled stand, purely with the interest of patients in mind.

Advocacy emerges as a central tenet. Championing causes that resonate with the medical community, advocating for healthcare reforms, and spearheading campaigns to address pertinent issues, galvanize support and effect change. Advocacy is not just about rhetoric; it is about enacting policies that improve patient care, bolster medical education, and enhance the overall healthcare service delivery.

At a policy level, SLMA actively participated in formulation of strategies, consultations on health financing, private medical education, primary health care, non-communicable diseases, use of human genetic material and data, patient safety, patients' rights and responsibilities, prevention of road traffic crashes, sexual exploitation of children and marital rape.

2023 has been a pivotal year. The world celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UHDR). Yet, we have seen major armed conflicts such as the Ukraine war and the Israeli - Palestinian war which claimed hundreds and thousands of innocent lives. There was gross violation of the principles of UHDR and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrated its 75th Anniversary. The SLMA's Ceylon Medical Journal (CMJ) published a Special Issue to mark the 75 years of partnership between WHO and Sri Lanka.

The role of a national professional medical association goes beyond serving the membership. Fostering collaboration become indispensable. It is about empowering others, inclusivity, and advocating for the collective voice of the medical fraternity. We are very pleased that we were able to successfully hold SLMA Foundation Sessions in Jaffna, after a lapse of 13 years. We also had Joint Regional Meetings covering all the provinces in the country, reaching our members far and wide.

Setting achievable goals aligned with the association's mission, whilst accommodating the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare, becomes paramount. Initiating programmes that cater to professional development, research, and public health outreach serves as a cornerstone for progress. Collaboration with policymakers, and other professional colleges is indispensable to drive impactful change.

Navigating challenges has been an inevitable part of our journey. On certain critical issues, building consensus has been a bit tricky. From advocating policy changes to addressing the needs of a diverse membership base, adeptly managing these challenges require resilience and adaptability. Of course, overcoming such obstacles fosters growth, enabling the association to emerge stronger and more responsive to the ever-evolving healthcare paradigm.

While we work on the primary mission and mandate of SLMA, we need to also pay our attention to the “financial health” of the SLMA. We rely primarily on income derived from the rentals from the “Wijerama House” and the surplus from Anniversary International Medical Congress and other miscellaneous income. Given the rising costs of building maintenance as well as expenditure related to academic and other core activities of the Association, it is imperative that we collectively explore sustainable financing mechanisms for SLMA. This will be a priority for the incoming President and the Council.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of completing a tenure of office is witnessing the tangible impact of the association's initiatives. Be it fostering a supportive environment for medical professionals, contributing to groundbreaking research, or advocating for policies that positively influence patient outcomes. Tangible outcomes serve as testaments to collective efforts and unwavering commitment.

Moreover, nurturing future leaders within the association ensures continuity and a legacy that extends beyond just a tenure of office. Mentoring and empowering aspiring professionals lays the groundwork for sustained progress, ensuring that the torch of leadership is passed on to capable hands in the years to come.

The multitude of achievements, and potential to do more by the SLMA would not have been possible without our young and energetic Honorary Secretary, Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe and I am grateful to him for his tremendous support. The two Vice Presidents, Prof. Gajendra Surenthirakumaran, and Dr. Achala Balasuriya, shouldered the responsibility of holding the flagship event of the SLMA, the 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress 2023 and the Foundation Sessions. Dr. Sumithra Tissera, Honorary Treasurer, a veteran in SLMA affairs, managed not only the finances but was literally “on call” for any eventuality. She along with Professor Kumara Mendis steered the publishing the monthly newsletter. I am grateful to both of the.

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, President elect, was by my side supporting me in all activities throughout the year. I am most grateful to the Board of Trustees and all Past Presidents for their guidance and support. All members of the Council participated actively in the affairs of the Association. I wish to thank them very sincerely for their support throughout the year. They were the indisputable strength behind all the activities of the SLMA over the last year.

My deep appreciation also goes to the staff of SLMA. They were the backstage heroes of all our achievements.

I have gone on record in my first message in SLMA newsletter in January 2023 as the President of SLMA, that as medical professionals, it is our bounden duty to prioritize the well-being and welfare of all Sri Lankans, especially during difficult and uncertain times. We must take active steps to fulfil this responsibility without delay, in alignment with our shared vision ‘*Lankadipassa kiccesu ma pamaj*’. Let us work for the good of all Sri Lankans without delay in promoting the overall health, wellbeing, and prosperity of our nation.

Please allow me, in this last message of my tenure of office as the President of the SLMA, to wish the very best of health and prosperity to all our members, as well as the entire populace of our beautiful Motherland.



Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
President
Sri Lanka Medical Association

21st December 2023

Council of the Sri Lanka Medical Association 2023



Seated Left – Right

Dr Sumithra Tissera (Honorary Treasurer), Dr Anula Wijesundere, Professor Indika Karunathilake, Professor Jennifer Perera, Dr Lucian Jayasuriya, Professor Samath D Dharmaratne (Immediate Past President), Dr Vinya Ariyaratne (President, SLMA), Dr Ananda Wijewickrama (President Elect), Dr Achala Balasuriya (Vice President), Professor Rajendra Surenthirakumaran (Vice President), Dr B J C Perera, Dr Padma Gunaratne, Dr Sajith T. Edirisinghe (Honorary Secretary)

Standing Left – Right – (first row)

Dr Chathurie Suraweera (Assistant Secretary), Dr Kaushi Attanayakage, Dr S B Anuruddhika S M Rathnayake, Dr Nilanka Wickramasinghe (Social Secretary), Dr Surantha Perera, Dr M Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr V Murali, Professor Ishan De Zoysa, Professor Athula Sumathipala (Co-Editor, Ceylon Medical Journal), Prof U C P Perera, Dr Kalyani Guruge, Professor Anuja Abaydeera, Dr Nimani de Lanerolle (Assistant Secretary)

Standing Left – Right – (Second row)

Dr Lahiru Kodithuwakku (Assistant Secretary), Dr Pramilla Senanayake (Social Secretary), Dr Manilka Sumanatilleke

Absent

Dr Harini Fernando, Dr Lakshman Ranasinghe (Past President Representative), Professor Senaka Rajapakse (Co-Editor, Ceylon Medical Journal), Dr Ruvaiz Haniffa, Professor Saroj Jayasinghe, Dr Asitha Kosala Thannippuli Arachchi, Professor Kumara Mendis (Assistant Secretary), Dr Preethi Wijegoonewardene (Public Relations Officer), Dr N G G D Pramitha Mahanama, Professor B M H A Banneheke, Professor Sampatha Gunawardene, Dr Christo Fernando, Dr Shihan Azeez (Assistant Treasurer), Dr V S M C K B Jayawardena, Dr Seeneth Peramuna, Dr K T Sundaresan, Dr B U E N W D R Thangarajah

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) was held on the 23rd December 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium, Wijerama House, Colombo 07. Professor S. D. Dharmaratne chaired the meeting. He thanked the members of the Council, members of the SLMA and the staff of the SLMA office for their contributions towards making the activities of the SLMA a success. He summarised the achievements and shortcomings during his period of presidency. The Honorary Secretary Prof. Ishan De Zoysa tabled the Annual Report 2022 and the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 23rd December 2022. The minutes were unanimously confirmed by the membership present. Prof. Ishan De Zoysa thanked the president, the members of the council, members of the SLMA and the staff of the SLMA office for the support given during the year 2022.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The following Office Bearers and Council Members were unanimously elected.

President	Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
President Elect	Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama
Vice Presidents	Professor R. Surenthirakumaran Dr. Achala Balasuriya
Secretary	Dr. E.A. Sajith T. Edirisinghe
Assistant Secretaries	Dr. Nimani de Lanerolle Professor Kumara Mendis Dr. Chathurie Suraweera Dr. Lahiru C. Kodithuwakku
Treasurer	Dr. Sumithra Tissera
Assistant Treasurer	Dr. Shihan Azeez
Public Relations Officer	Dr. Preethi Wijegoonewardene
Social Secretaries	Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe Dr. Pramilla Senanayake
Past President Representative	Dr. Lakshman Ranasinghe
Co-editors, Ceylon Medical Journal	Professor Senaka Rajapakse Professor Athula Sumathipala

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Professor Anuja Abayadeera, Dr. Kaushi Attanayakage, Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr. Harini Fernando, Dr. Kalyani Guruge, Professor C.S.E. Goonawardane, Dr. Padma Gunaratne Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa, Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya, Professor Indika Karunathilake, Dr. V. Murali, Dr. N. G. G. D. Pramitha Mahanama, Dr. B.J.C. Perera, Prof. Jennifer Perera, Dr. Surantha Perera, Professor U. C. P. Perera, Dr. S.B.A.S.M. Rathnayake, Dr Manilka Sumanatilake, Dr. Asitha Kosala Thannippuli Arachchi, Dr. Anula Wijesundere,

EX-OFFICIO COUNCIL MEMBERS

Professor Samath D. Dharmaratne (Immediate Past President), Professor Ishan De Zoysa (Out – going Secretary), Professor B.M.H.A. Banneheke (Out – going Treasurer)

OFFICE BEARERS



Dr Vinya Ariratne
President, SLMA



Prof. S. D. Dharmaratne
Immediate Past President



Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama
President Elect



Dr Achala Balasuriya
Vice President



Prof R. Surendhirakumaran
Vice President



Dr Sajith Edirisinghe
Honorary Secretary



Dr Nimani De Lanerolle
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Prof. Kumara Mendis
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Dr Chathurie Suraweera
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Dr Lahiru Kodithuwakku
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Dr Sumithra Tissera
Honorary Treasurer



Dr Shihan Azees
Honorary Assistant Treasurer



Dr Presthi Wijegoonewardene
Public Relation Officer



Dr Pramilla Senanayake
Social Secretary



Dr Nilanka Wikramasinghe
Social Secretary



Dr Lakshman Ranasinghe
Past President Representative



Prof. Senaka Rajapakse
Co- Editor, CMJ



Prof. Athula Sumathipala
Co- Editor, CMJ

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Prof. Anuja Abayadeera
Council Member



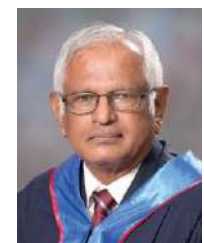
Dr Kaushi Attanayake
Council Member



Prof. Hasini Banneheke
Council Member



Prof. Ishan De Zoysa
Council Member



Dr Sarath Gamini De Silva
Council Member



Dr Christo Fernando
Council Member



Dr Harini Fernando
Council Member



Dr Kalyani Guruge
Council Member



Prof. Sampatha Goonewardena
Council Member



Dr Padma Gunaratne
Council Member



Dr Ruvaiz Haniifa
Council Member



Dr Lucian Jayasuriya
Council Member



Prof Saroj Jayasinghe
Council Member



Dr V.S.M.C.K.B Jayawardena
Council Member



Prof Indika Karunathilake
Council Member



Dr Pramitha Mahanama
Council Member



Dr V. Murali
Council Member



Dr B.J.C. Perera
Council Member



Prof. Jennifer Perera
Council Member



Dr Surantha Perera
Council Member



Prof. U.C.P. Perera
Council Member



Dr Seeneth Peramuna
Council Member



Dr S.B.A.S.M. Rathnayake
Council Member



Dr Manilka Sumanatilleke
Council Member



Dr K T Sundaresan
Council Member



Dr Asitha K Thannippuli Arachchi
Council Member



Dr Brammah R. Thangarajah
Council Member



Dr Anula Wijesundere
Council Member

2. INDUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The induction ceremony of Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, the President of Sri Lanka Medical Association for the year 2023 was held on 14th January 2023, at BMICH, Colombo. The induction took place amidst a large and distinguished gathering exceeding 250 invitees.

His presidential address was given wide publicity by both the electronic and print media.

The ceremonial induction was followed by a reception and fellowship for all invitees.



Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne inducting Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne as President SLMA 2023



Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne delivering the Presidential Address



Lighting the Lamp of Learning



<https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230122/news/vision-of-humane-healthcare-for-slma-509223.html>



Audience



3. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Twelve Council meetings (12 Regular meetings) were held in 2023. The attendance of members at the regular Council meetings is given below:

Name	No.	Excuses	Name	No.	Excuses
Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne	11	01	Dr. Christo Fernando	06	03
Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama	10	00	Dr. Harini Fernando	08	00
Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne	11	00	Dr. Kalyani Guruge	10	01
Prof. R. Surendrakumaran	11	00	Dr. Padma Gunaratne	10	00
Dr Achala Balasuriya	11	00	Prof. C.S.E. Goonawardane	07	00
Dr. E.A. Sajith T. Edirisinghe	11	00	Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa	04	04
Dr. Nimani De Lanarolle	09	02	Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya	09	02
Prof. Kumara Mendis	08	02	Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe	10	01
Dr. Chathurie Suraweera	11	01	Dr. V S M K B Jayarardena	01	00
Dr. Lahiru C. Kodithuwakku	08	01	Prof. Indika Karunathilake	11	00
Dr. Sumithra Tissera	11	00	Dr. V. Murali	11	00
Dr. Shihan Azeez	07	02	Dr. N.G.G.D. Pramitha Mahanama	04	04
Dr. Preethi Wijegoonewardene	04	03	Dr. B.J.C. Perera	09	01
Dr. Pramilla Senanayake	07	00	Prof. Jennifer Perera	11	00
Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe	10	01	Dr. Surantha Perera	10	00
Dr. Lakshman Ranasinghe	02	04	Prof. U.C.P. Perera	10	01
Prof. Athula Sumathipala	07	02	Dr. Seeneth Peramuna	11	00
Prof. Senaka Rajapakse	01	00	Dr. S.B.A.S.M. Rathnayake	11	00
Dr. Anuja Abaydeera	03	02	Dr. K. T. Sundaresan	04	00
Dr. Kaushi Attanayakage	11	00	Dr. Manilka Sumanatilleke	10	01
Prof. B.M.H.A. Banneheke	12	00	Dr. Asitha K. Thannippuli Arachchi	08	01
Prof. Ishan De Zoysa	10	01	Dr. BUNENWD R. Thangarajah	02	00
Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva	11	00	Dr. Anula Wijesundere	10	00

4. 136TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS

The 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress was held from 25th July – 28th July 2023 at the BMICH, Colombo. The Inauguration ceremony was held on 25th July 2023 at 6.00 pm onwards. The theme of the Congress was “Towards Humane Healthcare: Excellence, Equity, Community”. The Chief Guest was Professor Mohan de Silva, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Former Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Former Chairman University Grant Commission. The Guest of Honour was Professor Deepika Udagama, Chair Professor of Law and Head, Department of Law, University of Peradeniya.

The annual congress comprised of six (6) pre congress seminars, the keynote address, four (4) orations, five (05) plenaries, fourteen (14) symposia and four (04) panel discussions. All were well attended.

There were 187 poster presentations and 32 oral presentations. The abstracts were published as a supplement of the Ceylon Medical Journal.

The Pre-Congress Sessions

1. The pre-congress workshop on “All about Research: from Design to Presentation” was held on 7th June 2023.
2. The pre-congress workshop on “Postgraduate Training in Sri Lanka” was held on 14th June 2023.
3. The pre-congress workshop on “Interventional Research in Sri Lanka” was held on 21st June 2023.
4. The pre-congress workshop on “Sleep and Health” was held on 28th June 2023.
5. The pre-congress workshop on “Integrating Genetics & Genomics into Clinical Practice” was held on 8th July 2023.
6. The pre-congress workshop on “Discard Myths & Enjoy Sex” was held on 14th July 2023.

The detailed programme is given in **Annexure 1**.



Ceremonial Procession



Welcome address by President SLMA





Address by Chief Guest



Address by Guest of Honour



Head Table



Audience



Vote of thank by Honorary Secretary, SLMA



With the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour

5. DESHABANDU DR. C. G. URAGODA ORATION ON THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE 2023

Deshabandu Dr. C. G. Uragoda Oration on the History of Medicine – 2023 which had been awarded to Dr. Kapila Jayaratne MBBS, MSc, DCH, MD (Community Medicine) National Programme Manager - Maternal & Child Morbidity & Mortality Surveillance Consultant Community Physician, Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, was delivered this year at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium on the 26th February 2023. The title of the lecture was “Counting and Reviewing Maternal Deaths: *A journey towards supremacy*”. It was followed by fellowship and refreshment.



Awarding the medal to the Deshabandu Dr C. G. Uragoda Orator Dr Kapila Jayaratne



Dr Kapila Jayaratne delivering the Deshabandu Dr C. G. Uragoda Orator

6. ORATIONS

All orations of SLMA were selected by open advertisement. The E. M. Wijerama Endowment Oration is usually awarded to a person who has contributed much to the SLMA and the topic of the oration is decided by the orator. The decisions regarding the E. M. Wijerama Endowment Oration and the Desmond Fernando Memorial Lecture are made by the honours committee. The following orations were delivered in 2023.

THE SLMA ORATION

Tuesday 25th July 2023 at the BMICH, Colombo

“Contribution made to advances in knowledge on the Snakebites”

Dr. R. M. M. K. Namal Rathnayaka

MBBS, MPhil (Toxinology), MA, MSc (Medical Toxicology), MSc (Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics),

PGDip.Toxicology, PGDip.Buddhist studies, PGCert.MedEd

Faculty of Medicine, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

S C PAUL ORATION

Thursday 27th July 2023 at the BMICH, Colombo

“Breaking the vicious cycle of childhood obesity: A timely need”

Dr. Aruna de Silva

MBBS(Ruh) DCH (Col) MD (Paed-Col)

Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

PROFESSOR N. D. W. LIONEL MEMORIAL ORATION

Wednesday 26th July 2023 at the BMICH, Colombo

“Starting from scratch, the first and the largest twin research programme in Low-and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs); the Sri Lankan Twin Registry, it's research output and impact”

Professor Athula Sumathipala
MBBS, DFM.MD (Family Medicine), FSLCGP Sri Lanka, FRCPsych, CCST(UK), PhD (Lon)
Director, Institute for Research and Development in Health and Social Care, Colombo
Chairman, National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy
Secretary General of the International Society for twin Studies
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Keele University UK
Emeritus Professor of Global Mental Health, Kings College London

Dr. S. RAMACHANDRAN MEMORIAL ORATION

Thursday 27th July 2023 at the BMICH, Colombo

“Changing trends in obesity among Sri Lankan population and the role of bariatric surgery in reversing metabolic complications of obesity: A Sri Lankan experience over a decade”

Dr Uditha Bulugahapitiya

MBBS (SL), MD (Col), MRCP (UK), FRCP (UK), FCCP (SL)), FACE (USA), FSLCE (SL)

Consultant Endocrinologist, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

MURUGESAR SINNETAMBY ORATION

NOT AWARDED

SIR NICHOLAS ATTYGALLE ORATION

Wednesday 25th October 2023 at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium, Colombo 7

“Allergy – a neglected epidemic in Sri Lanka”

Dr Nilhan Rajiva de Silva

MBBS, Dip Med Micro, MD (Micro)

Consultant Immunologist, Medical Research Institute, Colombo

E. M. WIJERAMA ENDOWMENT ORATION 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 at the Hoover Auditorium Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

“Current concerns in health development in Sri Lanka: a view from the boundary”

Dr Palitha Abeykoon

Past-President, SLMA

SIR MARCUS FERNANDO ORATION

Saturday 25th November 2023 at the Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

“Reducing antibiotic prescriptions for viral acute respiratory infection in Sri Lanka”

Prof. Gayani Tillekeratne

Associate Professor of Medicine

Division of Infectious Diseases, Duke University School of Medicine

Assistant Research Professor, Duke Global Health Institute

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna



Awarding the medal to the SLMA Orator Dr. R. M. M. K. Namal Rathnayaka



Dr. Aruna de Silva delivering the S C Paul Oration



Prof. Athula Sumathipala delivering the N.D.W. Lionel Memorial Oration 2023



Dr. Uditha Bulugahapitiya delivering the S. Ramachandran Oration 2023



Awarding the medal to the Dr E M Wijerama Endowment Oration Orator Dr Palith Abeykoon



Prof. Gayani Tillekeratne delivering the Sir Marcus Fernando Oration 2023



Awarding the medal to the Sir Nicholas Attygale Orator Dr Rajiva de Silva

7. SLMA AWARDS

E M Wijerama Award - for the best paper

Assessing reversibility of liver fibrosis in patients with transfusion-dependent beta thalassaemia following intensive chelation

Padeniya AGPM, Ediriweera D, Niriella MA, De Silva A, Premawardhena AP

S. E. Seneviratna Award - for the best paper

Impact of the present economic crisis on health-seeking behaviour in the general public of Sri Lanka: A comparative study between Western Province and Uva Province

Nilaweera AI, Fernando DR, Adikaranayake AMPR, Perera AN, Daksina TDT, Wijayatilaka NT, Nethmini ULT, Hettiarachchi EDH, Weerakoon KGSH, Jayalath WKDN, Wijayaratne D, Katulanda P

H. K. T. Fernando Award - for the best paper

Genetic hybridization proved between cutaneous and visceral strains of *Leishmania donovani* within its natural vector *Phlebotomus argentipes*

Riyal FH, Paun A, Ferreira TR, Samaranayake TN, Sacks D, Karunaweera ND

Sir Nicholas Attygalle Award - for the best paper

Caregiver burden and quality of life among family caregivers of advanced cancer patients attending palliative care clinic at National Cancer Institute (NCI), Maharagama – Sri Lanka

Dharmakan MD, Senaratne L, Vidanapathirana J

Wilson Peiris Award - for the best paper

Socio-demographic, anthropometric and biochemical determinants of dialysis adequacy among patients undergoing haemodialysis in selected government hospitals in Sri Lanka

Lasanthika TLC, Wanigasuriya JKP, Hettiaratchi UPK, Amarasekara AATD, Goonewardena CSE

Professor Daphne Attygalle Award - for the best paper in Cancer

Caregiver burden and quality of life among family caregivers of advanced cancer patients attending palliative care clinic at National Cancer Institute (NCI), Maharagama – Sri Lanka

Dharmakan MD, Senaratne L, Vidanapathirana J

Sir Frank Gunasekera Award - for the best paper in Community Medicine / Tuberculosis

The knowledge and practices of GCE Advanced Level students in Kandy city regarding antibiotics and antibiotic resistance

Abeyasinghe AABC, Abeywardena MU, Abeyasinghe AAGH, Agalawatte AVDP, Abeygunawardena SDV, Amarakoon AMTND, Abeywardhana AMDT, Afkar AKM, Adikari AMID, Alwis PKDPS, Akeshwari GHGA, Liyanapathirana V

Professor Kumaradasa Rajasuriya Award - for the best paper in Tropical Medicine

Genetic hybridization proved between cutaneous and visceral strains of *Leishmania donovani* within its natural vector *Phlebotomus argentipes*

Riyal FH, Paun A, Ferreira TR, Samaranayake TN, Sacks D, Karunaweera ND

Special Prize in Cardiology - for the best paper in Cardiology

Anthropometric parameters of newly diagnosed patients with myocardial infarction admitted to tertiary care hospitals of Western Province of Sri Lanka – a case-control study

Perera DAPS, Samaranayaka TPS, Chulasiri PU

Dr. S. Ramachandran Award - for the best Scientific Communication in Nephrology

Chronic kidney disease following hump-nosed pit viper (genus: *hypnale*) bites

Wijayaratne

Rathnayaka RMMKN, Ranathunga PEAN, Kularatne SAM

The Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics award for the Best best presentation in Pharmacology

Antimicrobial activities of different parenteral antibiotic products: A comparative in-vitro study

Chathuranga BAG, Dissanayake T, Fernando N, Wanigatunge CA

SLMA prize for the best poster

Frequency of germline variants of uncertain significance and clinicopathological features in Sri Lankan patients with hereditary breast cancer

Gunawardena KW, Sirisena ND, Anandagoda G, Neththikumara N, Dissanayake VHW

SLMA Research Grant 2023

Perceptions, prevalence and associated factors of cancer cachexia among patients with advanced stage cancers attending the Oncology unit, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya, Galle and the effectiveness of an intervention targeting its prevention

Dr I. L. A. N. Darshana

Impact of Mindfulness-Based Rehabilitation on Psychological Outcomes of Patients with Breast Cancer Undergoing Surgery: Randomized Control Trial

Dr Umesh Jayarajah

CNAPT Award 2023

Knowledge on prevention of occupational health hazards and utilization of safety measures among construction trade workers in Colombo District

Dr Kasunee Chamila Kalubowila

Glaxo Wellcome Research Award for the year 2023

Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*) envenomation: Epidemiology, clinical profile, morphological and molecular study

Dr R. M. M. K. Namal Rathnayaka

Professor Wilfred S E Perera Travel Award in Bioethics 2023

Knowledge and attitudes towards LGBT people and their healthcare needs among doctors in two selected hospitals in Sri Lanka

Dr Nadeeka Kumudini Chandraratne

Dr. Thistle Jayawardena SLMA Research Grant for Intensive and Critical Care 2023

Platelet recovery in sepsis: An early marker of recovery

Dr I. A. Abeyagunawardena

G R Handy Award for the best paper in Cardiology published in the year 2023

Not awarded

8. MONTHLY CLINICAL MEETINGS

The SLMA held a total of 23 monthly clinical meetings this year in collaboration with Professional colleges. We thank Dr Sajith Edirisinghe Honorary Secretary for meticulously arranging the programmes.

MONTH	COLLABORATING COLLEGE
January	The College of Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka
	College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka
February	The College of Paediatricians of Sri Lanka
	College of Haematologists of Sri Lanka
March	The Sri Lanka College of Transfusion Physicians
April	College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka
	Center for Research in Tropical Medicine, University of Peradeniya
May	College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka \
	Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine
	Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists
	The Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT)
June	College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka
	Sri Lanka College of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine
August	Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists
	College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka
September	Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists

October	Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
November	Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
	College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka
	Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrist
December	Sri Lanka College of Radiologists
	Sri Lanka Dental Association
	Sri Lanka College of Oncologists

A wide range of topics in all specialties were covered during the meetings, which were very well attended. Case discussions and MCQs were included to meet the learning needs of the postgraduate trainee attendees.

The monthly clinical meeting is a continuing professional development (CPD) activity targeted mainly postgraduates in training, general practitioners and grade medical officers. The CPD committee and the Council have approved their recognition to award CPD points under the category designated “Teaching activities”.

Majority of the monthly clinical meetings were available as webinars for the remote participants as a live telecast with the facility to ask questions from the resource persons. These webinars had higher number of active participations not only from local doctors but from overseas participants as well.

The detailed programmes are given in **Annexure 2**.



9. REGIONAL MEETINGS

A total of eight (08) successful meetings were held during the year 2023. The meetings were well attended by our members.

The organizations of the regional meetings were actively supported by the SLMA members who represented the provinces and the assistant secretary Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku, who organized these meetings in an admirable manner. The presentations at these regional meetings were of very high quality.

All participants received a certificate of participation carrying “CPD” points to emphasize the importance of continuous professional medical education to keep abreast with new knowledge and skills.

- Joint Clinical Meeting with the In Collaboration with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health**
31st January 2023 at the NIID, Auditorium

2. **Joint CME Programme with the RDHS Office, Galle and Galle Medical Association**
27th February 2023 at the Auditorium, Auditorium, Base Hospital, Balapitiya
3. **Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the Batticaloa Medical Association and Regional Directorate of Health Services, Batticaloa**
22nd March 2023 at the Auditorium, Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa
4. **Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the Clinical Society of Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital**
26th April 2023 at the Auditorium, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital
5. **Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the College of Military Medicine**
18th May 2023 at the at the Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda Auditorium, Trincomalee
6. **Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the General Practitioner's Association, Ratnapura And Provincial Directorate of Health Services, Sabaragamuwa**
20th June 2023 at the at the PDHS Office Auditorium, Ratnapura
7. **Joint CME Programme with the Kilinochchi Medical Association**
8th November 2023 at the Auditorium, District General Hospital, Kilinochchi
8. **Joint CME Programme with the Vavuniya Medical Association**
9th November 2023 at the District General Hospital, Vavuniya

The academic programmes of these meetings are given in **Annexure 3**.

10. THERAPEUTIC UPDATES

Therapeutic Updates were organised by the Medicinal Drugs Committee of the SLMA and delivered in 2023 at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium, No.06, Colombo 07.

Therapeutic Update on “Acute Coronary Syndrome Cost Effective Management During the Economic Crisis”

Dr Disna Amaratunge, Consultant Cardiologist, Teaching Hospital, Kalutara
17th February 2023 from 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm

Therapeutic Update on “Rational Use of Antibiotics During the Economic Crisis”

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, Senior Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases Colombo
28th April 2023 from 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm

11. MEDIA AND PUBLIC ON HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES

Media Brief – The role of Sri Lanka Medical Association- Past, Present and the Future

18th January 2023 at 9.30 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne – President, SLMA
2. Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama – President Elect, SLMA
3. Dr. Padma Gunaratne – Past President, SLMA

Media Brief – Preventing Road Deaths and Injuries in 2023 and beyond

19th January 2023 at 9.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne – President, SLMA
2. Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne – Chairperson, PRTC
3. Mr. Dilantha Malagamuwa, Member PRTC
4. Dr. Thushara Matiwala, Convenor PRTC

Media Brief – “Non-availability of essential medicinal drugs in the health sector”

9th February 2023 at 2.30 pm at Lionel Memorial Auditorium,

Speakers:

1. Dr Ananda Wijewickrama, Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases
 2. Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, Sri Lanka Medical Association
 3. Prof. Priyadarshani Galappatthy – Professor in Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
 4. Dr. Anoma Perera, President, College of Anaesthesiologists & Intensivists of Sri Lanka
- Moderator:** Dr. Pramitha Mahanama, Council member, SLMA

Media Brief – Violence in Society: impact on Mental Health”

30th March 2023 at 10.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Prof. Miyuru Chandradasa, Professor in Psychiatry
2. Prof. Mohamed Mahees, Professor of Sociology
3. Dr. Chathurie Suraweera, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry
4. Mr. Krishan Siriwardhana, Lecturer in Communication & Creative Arts

Media Briefing – “Preventing Suicide: what the media can do”

24th April 2023 at 9.30 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Dr. Sajeewana Amarasinghe, Consultant Psychiatrist, National Institute of Mental Health, Sri Lanka
2. Dr. Chathurie Suraweera, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- Consultant Psychiatrist, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Media Briefing – “Are we prepared for leptospirosis outbreak?” “මි උණ අවදානම සඳහා අපි සූදානම්ද?”

9th May 2023 at 10.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Dr. Thushani Dabrera, Consultant Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit
2. Dr. Lilani Karunanayake, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, MRI
3. Professor Panduka Karunanayake, Professor in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Media Briefing – “Current Crisis in Quality and Shortage of Drugs”/ “ඖෂධ ප්‍රමිතිය හා නිතය පිළිබඳ වර්තමාන අර්බුදය”

28th June 2023 at 10.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, Sri Lanka Medical Association
2. Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, President Elect, Sri Lanka Medical Association
- Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases
3. Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Past President, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Public Seminar on “Crisis in Medicinal Drugs: Causes, Consequences and Potential Remedies” / “ඖෂධ අර්බුදය - හේතු ප්‍රතිඵල සහ විසඳුම්”

1st September 2023 at 12.00 noon at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Registration

Welcome address - Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President SLMA

Medicines crisis and the people

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President SLMA / Consultant Community Physician

Why do medicines need regulation?

Emirates Professor Krishantha Weerasuriya, Former advisor to WHO

Reasons for medicines crisis

Professor Priyadarshini Galappatthy, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo

Medicines crisis – proposed solutions

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, Consultant Physician

Summary – in Tamil
Dr. M.K. Ragunathan, Consultant Physician
Discussion

Press Conference on “Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation”

25th September 2023 at 9.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Speakers:

1. Prof Harendra De Silva - Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics
2. Prof Udaya Kumara – National Child Protection Authority
3. Dr Thilini Rathnayake – Consultant Venereologist
4. Prof Ajith Rathnaweera – Professor in Forensic Medicine
5. Dr Darshani Hettiarachchi – Consultant Child Psychiatrist
6. DIG Renuka Jayasundara – Women and Childrens Bureau – Sri Lanka Police
7. Dr D T De Silva – Acting Consultant, JMO

Media Briefing - “Irregularities occurred in purchasing immunoglobulins”

10th October 2023 at 9.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA)
Association of Medical Specialists (AMS)
Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA)
Intercollegiate Committee

Media Briefing - “Safe Roads – Safe Children 2023”

25th October 2023 at 11.00 am at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Organised by the Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes Committee of the SLMA

Media Briefing - “Awareness and prevention of breast cancer with a tutorial on self breast examination”

1st November 2023 at 1.00 pm at Lionel Memorial Auditorium

The NCD subcommittee of the SLMA collaboration with the NCCP

12. SYMPOSIA, SEMINARS, LECTURES, WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Expert Committees of the SLMA organized several seminars and workshops held at the NDW Lionel Memorial Auditorium of the SLMA during the year 2023.

The detailed programmes are given in **Annexure 4**.

SLMA SATURDAY TALK

Saturday 7th January 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom

Parenting: Tips for modern parents

Prof. Miyuru Chandradasa
Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama
Professor in Psychiatry, University of Kelaniya
President, Sri Lanka College of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists

Saturday 21st January 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom

Personalising treatment in prostate cancer

Dr. Nuradh Joseph
Consultant Oncologist, District General Hospital, Hambanthota

Saturday 28th January 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom

Expect the unexpected: Interesting cases in obs and gyn

Dr. Chinthaka Banagala
Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Kotelawala Defense University

Saturday 4th February 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Approach to a critically ill child: The essentials
Dr. Amali Dalpatadu
Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, Kotelawala Defense University

Saturday 11th February 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Methamphetamine (ICE) use: A burning issue
Dr. Chamara Wijesinghe
Lecturer Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Saturday 18th February 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Toxidromes for the Junior doctor
Dr. Shehan Silva
Senior Lecturer in Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Saturday 25th February 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Catatonia: Lessons to learn
Dr. Amila Isuru
Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Saturday 4th March 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
ABC in lipid lowering therapy
Prof. Chamara Dalugama
Honorary Consultant Physician, Teaching Hospital Peradeniya
Professor in Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Saturday 11th March 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Critical limb ischaemia getting the basics right
Dr. Thushan Gooneratne
Consultant Vascular & Transplant Surgeon, Senior Lecturer Dept. of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Covid and afterwards: Impact on suicide and self-harm in Sri Lanka
Prof. Thilini Rajapakse
Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Respiratory infections in children: A crash course
Dr. Ridma Jayarathna
Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardene

Saturday 1st April 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Vascular Trauma
Dr. Joel Arudchelvam
Senior Lecturer in Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 8th April 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Pale Child – A rational approach
Prof. Ishani Rodrigo
Professor in Paediatrics, Sir John Kotalawela Defence University

Saturday 29th April 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Medically unexplained symptoms
Dr. Saumya Madhri Senanayake
Consultant Psychiatrist, Lecturer in Psychiatry, Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 6th May 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Bleeding per rectum – A case-based discussion
Prof. Dakshitha Wickramasinghe, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
Honorary Consultant Surgeon, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Saturday 13th May 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Leaking female in gynaecology
Dr. Champika Gihan
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya
Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Peradeniya

Saturday 20th May 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Human ageing and immuosenescence
Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu
Honorary Consultant Physician (Navy General Hospital)
Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 27th May 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Septic arthritis
Dr. K. Kandeepan
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

Saturday 3rd June 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Approach to diarrhoea in Children
Dr. Wathsala Hathgoda
Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Honorary Consultant Paediatrician, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children

Saturday 10th June 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
An approach to insomnia and its management
Dr. Suhashini Ratnatunga
Consultant Psychiatrist,
Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 17th June 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Physiological CTG Interpretation
Dr. Mohamed Rishard
Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 24th June 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Approach to acute paraplegia
Dr. Inuka Wijegunawardana
Consultant Emergency Physician, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Saturday 1st July 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Nutrition in Day-to-Day Life
Dr. Sajitha Mallawaarachchi
Consultant Nutrition Physician, District General Hospital Negombo

Saturday 8th July 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Dissociative disorder; psychological distress speaking through physical symptoms
Dr. Shanika Medagama
Consultant Psychiatrist, District General Hospital, Theldeniya

Saturday 15th July 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Cervical Lymphadenopathy in children: A rational approach to Evaluation
Dr. P. W. Prasad Chathurangana
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Consultant Paediatrician, Professorial Unit, Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo

Saturday 29th July 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Understanding Panic Disorder
Dr. Nisansala Liyanage
Consultant Psychiatrist, Lecturer, Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Saturday 12th August 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Breast Cancer! Points to ponder via case-based discussion
Dr. Nalinda Munasinghe
Consultant Surgeon, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Saturday 19th August 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Pre-diabetes How & what is the time to act?
Dr. Umesha Wijenayake
Acting Consultant Endocrinologist, District General Hospital, Negombo

Saturday 26th August 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Microbial battlegrounds: The Dilemma of dispensing antibiotics
Dr. Kushlani Jayatilleke
Consultant Microbiologist, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

Saturday 9th September 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
A to Z Rheumatoid Arthritis: A case-based discussion
Dr. Chiranthi Liyanage
Senior Lecturer & Specialist in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Dept. of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 16th September 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
A patient who presented with shortness of breath: The role of lung function tests
Prof. Lakmali Amarasinghe
Dept. of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Saturday 23rd September 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Surviving through loss (grief and grief counselling)
Dr. Luckshika Amarakoon
Consultant Psychiatrist, Colombo South Teaching Hospital
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Saturday 7th October 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Let's talk about contraception, less known facts!
Dr. Wedisha Gankanda
Consultant obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Saturday 14th October 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Is there a sorting hat to navigate the maze of anxiety?
Prof. Harshini Rajapakse
Dept. of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna & University of Moratuwa

Saturday 21st October 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Inhalers in paediatric asthma
Dr. Anuradha Kodippili
Paediatric Chest Physician, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children, Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Saturday 28th October 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Interventional radiology: advancements, applications and future perspectives
Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy
Consultant Radiologist and Senior Lecturer, University Surgical Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Saturday 11th November 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Handling a skin rash: case-based discussion
Dr. Indira Kahawita
Consultant Dermatologist

Saturday 18th November 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Elderly patient presenting with forgetfulness: an approach to the initial assessment
Dr. Malsha Gunathilake
Consultant Old Psychiatry, Colombo South Teaching Hospital

Saturday 02nd December 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Evaluation of Polyneuropathy: A case based discussion
Dr. Kumarangie Vithanage
Senior Lecturer in Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Saturday 16th December 2023 at 7.00 pm. Via zoom
Early pregnancy bleeding
Dr. Indunil Piyadigama
Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Honorary Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, De Soysa Hospital for Women and NHSL

13. CEYLON MEDICAL JOURNAL

Editors : Prof. Athula Sumathipala and Prof. Senaka Rajapakse

Emeritus Editors: Dr C G Uragoda, Professor Colvin Goonaratna, Professor Janaka de Silva, Dr Anuruddha Abeygunasekera, Professor Varuni de Silva and Professor A. Pathmeswaran

Section Editors : Dr B J C Perera, Prof Udaya Ranawaka and Prof Shalini Sri Ranganathan

Editorial Board : Prof. Carukshi Arambepola, Prof. Ranil Fernando, Dr Renuka Jayatissa, Prof Raveen Hanwella, Prof. Sarath Lekamwasam, Dr Sachith Metananda, Prof Ajith Nagahawatta, Dr BJC Perera, Prof Shamini Prathapan, Prof. Udaya Ranawaka, Prof. SH Siribaddana and Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan

International Editorial Board: Prof. Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, Prof. Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta, Prof. Andrew Dawson, Prof. Barbara Gastel, Prof. David Laloo, Prof. Kalle Hoppu, Prof. Ian Pearce, Prof. Peush Sahni, Prof. Anita KM Zaidi.

Compiled by: Prof. Athula Sumathipala & Prof S Rajapakse
Period covered: 16 November 2022 to 13th November 2023

1. **Editorial board membership**
Prof Pathmeswaran resigned from the CMJ editorial board with effect from October 2022. Prof Athula Sumathipala was appointed co-editor of the CMJ from November 2022.
2. **Board Meetings**
The Editorial Board meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of the month. Nine meetings were held during the year. Average attendance at editorial board meetings was close to 80%. In addition, the members of the editorial board reviewed 224 abstracts submitted for the SLMA annual academic sessions. A summary of the events of CMJ are sent to the council periodically.
3. **Journal**
Two issues of the Journal were published during the year with the CMJ Special Issue. A total of 22 articles have been published including 06 original articles. Ananda Press continued to print the Journal during the year under review.

Nine editorial board meetings were held where 65 articles were tabled and discussed. Eighteen articles were accepted for publication. The article acceptance rate was 32%. Average time between submission of an article and decision taken at the editorial board was 6 weeks.

The processing fee per article is Rs 3000/=.
4. **Website**
The CMJ can be accessed online through the SLMA website. Full article access is available from 2000 onwards. The Sri Lanka Journals Online website is maintained by the National Science Foundation. The PubMed abstract of the CMJ articles provide a link to the full text articles.
5. **Online activities**
The Twitter and Facebook accounts of the CMJ are being used to promote the Journal electronically. The Twitter account has 1200 followers to date. The Facebook page has 1092 followers.
8. **CMJ office**
Ms Sandamali continues to function as the 'office assistant' remotely. The office can be contacted on 011 269 0212 and at cmj@slma.lk
9. **Finances**
The SLMA council supports the CMJ with an WHO grant of Rs. 2,950,000 which finances the running costs of the journal. The CMJ would like to acknowledge the support extended by the President and Council of the SLMA.
10. **Acknowledgements**
The Editorial Board is grateful for the continued help of all SLMA staff, especially Ms Jayarani Tennakoon.

14. ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairperson Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge (Medical)
Convener/ Secretary: Dr. Chathurie Suraweera (Medical)

Members

Dr. Malik Fernando (Medical)	Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan (Medical)
Dr. Kamal Weerapperuma (Non-medical)	Prof. Amala de Silva (Non-medical)
Prof. Naazima Kamardeen (Non-medical/ Lawyer)	Ms. Durga Pulendran (Non-medical)
Dr. Mizaya Cadar (Medical)	Dr. Dumitha Govindapala, (Medical)
Dr. Shehan Silva (Medical)	Dr. Erandie Ediriweera (Medical)
Dr. Pubudu Choolasiri (Medical)	

Members who resigned during the period
 Dr. Shyamini Adikaram (Medical)

Activities in relation to SLMA Objectives of the Committee

Objective	General	Specific
To advocate the reorientation of the health sector towards health promotion with a life cycle approach	-	-
To engage the non-health sector in taking on equal responsibility in the prevention and reducing health inequities	To enhance research ethics capacity of those involved in biomedical research	To promote involvement of non-health sector associated persons in health-related research as members of the Ethics Review Committee
To promote healthy lifestyle and address major causative factors for NCDs among vulnerable populations through health promotion approach	-	-
To enhance the capacity of medical professionals	To enhance research ethics capacity of those involved in biomedical research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide timely and comprehensive review of biomedical research protocols submitted for ethical approval To provide guidance and support to other ERCs to enhance their capacity in reviewing applications pertaining to ethical aspects of biomedical research
To play an advocacy role towards a comprehensive curative and preventive healthcare for the community	-	-

Attendance at Committee meetings

Name	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings excused
Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge	11	1
Dr. Malik Fernando	12	1
Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan	8	4
Prof. Amala de Silva	9	6
Dr. Kamal Weerapperuma	8	4
Dr. Naazima Kamardeen	11	1
Ms. Durga Pulendran	4	6
Dr. Chathurie Suraweera (Medical)	8	4
Dr. Mizaya Cadar	6	5
Dr. Dumitha Govindapala	6	5

Dr. Shehan Silva	6	5
Dr. Erandie Ediriweera	11	1
Dr Pubudu Chulasiri	9	3

Activities carried out in 2022/23

Twelve regular meetings of the ERC were held from November 2022 to October 2023. 10 research proposals were submitted from November 2022 to October 2023. Three were approved. Four proposals were removed from the agenda as the Principal Investigator did not respond despite repeated reminders. Four protocols were rejected during this period.

Action plan for 2022/23

- Provide support to FERCSL and look into the possibility of conducting a programme to grant local accreditation for the ethics review committees.
- To conduct training programmes for the newly joined SLMA-ERC members.

15. SRI LANKAN CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY

Chairperson: Prof. Udaya Ranawaka
Convener: Dr. Ashwini de Abrew (Administrator)

Members

Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake (Joint Secretary)	Dr. Manu Wimalachandra (Joint Secretary)
Dr. Kishara Goonaratna (Joint Secretary)	Prof. Shamini Prathapan
Professor Shalini Sri Ranganathan	Dr. Sithara Dissanayake
Dr. Roshan Hewapathirana	Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya
Dr. Chathurie Suraweera	Dr. Nilanka Perera

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Asela Gunawardena (DGHS)	Dr. Sunil de Alwis (Additional Secretary, Health Service)
Prof. Senaka Rajapakse (Director, PGIM)	Dr. M.A.S.C. Samarakoon (Acting DDG, ET&R)
Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne (President, SLMA)	Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe (Secretary, SLMA)
Dr. Sumithra Tissera (Treasurer, SLMA)	

New members joined in 2023: Dr. Nilanka Perera
Members resigning in 2023: None

Administrative Staff

Ms P D W S Pathiraji

Report presented by: Prof. Udaya Ranawaka

Objectives of the committee

The overall objectives of the SLCTR are;

1. To establish and maintain a national registry of clinical trials that meets international standards.
2. To facilitate clinical trial registration by Sri Lankan researchers.
3. To create awareness on the need for, and the process of, clinical trial registration among the Sri Lankan scientific community.

Committee meetings

As of 30th November, 10 Committee Meetings were held for the year 2023.

Activities carried out during 2023

(Please align the activities carried out with the objectives of the committee and those of SLMA in general as far as possible and attach photo documents where applicable)

1. The SLCTR organized a pre-Congress workshop on Interventional Research in Sri Lanka, as part of the at the 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress of the SLMA. The workshop took place on 21st June, 2023 at the SLMA Auditorium. Professor Saroj Jayasinghe, Professor Shalini Sri Ranganathan, Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Dr Senaka Pilapitiya, Professor Senaka Rajapakse Professor Asitha de Silva and Dr Ashwini de Abrew were resource persons. The workshop was very well attended with over ninety participants. The workshop concluded with a lively and interactive discussion on interventional research and clinical trials. Details are published in the July SLMA Newsletter (<https://slma.lk/newsletter/>)

2. Twenty-one clinical trials were registered as of 24th November 2023. (Total 450 trials in the registry).
3. Total of 58 applications received and processed as of 24th November 2023.
4. Several routine maintenance activities were carried out on the SLCTR database and website to enhance user experience.
5. The committee solicited quotations from several IT providers in order to prepare a budget for the much-needed website upgrade.
6. Several governmental and non-governmental organizations were approached in order to raise the required funds for the website upgrade.

Action plan for 2024

1. Further develop the SLCTR web application according to updated WHO-ICTRP standards.
2. Provide a platform for results reporting of trials registered with the SLCTR.
3. Repeat the audit on the quality of clinical trials registration at the SLCTR



16. REPORTS OF THE SLMA EXPERT COMMITTEES

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Chairperson: Dr. Ranjith Perera
Convenor: Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu

Members

Prof. Jennifer Perera	Prof. Hasini Banneheke	Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya
Dr. Maxie Fernandopulle	Dr. Kalyani Guruge	Dr. N.P.S. Gunaratna
Dr. Samitha Ginige	Dr. Deepa Gamage	Dr. Rohini Wadanambi
Dr. Janani Kottahachchi	Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe	Dr. Iyanthi Abeyewickreme
Dr. Yamuna Siriwardene	Dr. Thushari Dissnayake	Dr. Bhagya Piyasiri
Dr. Nuwan Ranawaka	Dr. S.J. M. Walgampaya	Dr. K.A.D.T. Gunathileke
Dr. Neelamanie Punchihewa	Dr N. Danthanarayane	Prof. D. M. P. U. K Ralapanawa
Dr. G. C. S Gunasekera	Dr L. I. Karunanayake	Dr. S. S. Wickramasinghe
Dr. Pradeep Kumarasinghe de Silva		

Report presented by Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu

Activities of the committee in relation to SLMA Objectives

Objective	General	Specific
To advocate the reorientation of the health sector towards health promotion with a life cycle approach	NA	
To engage the non-health sector in taking on equal responsibility in the prevention and reducing health inequities	None	
To promote healthy lifestyle and address major causative factors for NCDs among vulnerable populations through health promotion approach	NA	
To enhance the capacity of medical professionals	Committee has always been working with other colleges in providing CME to medical professionals.	Please see the section below on activities carried out in 2023.
To play an advocacy role towards a comprehensive curative and preventive healthcare for the community	SLMA Guidelines and Information on Vaccines 8 th edition was compiled and issued.	

Activities carried out in 2023

Summary of the ECCD symposia conducted and planned to be conducted in 2023 hybrid meetings

Date	Topic	Speakers
27 th January 2023	Symposium titled "Challenges in eliminating leprosy in Sri Lanka"	Dr. Prasad Ranaweera Dr. Indira Kahawita Dr. Chintha Karunasekera
28 th February 2023	Symposium on antimicrobial resistance" AMR: pandemic of the century" in collaboration with Galle Medical Association	Dr MahenKothalawala Dr Krishantha Jayasekera Dr Rohitha Muthugala Dr Bhagya Piyasiri
31 st March 2023	"Listeriosis Another epidemic on the horizon? In collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists	Dr. J.C.P. Rajendra Dr. Geetha Nanyakkara Dr. Thilanga Ruwanpathirana Dr. Sujatha Pathirage
24 th April 2023	symposium on "The world faces an upsurge of 7 th cholera pandemic: be prepared to confront it"	Dr. Thilanga Ruwanpathirana Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu Dr. Sujatha Pathirage

23 rd May 2023	Symposium on "Rise of Leptospirosis in the south: The trends, challenges and options" in collaboration with Galle Medical Association	Dr. Amila Chandrasiri Dr. Lilani Karunanayake Dr. Wimalasiri Uluwathage Dr. Chamin Weerasekera
20 th June 2023	Symposium on Melioidosis "Rain again with water and soil bringing melioidosis - be prepared" in collaboration with the Media Committee of the SLMA	Prof. Enoke Corea Dr. Krishantha Jayasekara Dr. Bhagya Piyasiri
12 th September 2023	"Recently reported Measles cases in Sri Lanka: Lessons to be learnt" in collaboration with the Media Committee	Dr. Janaki Abeynayake Dr. Manjula Kariyawasam Dr. B. J. C. Perera
31 st October 2023	Symposium titled "Insight into eye infections in children"	Dr. Prasad Chathuranga Dr. Dhammika Vidanagama Dr. Hiranya Abeysekera
Planned to be held on 07 th December 2023	Symposium on "Current upsurge of respiratory illnesses among children and adults in Sri Lanka"	Dr. Jude Jayamaha Dr. Nieranjan Dissanayake Dr. Channa de Silva
Planned to be held on 14 th December 2023	Guest Lecture in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists	Professor Fritz Muhlschlegel

CORE GROUP ON COMMUNICATION IN HEALTHCARE

Chairperson : Prof. Rasnayaka Mudiyanse
Secretary : Dr. Kavinda Dayasiri

Members:

Dr. B.J.C. Perera	Prof. Saroj Jayasinha	Dr. Ranjan Dias
Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa	Prof. Madawa Chandratilake	Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe
Prof. Piyanjali de Zoysa	Dr. S. Krishnapradeep	Mr. Isuru Abeykoon
Dr. Ruwan Ferdinando	Dr. Wasanatha Rathnayaka	Dr. Thalgaspitiya
Dr. Chathura Rathnayaka	Dr. Guwani Liyanage	Dr. Asela Olupeliyawa
Dr. Surantha Perera	Dr. Santhushi Amarasinghe	Dr. Vishnu Sivapatham
Dr. Pandula Siribaddana	Dr. Mohammed Rishard	Dr. Jagath Ranasingha
Dr. Prashantha Gamage	Dr. Aanjali Wimalasiri	Dr. Deluckshi Navaratnam
Mrs. Gothami Kaushalya	Mrs. Anuradha Rathnayaka	Mrs. Achini Purnima
Miss. Ramya Kumari Ekanyaka	Dr. Priyanwada Jayalath	Dr. Nihal Weerasooriya
Dr. Shyamalee Samaranyake	Ms. Kanthi Hettigoda	Dr. Rukmal Gunathilleke
Dr. Manisha Dalpatadu	Dr. Kaumadee Kodikara	Ms. U. Sugathapala
Dr. S. Amali C. Dalpatadu	Dr. Athulya Amarathunga	

Report presented by Dr. Dr. Kavinda Dayasiri

Activities of the committee for information of the Council:

1. The committee successfully conducted four face-to-face PG trainees' workshops - (2 in Colombo, 2 in Peradeniya) for MD paediatrics trainees. They were conducted from February to May 2023 at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo.
2. The committee successfully conducted one face-to-face PG trainees' workshop in Colombo for DCH trainees. They were conducted in May 2023 at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo.
3. The Core Group held three training workshops for MSc trainees in sexual health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo from February to October 2023.
4. A workshop was organized on communication at the Ayurveda Hospital Borella Colombo to improve their communication skills in March 2023.
5. The core group organised a communication skills training workshop for health professionals in Chilaw in collaboration with Chilaw clinical society in July 2023.
6. The core group organised a communication skills training workshop for health professionals in Nuwara Eliya in collaboration with Hill Country clinical society in August 2023.

ETHICS

Chairperson: Dr. Preethi Wijegoonewardene
Secretary: Dr. Surantha Perera

Members

Dr Malik Fernando
Dr Palitha Abeykoon
Dr Ruwaiz Haniffa
Prof. Enoke Corea

Prof. Anoja Fernando
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne
Dr Harshini Rajapakse
Dr Lilanthi Subasinghe

Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge
Dr Christo Fernando
Dr Ashani Rathnakeerthi

Report presented by Dr. Surantha Perera

Establishing the National Health Ethics Council of the Ministry of Health

We held the Steering Committee's first meeting to establish the National Health Ethics Council with DGHS and the other ministry officials and to develop a framework to identify objectives and operational procedures on 16th December 2022.

The Ethics Committee of the SLMA has developed the terms of Reference (TOR) and Operational Procedures (SOP). The Committee will comprise the Director General of Health Services (Chair), DDG Medical Services I and II, DDG Lab Services, DDG Education and Training, Joint Secretaries to the Committee, Nine Provincial Representatives, Six members from the SLMA Ethics Committee, a Representative from Sri Lanka Medical Council, Judicial Medical Officer, Representative from BAR Association, Representative from SLDA, Representatives from UN Agencies, i.e. WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UN, and Representatives from Private Hospitals.

The inaugural meeting was held at MOH on 7 November 2023, and DGHS chaired the meeting. In the meeting, it was decided to adapt the SOP and TOR prepared by SLMA with minor changes. The National Council on Ethics will meet once in three months. After six months, The Council will prepare the Parliament Act to establish the proceedings legally, which will be forwarded as a cabinet paper.



Establishing Hospital health ethics committees

The Ministry of Health has accepted it as a policy decision to establish Hospital Health Ethics Committees based on the proposal given by the SLMA Expert Committee.

We have already held initial meetings with the teaching hospitals NHSL, LRH, DMH and CSHW, and they expressed their willingness to set up these committees. We are in the process of developing a training module, level one to three, to train and capacity-build the members of the hospital health ethics committees.



Charter of Patients' Rights and Responsibilities

The ethics committee members, Dr Malik Fernando, Dr Ruvaiz Hanifa and Dr Surantha Perera, represented the SLMA in the Sectoral Oversight Committee meeting on the Charter of Patients' Rights and Responsibilities on 11th August 2023 in the parliament. The participants agreed to collate the last three documents on this matter and prepare a new paper, which will be taken up for further discussion. WHO and Parliament oversight Committee will facilitate the proceedings, and the SLMA Ethics Committee has been requested to play an essential role in providing expert inputs.



DISASTER RESILIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

Chairperson: Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe
Secretary: Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku

Members

Prof. Indika Karunathilake Dr Nimmani de Lanaraolle
Dr. Ananda Mallawatantri -The Association for Disaster Risk Management Professionals
Dr. Shiromani Jayewardena - Department of Meteorology
Mr. Sarath Premalal - Department of Meteorology
Mr. Sohan de Silva, Chief Executive Officer, 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation
Mr. Sanjaya Hiswella, District Secretary, St John Ambulance Brigade
Mr. Firzan Hashim - Country Director, A-PAD Sri Lanka
Mr Madura Hewage – SLT Mobitel and Doc Call 247 mobitel coordinator
Wing Commander Priyadarshana Hettiarachchi – Sri Lanka Air Force
Lieutenant Commander KS C Kadigamuwa – Sri Lanka Navy
Lieutenant Commander DDM Rajakaruna – Sri Lanka Navy
Surgeon Commander (Dr)Ashani Rathnakeerthi - Sri Lanka Navy
Major (Dr) D Y S Kumara – Sri Lanka Army
Mr. P.K.D. Priyantha -Deputy Inspector General of Police, Logistics Range

Report presented by Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe

The SLMA expert committee on Disaster Management and resilience was established in year 2023 with the aim of disseminating the knowledge and share the experience in Disaster management and resilience among the medical and non medical community and also the general public
The committee organised following activities

1. Beach cleaning

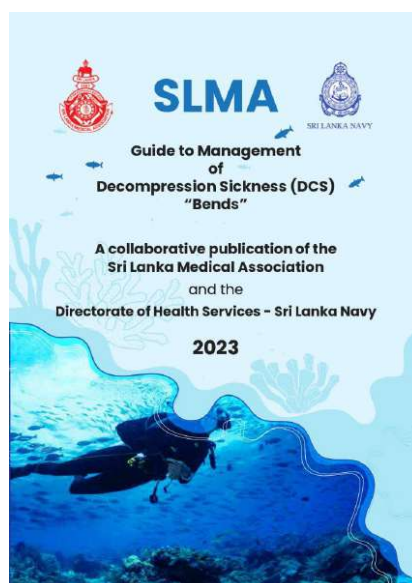
SLMA Expert committee on Disaster Resilience and Management, in collaborate with Sri Lanka Collage of Military Medicine (SLCOMM) and Sri Lanka Navy conducted a beach clean-up on 11th June 2023 at Uswetakeiyawa beach. After the beach cleaning Dr Sajith Edirisinghe, Secretary-SLMA conducted an educational session to the naval officers involved in the process on the importance of this microplastic disaster, how it affect the human health and risk in pregnancy.

By resembling the joint effort, few trees with herbal validity were planted in the naval base. Medial students from Faculty of Medial Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura were also voluntarily participated for the event.



2. **The 2nd Edition of the "SLMA Guide to the Management of Decompression Sickness (DCS)**

The committee undertook the A collaborative publication of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and the Directorate of Health Services of Sri Lanka Navy was held on 5th of October 2023 at the SLMA Auditorium. The Chief Guest was the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy Vice Admiral U.V.M.P. Perera RSP**, USP, ndu, psc. The Former Commander of the Navy Admiral (Rtd) Piyal de Silva and, the Heads and Officers of Medical Directorates of the Sri Lanka Army and the Navy also attended the launch. Dr. Malik Fernando. Past President of SLMA and a co-author introduced the Guideline with a history of the publication. Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, a co-author, co-editor and the Secretary of SLMA ceremonially handed over the copies of the Guideline to the officers present.



3. **Following webinars were organized to disseminate the knowledge on current national issues via zoom platform**

- a) Temperature Changes in the Future: Are We Ready? – on 16th June 2023
- b) Drought and floods, the dilemma of rational use of water amidst a poly crisis – on 07th September 2023

4. **Knowledge sharing session on Disaster Management Experience Between Sri Lanka and Japan**
 Knowledge sharing session was held on 13th December 2023 organised by SLMA expert committee on Disaster Management and Resilience in collaboration with Tokyo Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Japan, Sri Lanka College of Military Medicine and Asia Pacific Alliance – Sri Lanka – for disaster management.

5. **SLMA expert talk on Preparedness for seasonal hazards in Sri Lanka**

The committee organised an expert talk on Preparedness for seasonal hazards in Sri Lanka on 03rd May 2023 in collaboration with Association for Disaster Risk Management Professionals Sri Lanka (ADRIIMP). It was a session which was attended by medical, non-medical and military personnels who are experts in different fields of seasonal hazards in Sri Lanka

FORUM FOR ETHICS COMMITTEES (FERCSL)

Chairperson	:	Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge
Convener	:	Professor Shamini Prathapan
Treasurer	:	Dr. Wasanthi Subasinghe
Editor	:	Prof. Chandima Wickrematilleke

Members

The management committee of FERCSL comprises of three members from each member ERCs. The member ERCs are:

ERC, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
ERC, Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna
ERC, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
ERC, Faculty of Medicine, Kelaniya
ERC, Faculty of Medical Sciences –Sri Jayewardenepura
ERC, Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya
ERC, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata
ERC, Faculty of Medicine, Ruhuna
ERC, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo
ERC, PGIM University of Colombo
ERC, Eastern University
ERC, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata
ERC, Sri Lanka Medical Association
ERC, Institute of Indigenous Medicine (IIM)
ERC, Provincial General Hospital, Kurunegala
ERC, Medical Research Institute of Sri Lanka
ERC, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians
ERC of the Health informatics Society
ERC, Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute
ERC, National Institute of Health Sciences
ERC, Peradeniya Dental Faculty
Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (ERCBMARI)
Faculty of Medicine, Sabaragamuwa University
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Galle

Activities in relation to SLMA Objectives of the Committee

1. Basics of Research Ethics

A workshop was held on 9th of November 2023 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm on an online platform. The resource person were Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge, Dr. Mizaya Cader and Prof. Naazima Kamardeen to talk on “Principles of Research Ethics Evaluating the protocol and their application”, “Evaluating the Scientific validity of protocols” and “Informed Consent, Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Privacy”.

2. GCP training

The flagship activity of the Committee is the GCP training. This year the workshop was conducted as on the 10th August 2023 at the SLMA Auditorium. There were nine resource persons with 100 participants. The agenda is as follows

Topic	Speaker
Introduction	President SLMA/President FERCSL
What is GCP? - Introduction, Principles and Needs and Drug development process	Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge Chairperson, FERCSL Chairperson, ERC SLMA

CT protocol and investigational products	Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan Professor in Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Role and Responsibilities of PI including documentation and record keeping	Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Participant safety and adverse effects	Prof. Shalini Sri Ranganathan Professor in Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Break	
Ethics Review Committee Functions (special reference to GCP and Clinical Trials)	Prof. Panduka Karunanayake Professor in Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Regulatory requirements for clinical trials and legal frame work	Mr. Arjuna Pathmaperuma Regulatory Pharmacist Clinical Trials Evaluation Committee NMRA
Role of the sponsor & Contract Research Organization (CRO)	Prof. H. Asita de Silva Senior Professor of Pharmacology Professor in Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Informed consent	Prof. Naazima Kamardeen Professor of Commercial Law University of Colombo

3. Accreditation of the ERCs

With the economic crisis as most of the members wanted a way to evaluate and enhance the ERC performances, a committee was appointed to look into the review system and to come up with a plan of action for accreditation of Sri Lankan ERCs. Thereby the committee has been working on a method to benchmark ERCs in Sri Lanka by developing the tools to assess ERC performance. The members appointed are, Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge, Prof. Shamini Prathapan, Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara and Dr. Prasad Ranatunga, Prof. H. Harshini Peiris, Dr. Chaturika Dandeniya were appointed with Dr. Prasad Ranatunga and Prof. H. Harshini Peiris as chairperson and the convenor respectively.

4. Database of reviewers and trainees

A database is being maintained by the FERCSL on all national reviewers and trainees. This database will help select reviewers for the accreditation process for Sri Lankan ERCs. This will also help FERCSL to keep track of trainees, who will be eligible as reviewers.

5. e-newsletter

e-newsletters of the FERCSL were circulated by the FERCSL among its member ERC's.

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

Chairperson: Professor R. M. Mudiyanse
Joint Secretaries: Dr. Sudath Dharmaratne & Dr. Thathya De Silva

Members

Dr. Anula Wljesundere	Prof. Priyadarshani Galappatthy	Prof. Indika Karunathilake
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon	Dr. Kalyani Guruge	Dr. Chandanie Wanigathunge
Prof. Athula Kaluarachchi	Dr. S. Sridharan	Dr. Palitha Karunapema
Dr. Dilantha Dharmagunwardana	Dr. Upuli Wijemanna	Dr. Vajra Nanayakkara
Dr. Vindya Kumarpeli	Dr. Mihiri Priyangani	

NO REPORT

HEALTH INOVATIONS, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Chairperson: Prof. Kumara Mendis
Convenor: Dr. Sashika Sandaruwanie

Members:
Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe Dr. Pamod Amarakoon Dr. Sankha Randenikumara
Dr. Thilina Wanigasekara Dr. Duminda Ariyaratne Prof. A. Padmeswaran

Report presented by Dr. Sashika Sandaruwanie

NO REPORT

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Chairperson: Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
Convenor: Dr. P.D. Koggalage

Members
Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa Dr. Sarath Samarage Dr. Alan Ludowyke
Dr. Rani Fernando Dr. Palitha Abeykoon Dr. Deepika Atygalle
Prof. Antoinette Perera Dr. S. Sridharan Dr. G.S.K. Dharmaratne
Dr. M.U.K. Galhena Dr. Upuli Wijemanne Dr. N.N.R. Perera
Dr. Thilanka Dewapura Dr. Susie Perera Dr. Kumara Wickremasinghe
Dr. Janaka Jayasinghe Dr. Vindya Kumarapeli

Report presented by Dr. Dinesh Koggalage

General objective

To assist in strengthening SLMA in its role of influencing health policy and support to play the advocacy role towards a comprehensive curative and preventive healthcare for the Sri Lankan community

Specific objectives – (Refined objectives)

1. To promote professionalism and ethical conduct in management of health services in the country
2. To collaborate with College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka and other Colleges in matters related to health management and health service development
3. To support activities related to healthcare quality and safety
4. Review and provide recommendations on matters related to SLMA council, other agencies and implementers
5. To strengthen links with the Ministry of Health and other related ministries and agencies
6. To encourage research on health management and related subjects

Key activities carried out in 2023

This year, the HMC conducted eight monthly meetings (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul and Sep.) The following activities were undertaken by the HMC up to this date.

1. The specific objectives of the HMC were reviewed and refined by the committee as mentioned above
2. Collaboration with 'SEEA Health' Initiative by the Consultants of NK, Kandy
This initiative is to improve efficiency, equity and productivity of health services in Sri Lanka by restructuring health services in the country. Representatives of this initiative were invited for the HMC meeting for briefings. Several discussions were conducted on health financing.
3. Discussions on sustainable health financing strategies for Sri Lanka
A subcommittee was appointed in this regard and the strategies were discussed extensively at several meetings. The paying ward models of the NHSL, SJGH and Wijeya Kumaranatunga Hospital were analyzed. The committee was in the view that the existing paying ward models are not viable. Hence, the following were few suggestions to improve health financing.

Proposals to increase income generation:

- Provision of out of hours laboratory services to private sector for a nominal fee
- Provision of Radiological investigation (eg. CT, MRI, etc.) facilities to private sector after working hours.
- Construction of public parking yards
- Establishment of public restaurants in hospitals

Proposals to reduce expenditure:

- Establishment of cluster laboratory system
 - Expensive investigations can be outsourced to private sector
 - Strengthening of maintenance units in hospitals
 - Reduce using papers by establishing information/ online systems
4. The 'Brain-Drain' issue of the health workforce
This issue was discussed in detail at several meetings and steps taken to inform the SLMA Council to advocate political hierarchy/ higher MoH officials on how to overcome this issue.
5. 'Annual Career Guidance Seminar for Junior Medical Officers - 2023'
The 30th Seminar was conducted on 12th November 2023 (Sunday) from 8.00am to 1.45pm. in the SLMA Auditorium. This year's Seminar was conducted in-person. The registration fee was Rs. 1000/=.
The Seminar was conducted in four main sessions where each session consisted of 5 or 6 specialists from different medical specialties who introduced the key attributes of the speciality and shared the challenges and benefits of choosing the speciality. Each Session was chaired by a senior member of the HMC.



Visit of Prof. Larry Simon, Director, Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, USA.

MEDIA

Chairperson: Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

Convenor: Dr. Pramitha Mahanama

Members

Dr. Kalyani Guruge

Mr. Suneth Bandara

Dr. Mohammed Nazik

Dr. Sumithra Tissera

Prof. Hasini Banneheke

Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe

Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku

Report Presented by Dr. Pramitha Mahanama

The SLMA Media Committee with the assistance of the Public Relations Officer of the SLMA under the guidance of the President of the SLMA organised a successful series of monthly Press Briefings for the electronic and print media at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium of the SLMA. The focus of the SLMA was to pass on accurate, credible and unbiased information to the public on timely important health matters. The President SLMA chaired these press briefings which were conducted with the assistance and participation of invited experts from the relevant fields and representatives from the specialist Colleges. It must be mentioned in the year 2023 through these press conferences in particular and other press statements/interviews by SLMA sanctioned personnel, quite a few crucial health matters of national significance could be brought into the focus of relevant authorities.

The SLMA thanks the following members of the SLMA for having consented to serve as judges for the 2023 awards:

Dr. Kalyani Guruge, Dr B J C Perera, Dr Sarath Gamini De Silva, Prof. Jennifer Perera, Dr Suneth Rajawasan, Prof. Indika Karunathilake, Dr Chathurie Suraweera, Dr Sumithra Tissera, Dr Harini Fernando for judging the Sinhala articles

Dr. Murali Vallipurathan and Prof. Gitanjali Sathiyadas for judging the Tamil articles
Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe and Dr B J C Perera for judging the English articles.

The Annual SLMA Awards for Excellence in Health Journalism 2023 was conducted for the 18th consecutive year. Following awards were made at the Foundation Sessions held on 24th and 25th November 2023.

- 1. Sinhala Medium**
Ms. Harindi Liyanage of the “*Navaliya*” newspaper for her article “ප්‍රතිජීවක ඖෂධ නිදහසේ ලබාදීම”
- 2. Tamil Medium**
Ms. M H F Husna of the “*Thinakkural*” newspaper for her article “இலங்கை டபண் கறை மிசெண்டும் மார்பக புன்று லநாய்”
- 3. English Medium**
Ms. Nadira Gunatilleke of the “*Daily News*” for her article “Defeating Deadly Dengue”
- 4. Sinhala medium – Merit Award**
Ms. Nadeeshani Pathirana of the “*Ada*” newspaper for her article “මහජන ලෙඩ කපන ප්‍රවණතාවය වැඩි වෙලා”
- 5. English medium – Merit Award**
Ms. Fathima Razik Carder of the “Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation” for the interview extract on “Good Health”

MEDICINAL DRUGS

Chairperson: Prof. Priyadarashani Galappaththy
Convenor: Prof. Pradeepa Jayawardane

Members:

Emeritus Professor Gita Fernando
Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge
Prof. Shyamalee Samaranyake
Mr Azam Jaward

Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
Prof. M. C. Weerasinghe
Dr Sujeevani Kurukulasooriya
Mr Kelum Jayasuriya

Dr. Maxie Fernandopulle
Prof Nithushi Samaranyake
Dr Uthpali Mannapperuma

Report presented by: Professor Priyadarashani Galappaththy (Chairperson) and Prof Pradeepa Jayawardane (Convenor)

Main objective of the committee is to promote rational and appropriate use of medicinal drugs and ensure safety of medication use.

Activities carried out in 2023

1. Therapeutic update lectures

MDC organized the webinars for the 10th consecutive year to update knowledge on therapeutics and rational use of medicines. This year Therapeutic Updates were conducted concentrating on cost effective methods in drug management of common disease. All updates were very well attended and are uploaded to the SLMA website.

The updates held and speakers are as follows:

- 17th February 2023 as a hybrid meeting
“Acute Coronary Syndrome Cost Effective Management During the Economic Crisis” by Dr Disna Amaratunge Consultant Cardiologist Teaching Hospital, Kalutara
- 28th April 2023 as a hybrid meeting
“Rational Use of Antibiotics During the Economic Crisis” by Dr Ananda Wijewickrema, Consultant Physician, Infectious Disease Hospital, Angoda
Conducted in collaboration with Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT).

2. Implementation of Medication Safety National Action Plan

Action Plan for Medication Safety, launched in 2022, is now implemented by the Directorate of Health Care Quality and Safety of the Ministry of Health Sri Lanka, under the guidance of the Chairperson/ MDC, Senior Professor P Galapaththy.

Belo lists were finalized following several consultative meetings with all stakeholders.

1. High Alert Medicines
2. Look Alike Sound Alike Medicines

Circulars have been prepared on proper labelling during dispensing, and on assigning Liaison Pharmacists for medication safety in hospitals.

Prof Pradeepa Jayawardane, Prof Nithushi Samaranayake and Mr Kelum Jayasuriya of MDC, SLMA contributed as resource persons.

3. Patient information leaflets (PILs)

The patient information leaflets on commonly used drugs are being prepared to be published online at the SLMA website.

4. Ensuring Supply of Essential Medicines during the Economic Crisis

The Medicinal Drugs Committee of the Sri Lanka Medical Association expressed its concerns regarding shortage of medicines in Sri Lanka and submitted suggestions to ensure supply of essential medicines during the economic crisis in letters addressed to Director General of Health Services and Secretary to the Treasury.

Press release was also issued regarding the above matter.

Chairperson MDC participated as a resource person at the Press Conference organized by the SLMA on above.

5. Expressing Concerns Regarding the Crisis Situation of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA)

The Medicinal Drugs Committee of the Sri Lanka Medical Association expressed its concerns regarding Crisis Situation of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) in a letter addressed to the Honourable President of Sri Lanka.

6. The Distribution of Un-registered Immunoglobulins to State Sector Hospitals in Sri Lanka and recommendations on granting waiver of registration

The MDC expressed serious concerns about expensive biological products being made available under "forged documents" to the hospitals. Following an extensive discussion, on the lack of implementation of stringent regulatory mechanisms for the pharmaceutical supplies, which has allowed substandard and falsified medicines to be supplied to the country, the MDC requested the SLMA to consider the following actions.

1. SLMA to request an immediate meeting with the Secretary of the Ministry of Health/Prime Minister/Speaker or President involving all stake holders to discuss the serious issue of breakdown in the regulatory oversight of the pharmaceutical supplies and the necessary actions that need to be implemented to prevent the supplying of substandard and falsified medicines to the country in the future.
2. Obtain advice from the Attorney General on the best course of actions that can be taken in this situation against the company and any responsible officers involved.
3. Explore the feasibility of legal action by the SLMA, against the supplier and those responsible (if that does not happen as expected through the Ministry of Health/Government/CID).

7. Successfully conducted a symposium on "Safe Pharmacy Practice" in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT), for Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Assistants on 22nd July 2023 at Sri Lanka Foundation, 100, Sri Lanka Padanam Mawatha, Independence Square, Colombo 7

The Programme of the Event was as follows.

Registration	
Introduction to the workshop	Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy, Chairperson, Medicinal Drugs Committee
Preventing medication errors: pharmacists' role	Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy
Avoiding errors due to Look-alike, sound-alike medicines	Mr Kelum Jayasuriya
Tea	
Good dispensing practices	Dr Uthpali Manapperuma
Medication reconciliation to ensure accuracy of dispensed medicines	Professor Nithushi Samaranayake
High risk medicines and preventing errors due to them	Dr Chiranthi Liyanage

Providing information on medicines to patients	Professor Pradeepa Jayawardane
Lunch	
Evidence based pharmacy practices	Mr Chula Edirisinghe
Inhaler devices and Demonstration on using selected medical devices used in asthma	Dr Keerti Gunasekera Consultant Respiratory Physician
Questions and discussion	
Concluding remarks	Mr Azam Jaward

New members

Following new members were appointed.
Mr Kelum Jayasuriya

Action plan for 2024

1. MDC will continue to have therapeutic updates for 2024.
2. Provide leadership in implementing Medication Safety National Action Plan
3. Respond to any requests by the president and council of the SLMA on matters relevant to the MDC.
4. Contribute to prevention of antimicrobial resistance by improving prescribing practices
5. Patient education on " Misconceptions regarding use of medicinal drugs" will be addressed by preparing "Patient Information Leaflets which will be published online at the SLMA website.

MEDICAL REHABILITATION

Chairperson: Dr Padma Gunaratne
Convenor: Dr Saraji Wijesekara

Members

Dr Lalith Wijeratne	Dr Duminda Munidasa	Dr Arjuna Fernando
Dr Shiromi Maduwage	Dr Duminda Abeyasingha	Dr Gunendrika Kasthuriratne
Dr Jayathri Jagoda	Dr Champika Gunawardana	Dr Samitha Samanmalie
Dr Samanmalie Sumanasena	Ms. M.B.C. Samanmalie	Mrs. Lakshmi Jayalath
Mr. Nandan Welage	Mr. Iranga N. Aluthge	Dr Shyamani Hettiarachchi
Dr Sepalika Mendis	Dr Nieranjan Dissanayaka	Dr Chamara Jayathunga
Dr Noyemal Adhikari	Dr Pushpa Ranasinghe	Dr Udaya de Silva
Dr Gaminie Pathirana	Dr Saman Wadanamby	Mrs. Ashoka Abenayaka
Dr Kalhari Sewwandi	Dr Harsha Gunasekara	

Report presented by Dr Saraji Wijesekara

The committee in medical rehabilitation was formed in year 2021.
under the presidency of Dr Padma Gunaratne with a vision of improving the knowledge and uplifting the services of rehabilitation in the country.

The members of the committee represent all subspecialties in medicine contributing to disability, allied health professionals and nurses.

Many activities carried out throughout the tenure of the expert committee in year 2023.
Committee meetings were held monthly for discussion of progress of projects and planning of future activities. The meetings were well attended by the committee members

Training/ Capacity building

Lectures on rehabilitation were organized in the virtual platform. Both foreign and local speakers were invited targeting the professionals in all specialties, trainees and medical and allied health students

Month	Resource person	Title of the talk
February 2023	Dr H.N.N. Kalyani Senior Lecturer, Department of allied health sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo	Novel Therapies in Parkinson's disease Rehabilitation
April 2023	Dr Gayathri Barnasuriya Senior Registrar in Rehabilitation Medicine	Bladder management in spinal injury
May 2023	Dr Isuru Dharmarathna Post doctoral research fellow	Neonatal feeding management

	Toronto rehabilitation research institute, Canada	
August 2022	3 rd Rehabilitation conference	

Conferences and workshops

3rd rehabilitation conference held on 24th August 2023 at the Auditorium SLMA with the participation of 15 expert

speakers of relevant specialties.

Five main symposia on following topics were discussed within the multidisciplinary teams and the participation of more than 150 representing doctors, nurses and therapists.

- Neurodevelopmental disorders in the Young
- Stroke rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation of disorders with cognitive impairment
- Rehabilitation of musculoskeletal disorders
- Sports falls and recreation



Formulation of National stroke care guidelines - Core group in collaboration with Ministry of Health Sri Lanka

Dr Padma Gunaratne chairs the National stroke care guidelines core group along with experts in the relevant fields who are also members of the expert committee and the book on National stroke care guidelines will be published by the end of year 2023.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Chairperson: Prof. Indika Karunathilake
Convener: Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe

Members

Dr. Ashwini de Abrew	Dr Riska Ishan	Dr Shanka Randenikumara
Dr Palitha Abeekoon	Prof. K.N. Marambe	Dr Chandana Athapaththu
Prof. Rajendra Surenthirakumaran		

1. Cabinet Paper on utilization of Government Hospital Facilities for Training of Students from Non-state Sector Medical Schools

The SLMA Medical Education committee has carefully gone through the cabinet paper made following preliminary observations regarding the above matter.

- This seems to be decision taken without adequate stakeholder discussion. A wider stakeholder discussion regarding the direction of medical education in Sri Lanka should be held before implementing a decision such as this which will have serious implications. In the past, similar ad hoc decisions have led to disastrous consequences.
- Any decision regarding expansion of medical education in Sri Lanka should be preceded by a proper situational analysis of human resources in health in Sri Lanka. To our knowledge, this decision is not based on such analysis.
- During current financial crisis, state medical education system is severely compromised due to lack of human resources and clinical training facilities. Allocation of state-sector resources for private sector institutions will lead to diversion of even the limited

resources available from the state medical education system, leading to eventual collapse. Several newly established Faculties of Medicine are already constrained.

- d) This decision has completely ignored the principle of equity, which is the foundation of free health system and free education system of Sri Lanka.

2. Bench to Bedside: Bridging the Gap between Basic Sciences and Clinical Research Preconference Workshop (Online) – Basic and Applied Sciences Session

The SLMA Medical Education sub-committee participated and shared the experience at the 16th International Research Conference of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Organized by the Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, KDU in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) on 31st August 2023.



3. Matters related to the Establishment of Non-state Medical Education institutions within Sri Lanka

The chairperson and convener of the SLMA medical Education committee strongly expressed their views to the Council on the e mail draft circulated to the council by the President on SLMA's Stand on the establishment of Non-state Medical Education institutions within Sri Lanka.

NON- COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Chairperson: Dr. Renuka Jayatissa
Convenor: Dr. Sidath Wijesekera

Members

Dr. J. B. Jayawardena	Prof Chandrika Wijeyaratne	Dr. V.T.S Siriwardena
Dr. Chathuranga Ranasinghe	Dr. Bhanuja Wijethilake	Dr. Thushara Matthias
Dr. Sanka Randenikumara	Dr. Thushan Gunaratne	Dr. Thusitha Kahaduwa

Report presented by Dr. Sidath Wijesekera/ Dr. Ishani Fernando

Background

The expert subcommittee on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) has been active and operational since 2004 which has given leadership to SLMA in playing a pioneering advocacy role in the field of NCDs; in policy formulation, strategic planning, and development of national action plans in support of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other relevant ministries and stakeholders. It is important to highlight that withing last five years' time the subcommittee has given the technical leadership and advocacy in three national level projects.

Activities carried out in 2023:

Food and Nutrition

☐ **Healthy yoghurt with 'no added sugar'**

Project proceeded up to production of yoghurt with no added sugar. But due to prevailing market condition manufacturers were not willing to introduce this in to the market; phase 2 of the project, as there will be a significant impact on their budget. All the parties decided to postpone the next step until next year.

Phase -3 of the project was to introduction of a healthy logo. It was approved by the SLMA and on the process of getting patent rights.

☐ **Programs on food safety**

Continued providing expertise and voluntary services to the Coconut Development Authority (CDA) Sri Lanka including site visits to coconut oil producers.

☐ **Cancer**

Successfully media briefing and symposium on breast cancer prevention and treatments was held on 3rd of November 2023 with the participation of Dr. Nuradh Joseph, Consultant oncologist and NCCP.

☐ **Tobacco and Alcohol**

Held a meeting with NATA chairman and discussed further steps of ban on flavoured and single cigarettes through the collaboration of NATA.

PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE TASK FORCE (PCTF)

Chairperson: Dr. Udayangani Ramadasa
Convenor: Dr Gamini Pathirana
Hony Joint Secretaries: Dr Chaya Withanachchi

Members:

Dr Dilhar Samaraweera	Dr Panduka Karunanayake	Dr Kalyani Guruge
Dr Suraj Perera	Dr Ravini Karunatileke	Dr KVC Janaka
Prof Shyamalee Samaranayake	Dr Sujeewa Weerasinghe	Prof Clifford Perera
Dr Anuprabha Wickramasinghe	Dr Thushari Hapuarachchi	Dr Shehan Silva
Dr Ruwanthi Jayasekera	Dr Anula Rathnayake	Dr Lanka Dissanayake
Ms Wajira Wijesinghe		

Reported by Dr. Udayanganie Ramadasa

The Palliative Care Task Force (PCTF) engaged in efficient distribution of End-of-Life Care Guidelines which were published in 2022. This was done via the National Steering Committee through the National Cancer Control Program (NCCP). The Palliative Care Manual was also distributed to hospitals and a downloadable electronic version is currently available on the SLMA and NCCP websites.

A program to train palliative care teams in hospitals in Kandy was successfully conducted. Furthermore, a special training session was organized for the Graduate Nurses Fellowship on Palliative Care. A certificate course on Paediatric Palliative care organized by Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health, Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Sri Lanka College of Oncologists in collaboration with PCTF/ SLMA was held in September. All these events were well attended and successful.

The PCTF presented an Abstract titled 'Developing & Piloting a Training Module on Palliative Care for Health Care Staff in Primary Care Setting in a Selected District in Sri Lanka' at the Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Conference 2023 in October in Incheon, South Korea. In commemoration of the International Day for Palliative Care (October 14) a public press conference was held at the Health Promotion Bureau.

The PCTF is currently in the process of translating and validating the Trilingual Book of Palliative Care. A feedback evaluation is currently being planned for the End-of-Life Guidelines. This will be instrumental in proceeding to development of a Legal Framework for Advanced Care Planning.

PLANETARY HEALTH AND CLIMATE EFFECTS

Chairperson: Dr. Surantha Perera, Consultant Paediatrician
Convener: Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku, and Humanitarian Response Manager

Members:

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President SLMA, President Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
Prof. Ishan De Zoysa, Professor of Surgery, University of Colombo
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Public Health Expert, Special Envoy of DG, WHO
Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo
Prof. Samath Dharmaratne, Chair Professor, Community Medicine and Director PGIMS
Prof. Dulani Gunasekera, Chair Professor, Department of Paediatrics, SJU
Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, SJU
Dr. Ruwan Thushara, Medical Officer (Public Health), National Hospital, Colombo
Dr. Sameera Hewage, World Health Organization, Country Office, Sri Lanka
Dr. Nimani Boralessa, Registrar in Community Medicine, University of Colombo
Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Environment
Dr. Asela Gunawardena, DGHS, Ministry of Health
Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya, Professor of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Dr. Kapila Sooriyarachchi, Consultant Community Physician, South Asia Co-operative Environment Program
Prof. Buddhi Marabe, Senior Professor, Department of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Senior Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Processing, University of Moratuwa
Dr. Ananda Mallawarachchi, Presidential Advisor on Climate Change and Climate Finance
Mrs. Asha de Vos, Marine Biologist, Environmental Activist
Dr. Inoka Suraweera, Consultant Community Physician, Environment and Occupational Health Unit, Ministry of Health
Mr. Ranil Vitarana, Chief Innovative Officer, MAS Holdings
Dr. Sanjay Perera, Chairman, Geological Survey and Mine Bureau, Resource Person, John Hopkins University
Dr. Sulakshana Jayawardena, Additional Secretary, Presidential Secretariat
Mr. Mohan Ajitkumar-Senior Manager, Mobitel E Channeling

The SLMA expert committee on Planetary Health and Climate Effects was established in 2023 to achieve optimum health and safety standards to prepare, mitigate and respond to the impacts of climate change through evidence-based policy decisions, technical interventions, research, learning, and development. The committee organised flowing activities.

1. Webinar on Climate Change Impact; Policies, People, Health and Beyond

SLMA Expert Committee on Planetary Health and Climate Effects, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), organized a webinar to raise awareness among the public and the scientific community on climate change impacts on the health of vulnerable populations and recent developments in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Sri Lanka. The webinar highlighted the current strategies & key achievements and gaps in climate action in Sri Lanka and reiterated the importance of inclusive, participatory, and community-driven Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Interventions.

Country Representative of the UNFPA, Mr. Kunle Adeniyi, graced the occasion as the chief guest and several eminent speakers, including Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Dr. Inoka Suraweera of Environment and Occupational Health Unit, MoH, Mr. John Buenaventura, Humanitarian-Development Nexus Specialist, UNFPA Sri Lanka Office and Dr. Surantha Perera, Consultant Paediatrician.

They discussed the policy and strategic directives for climate change in Sri Lanka, Health Sector Preparedness for Climate Change, Climate and Gender and the impact on climate change on children. Discussions were followed by an interactive media session attended by the country's leading media personnel and outlets.

2. Development of 'Climate Smart Green Hospital Initiative' in Sri Lanka

Expert committee on Planetary Health and Climate Effects, together with subject matter specialists and leading professionals in climate action, has initiated a think tank to formulate a novel concept for Climate Smart Green Hospitals in Sri Lanka with adaptation of best practices in renewable energy and preventing energy waste, reducing hospital waste, green procurement and purchasing, green transportation and sustainable built environment in hospitals. This agenda, spread across ten key thematic areas, will develop a visionary paper and a tangible action plan to build Climate Smart Green Hospitals in Sri Lanka within the next decade.

3. Development of the website climateslma.lk

An expert committee has initiated the development of a dedicated website on planetary health and climate effects which is freely accessible to the public and larger scientific community. This website will be the launching platform and one-stop centre for all information on the latest developments in climate change. Experts on planetary health are finalizing content development, and the website has been hosted and can be accessed. Its interactive platform facilitates chat groups to express their views.

PREVENTION OF ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES

Co-Chairpersons: Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne and Prof. Clifford Perera

Secretary: Dr. Thushara Matiwala

Members

Dr. T. Siriwardena	Dr. Parakrama Wijekoon	Mr. Nishantha Perera
Dr. Nissanka Jayawardena	Dr. Kosala Somaratne	Mr. Dilantha Malagamuwa
Mr. K. umar Kandaneerachchi	Mr. Gaminda Piyavira	Mr. A.W. Dissanayake
Dr. Ranjith Sarath Jayasekera	Dr. Samitha Siritunga	Dr. Kapila Jayaratne
Dr. Jaindra Fernando	Mr. Indika Hapugoda	Dr. Kapila Sooriyaarachchi
Mr. Indika Baddegamage	Ms. Nadeeshani Hettiarachchi	Ms. Fathima Razik Cader
Dr. Tamara Kalubowila	Mr. Keerthi Koditiwakku	Mr. Heshan Padukka
Dr. Mahanama Gunasekera	Mr. Kithsiri Kumara	Dr. Dhammika Adhikariwattage
Dr. H. G. H. Fernando	Dr. M. S. Eranda Karunadasa	Dr. V. Tennakoon
Dr. Y. H. H. Gunathilaka	Dr. Duminda Ariyaratne	Dr. S. B. A. S. M. Rathnayake
Dr. E. A.S.T Edirisinghe	Dr. S. A. Liyanage	Prof. Indika Karunathilake
Prof. Ravindra Fernando	Mr. Eranda Perera	Mr. Anushka Kumarasinghe
Dr. Danushi Hettiarachchi	Dr. Ana Perez Zaldivar	Mr. (SSP) Manoj Ranagala
Mr. Charaka Perera	Dr. Mahesh Gunasekara	Mr. Eranda Perera

Report presented by Professor S. D. Dharmaratne

The Expert Committee for the Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes (PRTC) met regularly at the SLMA and conducted a large number of programs during 2023. Among them, meetings with the Hon. State Minister of Security and Disaster Management, Mr. Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon, Hon. State Minister of Transport, Mr. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, the Hon. Minister of Education Dr. Susil Premajayantha, and the Senior Security Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Sagala Ratnayaka were important.

Additionally, the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes was able to meet the Defense Secretary, the Chairman of the National Council for Road Safety, the Chairman of the SLTB, the Secretary to the President and other Secretaries of relevant ministries working towards road safety in Sri Lanka during 2023. In addition to working towards making roads safe to the citizens of the country, the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes was focused towards the establishment of the Presidential Task Force for road safety.

The Chairperson and several members of the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes were invited and participated in a number of workshops organized by the National Council for Road Safety (one for media personnel and the other for relevant stakeholders), the Ministry of Health and the Presidential Secretariat. In all these meetings the Chairperson of the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes made a presentation of the burden of road injuries and deaths and the plan of action of the expert committee.

This culminated with a very successful meeting organized by the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes to make roads safe for children in Sri Lanka, held at the Galle Face Hotel and participated by Mr. Sagala Ratnayaka as the Chief Guest. At this meeting Mr. Ratnayaka assured the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes that a special powerful committee for road safety will be established under the President of Sri Lanka in the near future and the SLMA will be invited to participate in this committee. We think that if this is achieved, then a long-standing objective of the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes will be completed and a new era of road safety will dawn on Sri Lanka.

As has been justified, described and iterated by the expert committee for the prevention of road traffic crashes, our work through a very multi-disciplinary group of people working voluntarily towards road safety in the country, through collaboration, combination and good-will,



Expert committee on PRTC had a very productive meeting with Hon. State Minister of Transport Mr Lasantha Alagiyawanna at his ministry. Following members were participated.

1. Dr Ruwan Thushara Matiwalage Convenor/ Secretary
2. Dr Kapila Sooriyarachchi.
3. Mr Dilantha Malagamuwa-Brand Ambassador SAFE SRI LANKA.
4. Mr Anura Dissanayake.

Hon. State minister advised Chairman of National Road Safety Council to Work with our committee and invited to participate at next Stakeholder meeting which will be on 30th January. 1st Joint activity will be training of SLTB bus drivers and Safety officers at Katukurunda by Mr Dilantha regarding defensive driving of passenger transport.

Mr. Mahinda Bandara, Coord Secretary of minister and Anton, Chairman of Road Safety Council also participated.



SLMA Expert committee on PRTC met Chairman of SLTB Mr Lalith De Alwis (former Secretary State Transport Ministry) at Narahenpita Head office. Dr Kapila Sooriyarachchi, Mr Dilantha Malagamuwa Brand Ambassador SAFE SRI LANKA ROAD SAFETY PROJECT, Mr Kavinda Mahavedage and Dr Ruwan Thushara Matiwalage Convener attended the meeting. Following matters were discussed

1. Training programme for SLTB drivers and safety officers from each Depot as TOT Programme in March/ April
2. To establish safe bus Depot concepts and reward systems for good drivers
3. Road Safety Awareness programme for Regional Depot Managers on 9th/10 of February. It was a fruitful meeting. Thank you very much Mr. Mahinda Bandara for arranging the meeting.



Today expert committee on PRTC had a meeting with Defense Secretary at his office and requested to enforce traffic laws to reduce RTCs in the country and asked to send a proposal to submit to National Security Council. Defense Additional Secretary and former Chairperson of Tourist board also participated. Mr Dilantha Malagamuwa Brand Ambassador of SAFE SRI LANKA has got appointment with the Defense Secretary. I would like to Thank Prof Samath and Dr Kapila for their valuable support

In February, Expert committee on PRTC was invited to Education ministry by Hon. Minister Mr Susil Premjayanth to form a committee to address Health, wellness and Safety of School children. Prof Samth Dharmaratne has submitted a document to Minister regarding.

Recommendations for road safety of School children.

1. Regulation of School vans and Busses, compulsory to have an annual vehicle fitness certificate from a recognized institute.
2. To introduce compulsory annual medical checkup for drivers from National Transport Medical Institute or recognized hospital and to obtain a special passenger training certificate from recognized driving school/govt. institute.
3. Age limit for school van/ bus drivers need to be introduced.
4. Riding of motor bicycles by School children need to be banned.
5. To introduce educational program on Road Safety for all school children with the help of traffic police and other relevant organizations.
6. When motor bicycle using as a mode of transport to school with an adult, always helmet and other protective gears should be worn and total 2 persons allowed.
7. With regard to arrangement of educational trips, all buses should have a fitness test taken recently and bus driver should competent and have a certificate for passenger transportation, Maximum speed level need to be introduced.
8. All buses should have full insurance and all passengers must be fully insured.
9. To introduce a driver training program on simulators after 16 years before leaving the school (Future discipline driver programme)
10. To establish a National transport commission to regulate school vans/ busses like other passenger transport busses
11. To design a curriculum to create a safety culture in the country.





The SL Traffic Police, RMW and education ministry with assistance and coordination of the road accident prevention expert committee of the Sri Lanka Medical Association checked the road worthiness of school children transport vans and buses in 4 school areas covering over 16 schools in Colombo. Most vans and buses had corrections and repairs to be done to make them road safe for children. Includes removal of tinted glasses to prevent child abuse and removal stickers, badges, ornaments, decorations etc which obstructs the drivers vision.





The police and RMV took the licences etc of these vehicles and provided them 30 days period to do the required corrections and obtain their licenses and revenue licenses. Failure would result in courtaction. Derana TV covered these inspections on the request of the SLMA.

Meeting with SLRCS / DG Dr Mahesh Gunasekara



Sri Lanka Insurance partners with Sri Lanka Medical Association

Sri Lanka Insurance entered in to a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) with the objective of promoting road safety to minimise road accidents.

This special program will be channelled through the Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes (PRTC) committee led by the leadership of SLMA.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exchange took place on the 18 July at Sri Lanka Medical Association Head Office, Colombo in the presence of General Insurance of Sri Lanka Insurance Group Chief Executive Officer Chandana L. Aluthgama, Chief Operating Officer Priyantha Perera and SLMA President Dr. Vinaya Ariyaratne, SLMA Member Dr. Sanjay Perera, Expert Committee Convenor Dr. Thushara Mawialage, SLMA Member Dr. Surantha Perera and Dilantha Malagumawwa.

Furthermore, a media campaign to create awareness on road safety will be executed to educate the general public. As the number one motor insurance brand in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Insurance Motor Plus goes beyond its call of duty to add value to its customers and the citizens of the country. Whilst providing an array of products to cater different affinity groups in the market such as female driver, motor cyclists, senior citizens, commercial vehicle drivers, three-wheeler segment, and premier life-style segments etc. the brand understands its responsibility in adding value towards its customers and the community.



From left: SLIC General Insurance Chief Operating Officer Priyantha Perera, SLIC Group Chief Executive Officer Chandana L. Aluthgama, SLMA President Dr. Vinaya Ariyaratne, SLMA Member Dr. Sanjay Perera, Expert Committee Convenor Dr. Thushara Mawialage, SLMA Member Dr. Surantha Perera and Dilantha Malagumawwa.

Also it is reported that the annual average of road accidents counts up to 40,000 per year and the fatality rate is 3000 per year in average. Furthermore, 8000 to 9000 persons seek medical facilities for serious injuries. As a result, the country has to bear an expense of Rs. 200 billion to Rs. 300 billion annually which amounts to 1% to 3% of the GDP (Source: Health Bulletin - Ministry of Health 2022). This is a clear indication that the country needs a structured program to create awareness among the motorists and the general public. Understanding the importance of this SLIC joined hands with SLMA for this worthy cause of creating awareness among motorists and the public.

Sri Lanka Medical Association is heading the expert committee on Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes (PRTC) which was instituted under the President Task Force. The expert committee consists of number stakeholders that includes Doctor and health personnel, Engineers, Police, Policy makers, Registration of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Department, Road Development Authority and Urban Development Authority representatives, Vehicle Fleet Owners etc. This committee will spearhead the awareness programs together with SLIC to minimise the number of road accidents that takes place.



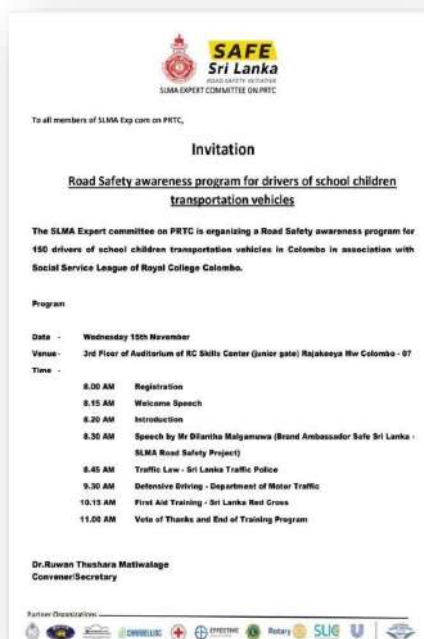


Presidential Secretariat has organized a stakeholder meeting on the request of SLMA EXPERT COMMITTEE ON PRTC to establish a presidential task force to reduce & prevent Road trafficcrashes, deaths & injuries. Mr. Lasantha Alagiyawanna (State minister of Transport, Mr. Saman Ekanayake chaired the meeting)



SLMA Expert committee on PRTC has organized Road Safety Programme at Royal College Colombo with Colombo Traffic Headquarters, RMV, SLTB, SLIC.

1. Vehicle Roadworthiness check on School vans & Buses
2. Awareness session for Students of Royal, Ananda and DSS @ Royal.





RESEARCH EVALUATION

Chairperson: Prof. M. C. Weerasinghe
Convenor: Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe

Members

Dr. Sumithra Tissera	Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa	Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
Prof. Shamini Prathapan	Prof. A. Pathmeswaran	Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
Dr. Kalyani Guruge	Dr. Surantha Perera	

The Grants applications were evaluated by the committee and following decisions were made

1. CNAPT Award – Awarded to
 “Knowledge on prevention of occupational health hazards and utilization of safety measures among construction trade workers in Colombo District”
 Dr Kasunee Chamila Kalubowila
2. Glaxo Welcome Research Award – Awarded to
 “Russell’s viper (*Daboia russelii*) envenomation: Epidemiology, clinical profile, morphological and molecular study”
 Dr R M M K Namal Rathnayaka
3. SLMA Research Grant – Awarded to
 “Perceptions, prevalence and associated factors of cancer cachexia among patients with advanced stage cancers attending the Oncology unit, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya, Galle and the effectiveness of an intervention targeting its prevention”
 Dr I L A N Darshana

"Impact of Mindfulness-Based Rehabilitation on Psychological Outcomes of Patients with Breast Cancer Undergoing Surgery: Randomized Control Trial"
Dr Umesh Jayarajah

4. Dr. Thistle Jayawardena Grant for Intensive and Critical Care – Awarded to
"Platelet recovery in sepsis: An early marker of recovery"
Dr I. A. Abeyagunawardena
5. Professor Wilfred SE Perera Travel Grant
"Knowledge and attitudes towards LGBT people and their healthcare needs among doctors in two selected hospitals in Sri Lanka"
Dr Nadeeka Kumudini Chandraratne
6. G R Handy Award – not awarded

SNAKE BITE

Chairperson : Prof. S. A. M. Kularatne
Secretary : Dr. Namal Rathnayake
Editor : Dr. Malik Fernando

Members

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne	Dr. Chamara Dalugama	Dr. Anslem de Silva
Dr. Udaya de Silva	Dr. Shantha de Silva	Dr. Christo Fernando
Dr. Kasun Fernando	Prof. Indika Gawarammana	Dr. Lahiru Kalpage
Prof. Kalana Maduwage	Prof. Kolitha Sellahewa	Prof. Anjana Silva
Prof. N. Suganthan	Prof. Eranga Wijewickrama	Dr. K.C. Dayasiri

Report presented by Dr. Namal Rathnayake

Three virtual committee meetings of the Snakebite Committee were held in 2023; other interactions being through email.

A new member— Dr. Kavinda Dayasiri, Senior Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya was proposed and duly appointed by the SLMA Secretary after Council approval.

The Expert Committee on Snakebite worked to notify the epidemiology and snakebite deaths with the Ministry of Health. The committee is further working on repository of e-copies of research done by Sri Lankans which are not available online.

A new web page (<https://sites.google.com/view/slmasnakebitecommittee/home>) was designed for the Expert Committee on Snakebite in order to impart community-based service regarding snakes and snakebites.

Programme for the year 2023

1. The Expert Committee met on the 8th January under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. S. M. Kularatne and agreed on the following work programme for 2023.
2.
 - a) Print hard copies of the latest Snakebite Management Guidelines: small print run of the complete guidelines currently available on the internet, or a bigger print run of the abridged guidelines essentials, depending on cost involved.
 - b) Compile a repository of soft copies of articles relating to snakebite in Sri Lanka.
 - c) Conduct awareness programmes on the management of snakebite in hospital:
 - i. at clinical meetings,
 - ii. through the SLMA News,
 - iii. through media releases.
 - d) Establish a relationship with the Health Ministry to achieve the following objectives:
 - i. That the Ministry recognises that Snakebite is listed by WHO as a *Neglected Tropical Disease*, and that greater emphasis should be directed at addressing relevant issues.
 - ii. That the Ministry acknowledges the SLMA Expert Committee on Snakebite (SBC) as a partner in addressing issues relating to snakebite and its management and promotes relevant outputs produced by it, such as the Management Guidelines.
 - iii. That the MoH nominates an officer to membership of the SBC to further promote co-operation.
 - iv. That the Ministry agrees to implement, in a sustainable manner, the collection of

epidemiological data on snakebite and make snakebite-related deaths reportable (as requested previously) to enable appropriate awareness programmes and training programmes to be carried out where these are most needed.

- e) Conduct a symposium on Snakebite at the Anniversary Scientific Sessions on an agreed topic to agree with the Sessions Theme, either
 - i. Management of snakebite – The Essentials; or,
 - ii. Diagnostic dilemmas – Novel approaches to solutions; or,
 - iii. Other, to be decided.
- f) Promote Collaborative Research on identified topics relating to snakebite management. Research questions to be defined through discussion.

SUICIDES PREVENTION (ECSP)

Chairperson: Prof. Thilini Rajapakshe
Convener : Dr Anula Wijesundere
Secretary : Dr Chathurie Suraweera

Members:

Prof. Samudra Kathirarachchi	Dr Prabath Wickrama	Dr Anuruddhika Ratnayake
Dr Venura Paliawadana	Dr Sajeewa Ranaweera	Dr T Suveendran
Dr Lakmi Seneviartne	Ms Kumudini Hettiarachchi	Dr Amila Isuru
Dr Ruwan Ferdinando		

New members: 2

Members resigned: 2

The number of meetings held: 06

The ECSP undertook several important activities in the past year. ECSP is working closely with the National Suicide Prevention Committee of the Ministry of Health.

Two sub-committees are working within the ECSP, targeting the activities of suicide prevention among older adults and younger people.

1. Old age
2. Child, adolescent, and youth

A brainstorming session was held in October 2022 to identify the issues faced by older adults and strategies to minimise older adults among representatives of key institutions working on older adults in Sri Lanka

As identifying issues of older adults at an early stage is very important, an awareness session on identifying mental health issues of the older adults was conducted targeting the members of Sri Lanka College of General Practitioners and Sri Lanka College of Family Physicians on 3 May 2023 by Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist Dr Anuprabha Wickramasinghe.

A series of activities were conducted in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau. A series of webinars were conducted for Medical Officers of Health to identify common mental health issues among children and youth. Experts in the field delivered talks on current topics like parenting, psychoactive substance use and screen use.

Meetings with the Ministry of Education were organised to initiate a programme to improve the well-being of the school children. Most members of the committee are contributing to the child-friendly school programme, which is being carried out in collaboration with the Mental Health Directorate and Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists.

An initial discussion on increasing the awareness among police officers on various issues that may contribute to suicides in the community will be held in January 2024

FORUM ON SPORTS AND EXERCISE

Chairperson: Dr. Chathuranga Ranasinghe
Convener : Dr. Rajiv Nirmalasingham

The SLMA Forum on Sports and Exercise, established on the 15th of September 2023 has been actively pursuing its mission to promote sports and physical activity within the medical community. The key leadership includes Prof. Chathuranga Ranasinghe as President and Dr. Rajiv Nirmalasingham as the Convener.

The forum conducted monthly meetings throughout the year, focusing on strategizing and planning initiatives to achieve its objectives. These meetings served as a platform for discussions, idea sharing, and coordination among members.

One of the major planned projects for the year is the organization of a Women's Cricket Carnival scheduled for December 9, 2023. This event aims to encourage female participation in sports and create a vibrant sporting culture within the medical community. The committee anticipates a successful and engaging event that will contribute to fostering camaraderie and physical well-being. However due to unexpected torrential rains, the programme had to be cancelled the day before and is now to be rescheduled for December 2023.

Looking ahead, the forum is gearing up to host a Futsal Tournament by the end of the year. Futsal, being a fast-paced and inclusive sport, aligns with the forum's goal of promoting physical activity among medical professionals. The tournament is expected to attract participants from various medical departments, enhancing teamwork and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

The commitment of the forum to its objectives is evident in the strategic planning and execution of these sports events. By providing opportunities for participation in different sports, the forum contributes to the overall well-being of its members while creating a sense of community and camaraderie.

In conclusion, the SLMA Forum on Sports and Exercise has made significant strides in its inaugural year. The successful organization of monthly meetings and the execution of planned projects, such as the Women's Cricket Carnival and the upcoming Futsal Tournament, underscore the commitment of the forum to promote a culture of sports and physical activity within the medical community. These initiatives not only contribute to the well-being of medical professionals but also strengthen the sense of unity and collaboration within the SLMA. The forum looks forward to building on these achievements in the coming years, fostering a healthier and more active medical community.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND ILLICIT DRUGS

Chairperson: Professor Narada Warnasuriya
Convenor: Dr. Jayamal De Silva

Members

Dr. Hemantha Amarasinghe	Dr. Nadeeka Chandraratne	Dr. Nayana Dhanapala
Dr. Manoj Fernando	Dr. Medhani Hewagama	Dr. Sameera Hewage
Dr. Amila Isuru	Dr. Sajeeva Ranaweera	Dr. Mahesh Rajasuriya
Dr. Anula Wijesundere		

Report presented by Dr. Jayamal de Silva

Cannabis

Several activities were undertaken to address the stated intention of Members of Parliament to legalize the cultivation of cannabis for export, as a means of addressing the economic crisis in the country. There was also a movement launched by interested individuals to legalize the use of cannabis in Sri Lanka at the same time.

- The Presidential Secretariat appointed committee to explore the feasibility of growing cannabis for export, the head of which was prominent campaigner for the total legalization of cannabis use. The committee:
 1. Wrote to the Secretary of the President outlining the disadvantages of such a move. The contents included the economic, social and health consequences of such a move. It also advocated to law makers and public on the importance of the use of the precautionary principle when considering any form of deregulation as there is overwhelming evidence to show that cannabis is harmful when used as a drug.
 2. The letter was released to media, which was prominently published in the leading newspapers of the country.
 3. Met members of this committee individually to discuss the negative outcomes to Sri Lanka and its people of such a move.

This committee at the conclusion of its deliberations did not recommend the modifications of the current restrictions placed on cannabis growing or use.

- Members of the committee met key Ayurveda professionals and the Commissioner, Department of Ayurveda to sensitize the issues surrounding the call to legalize cultivation of cannabis.
- A stakeholder meeting was held at the SLMA with the participation of medical and ayurveda professionals and media. It was agreed at this stakeholder meeting to oppose any move to remove the current restrictions placed on cannabis and to form a committee of stakeholders to carry its work forward.
- The committee commenced development of an educational package on cannabis aimed at medical professionals which will be launched in 2024.

Opioid Replacement Therapy.

- The National STD/AIDS Control Programme of the Ministry of Health attempted several times during the past to provide methadone for opioid users. Although this method of harm reduction has been experimented in Sri Lanka many years ago, it was unsuccessful for several reasons. This form of therapy is being provided at present in some countries with advanced economies, health systems and enforcement agencies with mixed results.
- The Committee had challenged implementation of this approach in Sri Lanka citing several technical, clinical, economic and administrative reasons which make it unsuitable in the context of opioid use in Sri Lanka.
- The Committee is now in the final stages of drafting a position paper on the subject, which will be presented to the SLMA Council.

Tobacco

- The committee provided extensive support to the Institute of Policy Studies to prepare a formula for tobacco taxation, policy brief and a cabinet paper to be presented through the Ministry of Health. In addition to containing the formula, this policy paper recommended technical aspects of optimizing tobacco taxation to increase the government revenue, while reducing consumption. It contained the estimates of government revenue under different scenarios when the proposed formula was implemented.
- Members of the committee raised the issue of taxation in different forums. Due to pressure from different stakeholders, the Ministry of Finance increased the tax on cigarettes by 20%.

Alcohol

- The UNDP with the Ministry of Health is carrying out an investment case study on alcohol in Sri Lanka. It attempts to quantify the harms of alcohol in Sri Lanka in economic terms and estimates the return on investment for different alcohol control measures in Sri Lanka. It takes into account epidemiological aspects, disease costs, productivity costs in Sri Lanka to arrive at conclusions. Members of the committee were invited to review the first draft of this report.
- Extensive feedback was provided by the participating members as there were many methodological and statistical weaknesses in this draft. The UNDP is currently incorporating these comments.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Chairperson: Professor Anuruddhi Edirisinghe
Convener: Dr. Deepa Gunasekera

Members

Prof. Shamini Prathapan	Dr. Amanthi Bandusena	Dr. Nadeeka Chandraratne
Ms. Leisha de Silva	Dr. Sepali Kottegoda	Dr. Iyanthi Gunasekera
Dr. Neththanjali Mapitigama	Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana	Dr. Deepika Attygalle
Dr. Sumithra Tissera	Dr. Ishra Nazeer	Dr Anuruddika Rathnayaka
Dr Pushpa Ranasinghe	Dr Inoka Wickramasinghe	Dr Daminda Attanayake
Prof Sampatha goonewardena		

New members join on 2023

Dr. K. Y. P. K. Weerasekara	Professor Rasika Herath	Prof. Indira Kithulwaththa
Dr. A. M. D. K. Attanayake	Dr. Rajika. S. Savanadasa	Prof. D. M. P. U. K Ralapanawa
Dr. G. C. S Gunasekera	Dr. U. A. Liyanage	Dr Kanchana Wijesinghe

Five meetings were held via zoom during the year 2023.

The following are the activities which were conducted during this year.

1. The WHC conducted a symposium as an activity for Women's Day Celebrations in March 2023. This was held on 17th March 2023, and the title of the symposium was "Empowering the family in critical times" The Chairpersons were Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe and Dr Vinya Ariyaratana. The experts in their field of specialty gave presentations namely; Dr. Nisha Arunathilaka on "Economy at home", Dr. Enoka Wickramasinghe on "Prioritizing needs over wants for better health and wellbeing" and Dr. Deepa Gunesakera on "Current nutritional issues in Sri Lanka", Dr. Rajika Savanadasa on "A nutritional guide for the whole family during times of crisis", Dr. Pushpa Ranasinghe on "Stress, anxiety and violence at home" Dr. Vindya Wijebandara on "Measures being taken to reduce family stress, anxiety and violence".
2. Two newspaper articles were published parallel with the International Women's Day. Topics were "Riding the wave of uncertainty-the role of family during times of economic hardship" by Dr. Rajika Savanadasa which was published on 5th March 2023 in the Sunday Island and "Arthika Abiyoga Hamuwe Pawula Pelagasawamu" by Dr. Anuruddhika Rathnayaka published in the Lankadeepa on 8th March 2023 Lankadeepa and Divaina.
2. The WHC conducted a lecture to commemorate the World Hypertension Day. This was held on 8th June 2023 at SLMA auditorium. The title was "Hypertension in women: impact on well-being" The guest speaker was Prof. D. M. P. U. K Ralapanawa, from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. Conveners were Prof Anurudhi Edirisinghe and Dr. Deepa Gunesakera
4. An activity for SLMA Sessions 2023: July
5. A Symposium on whitening cosmetics was held on 17th November 2023. The title was "Craziness for skin fairness: is it worth" Speakers were Prof. Miyuru Chandradasa, Consultant Adolescent and Child Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, University of Kelaniya, who spoke on "Mind under the skin" and Dr. Nayani Madarasinha, Consultant Dermatologist, Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa and Miss Umali Thilakarathna, Award Winning Actress who also contributed with her opinion on fair skin and whitening cosmetics. Conveners were Prof Anuruddi Edirisinghe and Dr Deepa Gunesakera.



17. CENTRAL CPD (CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Chairperson Prof. Indika Karunathilake
Convenor Dr. Rizka Ihsan

Members

Prof. Kosala Marambe Dr. Umanga Sooriyarachchi Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama
 Dr. Wasana Kudagammana Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe

This report was compiled by Prof. Indika Karunathilake

The committee achieved a significant milestone when the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka, formally agreed to recognize its framework for national CPD for healthcare professionals. Following this recognition, a CPD governing body and a national accreditation committee were established under the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. Prof. Indika Karunathilake was appointed as the chairperson of the accreditation committee. These committees closely liaison with the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka, and Central CPD committee of the SLMA to establish and manage a national CPD system. The foundation was laid to develop a virtual platform as the focal point of the national CPD system. The CPD accreditation committee has commenced registration of CPD mentors and CPD providers.

18. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Joint Editors: Prof. Kumara Mendis & Dr Sumithra Tissera

Editorial Committee:

Dr BJC Perera

Prof. A. Pathmeswaran

Prof. Hasini Banneheke

Dr Sarath Gamini De Silva

Prof. Shamila de Silva

Prof. U. C. P. Perera

Dr Kalyani Guruge

Prof. Senani Williams

Prof. Chamila Mettananda

The SLMA Newsletter continued with the same high standard of publishing quality featuring articles by eminent medical professionals specialising in different subspecialties.

The page setting and graphics were done by Mr Shashika Gunathilake, and printing and publishing by Kandy Offset Printers (Pvt) Ltd.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the authors, contributors, advertisers and our well-wishers.



19. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Joint Social Secretaries: Dr. Pramilla Senanayake and Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe

Members of the Concert Committee / Dance Committee

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne

Dr Manilka Sumanatilleke

Dr Preethi Wijegoonewardene

Dr. Surantha Perera

Dr Sumithra Tissera

Dr. Achala Balasuriya

Prof. Ishan De Zoysa

Dr Kalyani Guruge

Dr E. A. Sajith T. Edirisinghe

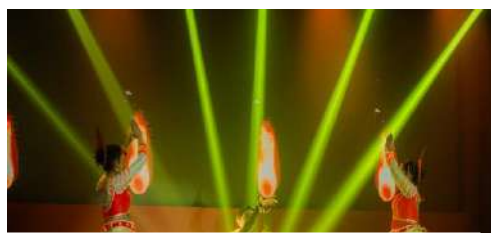
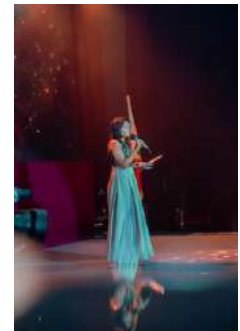
Doctors Concert 2023

The SLMA Doctor's Concert 2023 was held on 28th July 2023, at the Lotus Hall, BMICH, Colombo. There were 15 performances included in the program. Each item combined many facets such as dancing, singing (solo, duet, and group), live instrumentals, and even a live portrait painting session to create a truly audiovisual spectacle set for the entertainment pleasure of the audience.

It represented all cultures of Sri Lanka and for the first time, included three comperes in Tamil, Sinhalese, and English Languages. The highlight of the evening was the dance drama, "Bhasmasura", which with elaborate costumes, makeup, dance, drama, and comedy (ably supplied by Prof Ishan de Soysa dressed as Maha Vishnu), backed by live table playing and a narrator, gave the important message of voting for the correct person when it comes to politics of a country.

Dr. Pramilla Senanayake presented a beautiful Memento on behalf of the Sri Lanka Medical Association to Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe appreciating the services and contribution made by her for the concert.

The Concert ended successfully with the entire council going “On a trip around Sri Lanka” which was a montage of popular songs describing the beautiful areas of Sri Lanka.





The Medical Dance 2023

The medical Dance 2023 was held at the Grand Ball room of Galadari Hotel on the 8th December 2023. Almost 250 guests revelled to the music of Misty & DJtill the early hours of the morning. There were super prizes for the entrance ticket draw and also for the table draw. A Sumption buffet was provided by the hotel and Mr. Sampath Siriwardene GM and Mr. Tariq Nizamudeen worked beyond the call of duty to ensure that every aspect of our event went off smoothly. our SLMA staff including Nadeesha Dhahanayake, Jayarani Tennekoon & Muhammed Aqeel provided excellent staff support. A very colourful and informative souvenir was provided to all the guests and each of them took home a “goody bag” containing some. Useful gifts

All in all a fabulous time was had by everyone. Carol singing was led by De Lanerolle brothers.





20. THE SLMA CRICKET TEAM

Sri Lanka Doctors Cricket Club (SLDC) had a full schedule during 2023.

The inaugural Doctors' Cricket League, organized by SLDC was held from 19th to 28th May 2023, at Kurunegala Welagedara stadium, with teams from Colombo, Jaffna, Galle, Kandy and Dambulla. The final was between Colombo and Kandy and Doctors' team from Kandy emerged champions.

SLMA team reached the Semi Finals of the Professional Cricket League held in September 2023.

Annual Cricket Encounter between SLMA and Institute of Architects was held on 26th November 2023 at Thurston Grounds, which was comprehensively won by the SLMA team.

Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Doctors Cricket Club (SLDC) was held on Saturday, 4th November 2023 at 4.00pm at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium, Wijerama House. The office bearers for years 2022/23 were appointed and Prof. Indika Karunathilake was unanimously elected as the President of the Club.

Annual Cricket Encounter between SLMA and BASL will be held on 23rd December 2023.





21. NEW MEMBERS

The number of new members for the year 2023 (including the names presented to the Council on 1st December 2022) is as follows.

Life	137
Ordinary	76
Student	240
Ordinary to Life	02

The list of members enrolled during the year 2023 is given in **Annexure 5**.

22. TREASURER'S REPORT

By Honorary Treasurer Dr. Sumithra Tissera

The Sri Lanka Medical Association Treasurer's report for 2022/2023 is shown below.

The Sri Lanka Medical Association Treasurer's report for 2023 is shown below.

The recurrent expenditure of the SLMA up to 15th December 2023 was for the salaries, overtime, allowance, EPF, ETF, and bonus payments of employees. The total cost for the year ending on 15th December 2023 was Rs.6,522,791.25.

The total expenses for the refurbishment of the premises and the routine repairs, and maintenance for the last 12 months were Rs.3,271,611.61.

The total income and expenses and net profit/loss from the 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress and Foundation session & Medical Dance 2023 are given below.

Activity	Income	Expenses	Profit
Annual Congress-2023	Rs. 14,336,036.12	Rs. 11,031,256.11	Rs. 3,304,780.01
Foundation Sessions-2023	Rs. 2,138,189.00	Rs. 1,119,061.00	Rs. 1,019,128.00
Medical Dance	Rs. 3,230,000.00	Rs. 2,886,178.56	Rs. 343,821.44
Total	Rs. 19,704,225.12	Rs. 15,036,495.67	Rs. ,4,667,729.45

Bank Balances

The total sum of fixed deposits and short-term deposits by the end of the financial year 2023 is Rs.43,085,985/=. The interest earnings from the fixed deposits during the year amounted to Rs 395,505/82.

Cash and bank balances in total as of 15/12/2023 remain at Rs. 11,034,792/08 (including current account balance Covid Sahana Rs. 4,069,942.05 and SLMA Relief fund Rs.1,938,395.63). Savings accounts balance Rs. 5,680,858.07 (ICBD Rs. 2,597,969.70, SLMA Relief fund Rs. 498,689.43 and Money Marketing account Rs. 2,091,430.22) and SLMA Relief fund USD 1,501/40.

The Audited accounts and report of year 2022 is included as the audit year was changed during 2022.

23. AUDITORS' REPORT 2022/2023

Report of the auditors is given in the **Annexure 6**.

24. EASTER SUNDAY BOMB BLAST RELIEF PROJECT- BATTICOLOA

Report Presented by Dr. Anula Wijesundere

Coordinator of the CMAAO / SLMA Scholarship Fund/ EASTER SUNDAY BOMB BLAST RELIEF PROJECT BATTICOLOA.

The CMAAO / SLMA Joint Scholarship, administered by the Tsunami Disaster Fund is the main social responsibility project of the SLMA.

The scholarship was launched in December 2006 for children who lost one or both parents in the Tsunami Disaster of December 2004, by investing the generous donation of US \$ 50,000/- by the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) and is being continued successfully. As recipients of the scholarships have now completed schooling, these scholarships ended in September 2022.

We have provided educational grants to 6 school children who lost one or both parents as a result of the Easter Sunday bombing at the Zion Church in Batticaloa, in April 2019. The responsibility of selecting the recipients and launching of these educational grants was handed to President SLMA 2019 Dr. Anula Wijesundere by Dr. Suriyakanthie Amarasekera who was in charge of the project since its inception in 2006.

All these payments have been made using the monthly interest accumulated from the original deposit, leaving the capital intact. It is a privilege and pleasure to be able to extend a helping hand to these young ones who have faced so much tragedy in their lives.

25. SLMA MOBILTEL DOC CALL 247

Co Chairperson: Dr Ruvaiz Haniffa

Co Chairperson: Prof Indika Karunathilake

Convener: Dr Sajith Edirisinghe

Members

Dr Kalyani Guruge
Prof Jennifer Perera
Prof Ishan de Zoysa

Dr B J C Perera
Dr Sankha Randenikumara
Dr Padma Gunaratne

Dr Sarath Gamini De Sliva
Prof Samath D. Dharmaratne
Dr Sumithra Tissera

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation was signed on 24th April 2023. This was a renewal of the existing MoU and will further strengthen the collaboration between SLMA and 1990 Suwa Seriya.

Based on the MOU, SLMA will provide medical advisory service for COVID-19 or any other medical emergency situation that will affect the entire country through DOC Call 247 patient helpline. The 247 services of the SLMA will provide telephonic triage and have the option of requesting 1990 Suwa Seriya to provide transport to necessary patients to hospitals on information gathered from the phone conversation initiated by the patient.

This partnership has served the nation at critical phases of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA), in collaboration with 1990 Suwa Seriya and SLT-Mobitel, introduced the Doc Call 247 COVID-19 Helpline in August 2021, when the country was experiencing an unprecedentedly challenging number of patients when the healthcare system was reaching its tipping point. Since its inception, this initiative has completed more than 100,000 calls and contributed in a significant way to reducing the oversaturation of hospital bed occupancy and facilitating home-based-care management of patients.

Upon renewal of the MOU, the 247-helpline service will expand its scope of coverage beyond COVID. This collaboration will be an immense benefit to the patients, specially during a crisis.

After the session there was a media briefing to inform about the said event to media.



2. General Webinars

The SLMA DocCall 247 committee organised flowing webinars depending of the need of the nation to educate the public and medical professionals on the ongoing crisis.

a) Identification of Common Flues on 11th June 2023



b) Dengue: Update on current situation and Management on 19th April 2023



3. Webinar series on Drug Allergy

The SLMA DocCall 247 committee organised a webinar series on Drug Allergy in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, the Allergy and Immunology Society of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka College of surgeons, the College of Anaesthesiologists & Intensivists of Sri Lanka. The resource person was Professor M Thirumala Krishna (PhD FRCP FRCPath), Chair of Allergy, Clinical Immunology and Global Health, Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy (World Allergy Organization Centre of Excellence), University of Birmingham.

- Introduction to Drug Allergy – on 16th August 2023
- Tackling the burden of inaccurate penicillin allergy labels perspectives from high-income countries – on 22nd August 2023
- Peri-operative anaphylaxis a clinical challenge - on 06th September 2023

DATE	TOPIC	MODERATOR
16 Aug 2023	INTRODUCTION TO DRUG ALLERGY	PROF DIWANE LIYANAGE Professor of Paediatrics Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenapura
23 Aug 2023	TACKLING THE BURDEN OF INACCURATE PENICILLIN ALLERGY LABELS - PERSPECTIVES FROM HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES	DR NADISHA BADANESINGHE Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
06 Sept 2023	PERI-OPERATIVE ANAPHYLAXIS - A CLINICAL CHALLENGE	DR DHANUSHKA DISANAYAKE Consultant Immunologist, Medical Research Institute

26. BEGINNING OF DR. VINYA ARIYARATNE'S PRESIDENCY

A religious function was held at 'Wijerama House' to invoke blessings on Dr & Mrs.E.M. Wijerama and all Past Presidents who are no more, by the President and Council 2022/23, staff at SLMA office and other colleges/associations located at SLMA premises on 3rd January 2023 at SLMA premises.

The events unfolded with pirith chanting by Buddhist priests from Thilakarathnaramaya, Borella. This was followed by religious rituals performed by Rev. Freely Muthukudaarachhi from Archbishop Palace, Borella, Moulavi Abdul Sathas from Islamic Centre and Poosari Aiyar from Colombo.



27. INTERCOLLEGIATE COMMITTEE

Members:

- Sri Lanka Medical Association
- Ceylon College of Physicians
- College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians
- Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists
- College of Anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka
- College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists
- Sri Lanka College of Haematologists
- College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka
- College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists
- Sri Lanka College of Radiologists
- National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists
- Sri Lanka College of Cardiology
- Sri Lanka College of Endocrinologists
- Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists
- Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine
- Association of Medical Specialists
- Palliative Care Association of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine
- Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka
- College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka
- College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka
- College of Otorhinolaryngologists & Head and Neck
- College of Venereologist of Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology
- College of Chemical Pathologists of Sri Lanka
- Association of Plastic Surgeons of Sri Lanka
- College of Critical Care and Emergencies
- Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons
- Sri Lanka Association of Paediatric Surgeons
- College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka
- College of Specialists in Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Sri Lanka
- Association of Vascular Surgeons
- Sri Lanka College of Oncologists
- College of Transfusion Physician

Intercollegiate Workshop to develop a strategic plan to mitigate the current crisis

We conducted the above workshop at the Cinnamon Lakeside on 9 March 2023, which was well attended by the Presidents, President Elects and Secretaries of the respective Colleges representing the curative and public health sector. The objectives of the meeting were to identify the strategies, activities, and indicators to mitigate the current health sector crisis and develop a road map to finalise the strategic plan. We have communicated the outcomes of the conference to the DGHS and the health secretary to take immediate steps to address the significant issues in the health sector on a priority basis. The member Colleges appreciated the appointment of a committee to develop essential drug lists and strengthen the drug availability surveillance mechanism.



Leadership and management for clinical consultants

We successfully conducted leadership and management for clinical consultants at Citrus Waskaduwa on 17th September 2023. We invited the College Presidents and the Secretaries to the event, and eminent speakers from different management areas delivered lectures on essential topics. It was decided to make it an annual event and package it into three workshops under leadership development. The College of Medical Administrators in Sri Lanka will support the program as a resource in the future.

The topics addressed were:

- The Importance of Leadership and Management Skills for Clinical Consultants
Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Consultant in Medical Administration, Additional Secretary – Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Chairperson, Board of Study in Medical Administration, PGIM
- Overview of Management Theories and Practices in Healthcare
Dr. Palitha Maheepala, Consultant in Medical Administration, WHO Country Representative in Pakistan, Former Director General of Health Services
- Role of a Medical Leader, Practical Experience

Dr Sudath Dharmaratne, Consultant in Medical Administration, Deputy Director General – Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health

- Striving for Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety and Role of the Clinician
Dr Sathasivam Sridharan, Consultant in Medical Administration Deputy Director General – Planning, Ministry of Health
- Human Resources Management in the Hospital Setting; Practical Experience
Dr Kumara Wickramasinghe, Consultant in Medical Administration, Deputy Director General – National Hospital of Sri Lanka
- Productivity Concepts in Healthcare Settings
Dr. Wimal Karandagoda, Healthcare Management Specialist, Senior Medical Administrator, Former Director of Medical Services, Lanka Hospital PLC
- Application of evidence-based practices in management and the handling of day-to-day administrative issues
Dr. Sarath Samarage, Consultant Community Physician, Senior Fellow, Institute of Health Policy, Former Deputy Director General – Planning



Medical Donations

We coordinate the distribution of medicinal drugs with Medical Help International USA and Medical Help Sri Lanka Global Project. The Ministry of Health appointed the Independent Foreign Medical Donation Committee (IFMDC) to facilitate the distribution of medicines to the Medical Supply Division and relevant government hospitals. Many Colleges helped in this process by providing technical expertise. The net worth of drugs supplied by the Medical Help Sri Lanka Global Project runs into several billions of rupees.



Annexure 1: Programme of the 136th Anniversary International Virtual Medical Congress

Wednesday 7th June 2022

Pre-congress Workshop 1: “All about Research: from Design to Presentation”

Registration
Welcome Address
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA
Designing your research: from the concept to protocol
Professor Carukshi Arambepola, Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
Applying the statistical methods
Dr Pubudu Chulasiri, Consultant Community Physician, Anti-malaria Campaign, Sri Lanka
Collaborative research
Professor Prasad Katulanda, Professor in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
Getting your research published: some tips
Professor Shamini Prathapan, Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Obtaining ethical clearance
Dr Chathurie Suraweera, Secretary, Ethics Review Committee, SLMA
Applying research findings: evidence-based practice
Professor Kumara Mendis, Professor in Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Ragama
Lunch

Wednesday 14th June 2023

Pre-congress Workshop 2: “Postgraduate training in Sri Lanka”

Registration
Welcome Address
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA
Introduction to postgraduate training and the role of PGIM in Sri Lanka
Professor Senaka Rajapakse, Director, PGIM, Colombo
What is postgraduate training? Is it different?
Dr Himani Molligoda, Senior Lecturer in Medical Education, PGIM, Colombo
Overseas training and Board certification
Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Deputy Director, PGIM, Colombo
Examinations at postgraduate level
Professor Gominda Ponnampereuma, Professor in Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
Panel discussion – Introducing Boards of studies of clinical specialties & sub-specialties
Surgery, Medicine, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Gynaecology & Obstetrics
Panel discussion – other specialties & sub-specialties
Medical Administration, Family Medicine, Microbiology, Radiology, Pathology
Lunch

Wednesday 21st June 2023

Pre-congress Workshop 3: “Interventional Research in Sri Lanka”

Registration
Welcome Address
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA
Introduction by the SLCTR Chairperson
Professor Udaya Ranawaka, Chairperson SLCTR
The keynote: Need for interventional research in Sri Lanka
Professor Saroj Jayasinghe, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo
What is interventional research?
Professor Shalini Sri Ranganathan, Senior Professor in Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
Ethics & regulatory framework for interventional research in Sri Lanka

Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Chair Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
 Tea
 Clinical trial registration
 Dr Ashwini de Abrew, Administrator, SLCTR
 Ayurvedic interventional research
 Dr Senaka Pilapitiya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
 How to publish interventional research?
 Professor Senaka Rajapakse, Senior Professor & Chair of Medicine, Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo & Joint Editor, CMJ
 Overcoming challenges & facilitating interventional research
 Professor Asita de Silva, Senior Professor & Chair of Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
 Lunch

Wednesday 28th June 2023

Pre-congress Workshop 4: “Sleep and Health”

Registration
 Welcome Address
 Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA
 Sleep physiology: normal & abnormal
 Dr Kumarangie Vithanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
 Respiratory issues affecting sleep
 Dr Ruwanthi Jayasekara, Consultant Respiratory Physician
 Overview of sleep disorders
 Dr Kishara Gooneratne, Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa
 Adverse immune effects of chronic sleep deprivation
 Professor Suranjith L Seneviratne, Professor and Consultant in Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Royal Free Hospital and University College London
 Tea
 Sleep & mental health
 Dr Sayuri Perera, Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya
 Sleep studies
 Dr Lakmini Pathberiya, Consultant Neurophysiologist, National Hospital of Sri Lanka
 Panel Discussion on ‘sleep in children’
 Professor Miyuru Chandradasa, Professor in Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
 Dr Prasad Chathurangana, Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
 Dr Ayesha Lokubalasuriya, National programme manager, School Health Programme, Family Health Bureau
 Mr Nilantha Gunasekara, Deputy Director, Education, Health & Nutrition, Ministry of Education
 Lunch

Wednesday 21st June 2023

Pre-congress Workshop 5: “Integrating Genetics and Genomics into Clinical Practice”

Registration
 Welcome Address
 Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA
 Overview of Genomic Medicine
 Professor Vajira HW Dissanayake, Senior Professor and Chair, Department of Anatomy, Genetics & Biomedical Informatics & Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
 Genomic Diagnosis/ Interpreting a Genomic report
 Professor Vajira HW Dissanayake, Senior Professor and Chair, Dept. of Anatomy, Genetics & Biomedical Informatics & Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
 Tea
 Dysmorphic syndromes

Dr Dineshani Hettiarachchi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, Genetics & Biomedical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
 Decoding skeletal dysplasia: Genotype-phenotype correlations
 Dr Yasas Kolombage, Lecturer, University of Sabaragamuwa
 Cardiovascular Genetics
 Dr Kayalvily Perinpanayagam, Consultant Paediatric Clinical Geneticist, Lady Ridgeway Hospital & RH & Teaching Hospital Karapitiya
 Genetics of cleft lip/ palate
 Dr Lahiru Prabodha, Clinical Geneticist & Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna
 Lunch
 Neurogenetic disorders
 Dr Kawmadi Gunawardena, Senior Registrar in Clinical Genetics, PGIM, Colombo
 Reproductive Genetics & prenatal diagnosis
 Dr Thushara Priyawansa, Consultant Paediatric Clinical Geneticist, (Acting), Sirimavo Bandaranayake Children's Hospital, Peradeniya
 Approach to patients with a disorder of sex development
 Dr Hasani Hewavitharana, Senior Registrar in Clinical Genetics, Professorial Paediatric Unit, Lady Ridgeway Hospital - Colombo
 Cancer Genetics & Genomics
 Professor Nirmala Sirisena, Professor in Medical Genetics, Dept. of Anatomy, Genetics & Biomedical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo
 Genetics of Oral Cancer
 Dr Sajith Edirisinghe, Senior Lecturer and Clinical Geneticist, Dept. Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
 Current role of Genetics in Haematology practice
 Professor Hemali Goonasekara, Associate Professor & Consultant Haematologist, Department of Anatomy, Genetics & Biomedical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Friday 14th July 2023

Pre-congress Workshop 6: "Discard Myths & Enjoy Sex"

Registration
 Welcome Address
 Dr Vinya Ariyaratne President, SLMA
 Diagnosis and management of male sexual dysfunction
 Dr Prageeth Premadasa, Consultant Venereologist, Provincial General Hospital, Polonnaruwa
 They are kinky NOT crazy – New thinking behind sexual deviations
 Dr Kapila Ranasinghe, Consultant Psychiatrist, National Institute of Mental Health
 Tea
 Female sexuality from puberty to menopause and beyond
 Dr Manjula Rajapaksa, Consultant Venereologist, National STD/AIDS control programme, Sri Lanka
 Managing sexually transmitted disease in primary healthcare settings
 Dr Thilani Rathnayake, Consultant Venereologist Adolescents, hormones and sex education
 Dr Darshani Hettiarachchi, Consultant in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo
 Sexual preferences/ diversity & current views
 Dr Ajith Karawita, Consultant Venereologist
 Panel discussion on gender transformation, sexual diversity & humane care
 Dr Ajith Karawita, Consultant Venereologist & Ms Bhoomi Harendran, Executive Director, National Transgender Network
 Lunch

Tuesday 25th July 2023

Guests take their seats
 Arrival of the Chief Guest
 Introduction of Council Members to the Chief Guest
 Ceremonial Procession
 National Anthem
 Ceremonial Lighting of the Lamp of Learning
 Welcome address

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President SLMA
 Address by the Guest of Honour
 Professor Deepika Udugama, Chair Professor of Law and Head, Department of Law,
 University of Peradeniya
 Address by the Chief Guest
 Emeritus Prof. Mohan de Silva, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Former Dean,
 Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Former Chairman
 University Grant Commission
 Awarding of Fellowship
 Professor Ravindra Fernando
 Professor A. H. Sheriffdeen
 Launch of SLMA Guidelines and Information on Vaccines
 - Review by Prof. Pujitha Wickramasinghe, Senior Professor in Paediatrics,
 University of Colombo
 - Handing over of the books by Dr. Lucian Jayasuriya, Senior Joint Editor
 Vote of Thanks
 Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Honorary Secretary, SLMA
 The SLMA Oration 2023
 "Contribution made to advances in knowledge on the Snakebites"
 Dr. R. M. M. K. Namal Rathnayaka
 MBBS, MPhil (Toxinology), MA, MSc (Medical Toxicology), MSc (Clinical Pharmacology &
 Therapeutics), PGDip.Toxicology, PGDip.Buddhist studies, PGCert.MedEd
 Faculty of Medicine, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
 Musical interlude
 Procession leaves the hall
 Refreshments

Wednesday 26th July 2023

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Registration
 Keynote Address
 Clinical Excellence
 Excellence in medicine: doing the right thing right'
 Professor Senaka Rajapakse

Professor N D W Lionel Memorial Oration
 'Starting from scratch, the first and the largest twin research programme in Low-and Middle-
 Income Countries (LMIC); the Sri Lankan Twin
 Registry, its research output and impact'
 Professor Athula Sumathipala
 Morning Tea
 Panel discussion 1 - 'Pathways to Excellence in Healthcare'
 Preventive Health – Dr Deepika Attygalle
 Laboratory Services – Dr Gaya Katulanda
 Curative Care- Professor Thilak Weeraratna

Symposium 1 - 'Health Financing'
 Financing options to achieve Universal
 Health Coverage
 Dr Sundararajan Gopalan
 Health financing in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Responses
 Dr S Sridharan
 Health Financing options during an economic crisis
 Professor Amala de Silva

Symposium 2 - 'Quality Use of Medicines'
 Basic principles and guidance
 Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy
 Rational therapeutics during an economic crisis
 Dr Ananda Wijewickrama
 Excellence in Paediatric therapeutics
 Professor Shaman Rajindrajith

Guest Lecture 1 - 'In the Doctor's Bag'
 Professor Andrew Elder

Guest Lecture 2 – ‘Achieving Excellence in Critical Care’
Dr Dilshan Priyankara

Lunch break & Poster viewing
Free paper session 1
Free paper session 2
Free paper session 3

Guest Lecture 3 - ‘Disasters and Public Health nexus: Protecting at risk communities’
Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga

Guest Lecture 4 - ‘Management of Common Thyroid Problems in Primary Care’
Dr Manilka Sumanathilake

Thursday 27th July 2023

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Registration
Plenary 1 - Equity
‘Social Justice and Health Equity’
Professor Michael Marmot
Dr S Ramachandran Memorial Oration
Changing trends in obesity among Sri Lankan population and the role of bariatric surgery in reversing metabolic complications of obesity: A Sri Lankan experience over a decade’
Dr Uditha Bulugahapitiya
Morning Tea
Panel Discussion 2 - ‘Equity & Health’
Human Resources & Maldistribution
Professor Dilip de Silva
Financing and out-of-pocket expenses
Professor Amala de Silva
Narrowing Inequalities
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne

Symposium 7 - ‘Improving Renal Care in Sri Lanka’
The Burden of kidney disease in Sri Lanka the way forward
Dr Rajitha Abeysekera
The model of delivering best renal care for patient convenience
Dr Nalaka Herath
The progress of deceased donor kidney transplantation programme
Dr Anura Hewageegana

Symposium 8 - ‘Advancement of Medicine and Science in Sport and Exercise: Applications to the local setting’
Future of medical and fitness testing in sports: Where technology has brought us
Professor Chathuranga Ranasinghe
From bowled out to bouncing back”: Strategies of successful rehabilitation in elite athletes
Mr Thihan Chandramohan
‘Wellbeing of an Olympian’: What they need?
Mr Niluka Karunaratne

Panel discussion
Professor Chathuranga Ranasinghe
Mr Thihan Chandramohan
Mr Niluka Karunaratne
Mr Kyle Abeysinghe
A National Cricketer
Lunch

Free paper session 4
Free paper session 5
Free paper session 6

Symposium 9 - ‘Arts and Humanities in Promoting Humane Health Care’
Portraits and emotions

Professor Saroj Jayasinghe
From poems to feelings
Professor Dinithi Fernando
All of life in dance
Dr Santhushya Fernando

Symposium 10 – ‘Air Pollution: The Invisible Enemy’
Air We Breathe: is It Safe?
Dr Chandana Kulatunge
The Air we breathe from the industry 1.0 to Industry 4.0 - Shaping our life and life span
Professor Ajith de Alwis
Air Pollution, the Invisible Enemy
Dr Anil Jasinghe

Symposium 11 – ‘Centering Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Justice in Health Care’
Legal & policy barriers for women and adolescents?
Professor Anuruddhi Edirisinghe
What are the challenges and interference you see in providing SRH services in clinical care settings for the most vulnerable?
Dr Prabodhana Ranaweera
Modern medicine, patriarchy and women’s sexual and reproductive health rights
Dr Suchithra Dalvie

Symposium 12 - ‘Everyday Dermatology for Primary Care’
Common Dermatoses in primary care setting
Dr Chalukya Gunasekara
Common Skin Diseases in Paediatric Practice
Dr Sriyani Samaraweera
Dermatological manifestations in systemic Diseases
Dr Janaka Akarawita

Dr S C Paul Memorial Oration
Breaking the vicious cycle of childhood obesity: A timely need’
Dr MH Aruna D de Silva
Evening Tea

Friday 28th July 2023

Registration
Plenary 2 - Community
Bringing the Public into Public Health - Lessons from experiences of community engagement in South Asian countries
Professor T Sundararaman
Panel discussion 3 - ‘Community Engagement’
Towards a responsive health system
Dr Chithramalee de Silva
Community based organizations and health
Dr Vinya Ariyaratne
Role of universities in promoting community engagement
Professor R Surenthirakumaran
Morning Tea
Symposium 13 - ‘Smart Hospital - A Paradigm Shift’
The future health systems – where less is more
Professor Tan Hiang Khoon
A Journey Towards Smart Healthcare in Sri Lanka
Dr Nishan Siriwardena
Digital crossroads in healthcare: privacy data protection challenges in smart ICU
Ms Aparajitha Ariyadasa

Symposium 14 - ‘Diagnosis and Management of Back Pain in Everyday Practice’
Management of non-resolving back pain applying clinical biomechanics:
Finding the missing piece
Professor Chathuranga Raasinghe
Back pain: a fresh look at an old problem
Dr Inoshi Atukorala

Visualizing the Invisible: The Role of Imaging in Back Pain
Dr Chinthaka Appuhamy

Symposium 15 - 'Community Geriatrics'
Elder abuse Prevention: Are we doing enough?
Dr Duncan Forsyth
Chronic Kidney Disease in the Elderly
Professor Alpana Raizada
Mental Health in Older People
Dr Malsha Gunathillake

Symposium 16 - "Role of Community-based Organizations in Health promotion during Public Health Emergencies"
Transforming Primary Health Care System - PSSP Experience
Dr Jayasundara Bandara
Community engagement mechanism for the health sector in Sri Lanka: Experience of Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)
Dr Sunil de Alwis
Promoting community engagement in health: The 'Sarvodaya Suwodaya Committee Experience'
Ms Sasanka Dharmasena
Use of artificial intelligence in primary care
Dr Padmini Ranasinghe

Debate
'Private Medical Education is a viable option for Sri Lanka'

Proposing Team: Professor Shamila de Silva
Dr Brammah R Thangarajah
Dr Raveen Lekamwasam

Opposing Team: Professor Ishan de Zoysa
Dr Indira Kahawita
Dr Yasas Abeywickrama

Closing Ceremony
Lunch

07.00 pm onwards Doctors' Concert

RESOURCE PERSONS LOCAL

Professor Senaka Rajapakse
Chair Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, and Director, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Deepika Attygalle
Senior Health Specialist, World Bank, Colombo

Dr Gaya Katulanda
Consultant Chemical Pathologist, NHSL

Professor Thilak Weeraratne
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Ruhuna

Dr S Sridharan
Director / Organization & Development at Ministry of Health

Professor Amala de Silva
Senior Professor, Department of Economics, University of Colombo

Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy
Professor and Chair Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Ananda Wijewickrama
Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH)

Professor Shaman Rajindrajith
Chair Professor of Paediatrics, University of Colombo

Dr Dilshan Priyankara
Consultant in Critical Care Medicine, NHSL, Colombo

Dr Manilka Sumanathilake
Consultant Endocrinologist, National Hospital Sri Lanka (NHSL)

Professor Indika Karunathilake
Professor in Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Chandrika Subasinghe
Consultant Endocrinologist, District General Hospital, Chilaw

Dr Uditha Bulugahapitiya
Consultant Endocrinologist, NHSL, Colombo

Dr Umesha Wijenayake
Acting Consultant Endocrinologist at the District General Hospital, Negombo

Professor Nishara Fernando
Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

Professor Panduka Karunanayake
Professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Ruwan Ekanayake
Senior Consultant Cardiologist

Professor Dilip de Silva
Chair Professor of Community Oral Health at the Faculty of Dental Sciences University of Peradeniya
and Director Career Guidance Unit of the University of Peradeniya

Dr Rajitha Abeysekera
Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Dr Nalaka Herath
Consultant Nephrologist, Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala

Dr Anura Hewageegana
Consultant Nephrologist, NHSL, Colombo

Professor Chathuranga Ranasinghe
Director of the Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (CSEM), Faculty of Medicine University of
Colombo Sri Lanka

Dr Chinthaka Appuhamy
Senior Lecturer, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
Mr Niluka Karunarathne
Triple Olympian & National badminton champion for 17 years

Professor Saroj Jayasinghe
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Lahiru Kodituwakku
Humanitarian Response Manager at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Country Office

Professor Dinithi Fernando
Professor in the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Santhushya Fernando
Senior Lecturer at the Department of Medical Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Dr Chandana Kulatunge
Consultant Chest Physician, District General Hospital, Matale

Professor Ajith de Alwis
Professor in Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Moratuwa

Dr Anil Jasinghe
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka

Professor Anuruddhi Edirisinghe
Chair & Senior Professor of Forensic Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Dr Prabodhana Ranaweera
Senior Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Colombo

Dr Chalukya Gunasekara
Consultant Dermatologist, NHSL, Colombo

Dr Sriyani Samaraweera
Consultant Dermatologist, LRH, Colombo

Dr Janaka Akarawita
Consultant Dermatologist, NHSL, Colombo

Dr Chithramalee de Silva
Director Maternal & Child Health, Family Health Bureau (FHB)

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne
Consultant Community Physician, President, SLMA (2023)

Professor R Surendhirakumaran
Professor in Community Medicine, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

Dr Inoshi Atukorala
Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo

Dr Aparajitha Ariyadasa
Attorney-at-Law

Dr Jayasundara Bandara
Project Director, Primary Health Care Systems Strengthening Project (PSSP)

Dr Sunil de Alwis
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health

Ms Sasanka Dharmasena
Manager, Community Health Unit, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

Dr Malsha Gunathillake
Consultant Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Unit, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila

Dr Nishan Siriwardena
Consultant in Health Informatics, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Mr Thushara Kamalaratne
Doctoral researcher at the Global Disaster Resilience Centre, University of Huddersfield, UK

Mr Thihan Chandramohan
Rehabilitation Manager, Sri Lanka Cricket
Mr Kyle Abeyasinghe National swimmer & Commonwealth medalist

RESOURCE PERSONS FOREIGN

Professor Sundararajan Gopalan
Lead Independent Consultant for Health Financing strategy Development in Sri Lanka

Professor Andrew Elder
President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Professor Dilanthi Amaratunga
Professor of Disaster Risk Management at the University of Huddersfield, UK

Professor Richard Haigh
Professor of Disaster Resilience and Co-Director of the University of Huddersfield's Global Disaster Resilience Centre, UK

Professor Graham McMahon
President and Chief Executive Officer, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)

Professor Lawrence Sherman
President, Meducate Global, LLC, United States of America

Professor Satyan Rajbhandari
Consultant in Diabetes & Endocrinology, Lancashire Teaching Hospital

Professor Michael Marmot
Director of the Institute of Health Equity (UCL Department of Epidemiology & Public Health)

Dr Suchithra Dalvie
Consultant Gynaecologist, Co-founder Safe Abortion Partnership

Dr Padmini Ranasinghe
Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Professor T Sundararaman
Global Coordinator, Peoples Health Movement (PHM)

Professor Tan Hiang Khoo
Director, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI)

Dr Duncan Forsyth
Adjunct Professor in the School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences, Sunway University, Malaysia

Professor Alpana Raizada
Professor of Medicine, University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, India

Annexure 2: Programmes of Monthly Clinical Meetings

17th January 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

"Anatomical basis for evaluation of common neck problems"

Dr. Sithara Dissanayake, Consultant ENT Surgeon/ Senior Lecturer in Anatomy Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

"Applied Anatomy of the Eye & Orbit"

Professor and Consultant Eye Surgeon, Dept. of Anatomy, Genetics and Biomedical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Human Anatomy Picture Quiz

Senior Lecturer and Clinical Geneticists, Dept. of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Honorary Secretary, SLMA

24th January 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY PHYSICIANS OF SRI LANKA

Preventive Sector Services and Eays of Collaboration Across Health Systems

Maternal and child health services available from preventive sector

Dr. Chithramali De Silva, Director Maternal and Child Health, Family Health Bureau

Communicable and non communicable disease control services available from preventive sector

Dr. Iresha Jayawickrama, Consultant Community Physician, RDHS, Puttalam

Environmental and Occupational services available from preventive sector

Dr. Bhanua S. Wijayatilaka, Consultant Community Physician, Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health

Tuesday 7th February 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS OF SRI LANKA

SAM management – expand and write as Severe Acute Malnutrition

Prof. Pujith Wickramasinghe, Senior Professor in Paediatrics, University of Colombo, Consultant Paediatrician, Lady Ridgeway Hospital

Childhood Obesity an Overview

Prof. Ishani Rodrigo, Professor of Paediatrics, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Case discussion - moderator

Dr. Amali Dalpatadu, Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics and Hon. Consultant Paediatrician, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, University Hospital, KDU

Tuesday 21st February 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF HAEMATOLOGISTS

“Paroxysms of dark urine” – Approach to diagnosis and management

Clinical cases and discussion

Dr. Vindya Neelawathura Bandara, Acting Consultant Clinical Haematologist, Base Hospital (Teaching) Gampaha

Clinical cases and discussion

Dr. Omega Wickramasinghe, Acting Consultant Clinical Haematologist, Teaching Hospital, Kurunegala

Picture quiz in Haematology

Dr. Thamudika P. Vithanage, Acting Consultant Clinical Haematologist, Base Hospital, Panadura

Tuesday 21st March 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF TRANSFUSION PHYSICIANS

Why we give BLOOD when we can do without it?

Dr. Trilicia Withanawasam, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Consultant Transfusion Physician, University Hospital, Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Transfusion Related Adverse Events

Dr. Nilantha Liyanage, Acting Consultant Transfusion Physician, National Hospital, Kandy

Case presentation – Transfusion Related Adverse Events

Registrar in Transfusion Medicine, National Blood Centre

Tuesday 25th April 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH CENTER FOR RESEARCH INTROPICAL MEDICINE – UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Dengue-Update on presentation and clinical management

Prof. Udaya Ralapanawa, Professor in Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Central Nervous System Infections in the Tropics

Prof. Manoji Pathirage, Professor in Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Melioidosis – A Great Masquerade in the Tropics

Prof. Chamara Dalugama, Professor in Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Tuesday 2nd May 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS AND INTENSIVISTS OF SRI LANKA

BEYOND THE SURFACE – Exploring the Depth of Back Pain Diagnosis and Treatment

Dr. Gayani Walpola, Consultant Anaesthetist, National Dental Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo
Dr. Lakshman Dissanayaka, Consultant Anaesthetist, National Institute of Nephrology Dialysis and Transplantation, Colombo/ Head, Faculty of Pain Medicine, COAISL
Dr. Prasadini Karunaratne, Consultant Anaesthetist with special training in Pain Medicine, Pain Management Unit, National Cancer Institute Maharagama, Secretary, Faculty of Pain Medicine, COAISL
Dr. M. D. Champika Sujeewani, Consultant Anaesthetist, Pain Management Unit, National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo

Tuesday 16th May 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

“Cutaneous T cell Lymphomas – Varying Presentations”

Lecture

Dr. Janaka Akarawita, Consultant Dermatologist, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Case Presentation

Dr. Krishani Rajakaruna, Registrar in Dermatology, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Case Presentation

Dr. Amanda Danthanarayana, Registrar in Dermatology, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Picture Quiz and MCQs on general dermatology

Dr. Baghya Fernando, Senior Registrar in Dermatology, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Tuesday 23rd May 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Maternal Medicine

Liver Disease in Pregnancy

Dr. Priyankara Jayawardhena, Consultant Physician in Internal Medicine

Hypertension in Pregnancy

Dr. Shamitha Dissanayake, Consultant Physician in Internal Medicine, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama

Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy

Dr. Indika Boteju, Consultant Resident Physician, Castle Street Hospital for Women, Colombo

Tuesday 30th May 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS (SLACPT)

Management of Hyperlipidemia beyond statins

Case Presentations

- siRNA therapeutics, other agents and Health Technology Assessments (HTA)
- MCQs and discussion
- PCSK9 inhibitors: The trials

Dr. Mudishya Abeywickrama, Senior Registrar in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Prof. Priyanga Ranasinghe, Professor in Pharmacology, University of Colombo

Prof. Asita de Silva, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Kelaniya

Tuesday 13th June 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS OF SRI LANKA

“EXPLAINING Medically Unexplained Symptoms”

Case Presentations:

Dr. Shane Malitha Halpe, MCGP Trainee/Registrar in Family Medicine
Dr. T. Sayanthan, MCGP Trainee

Panel Discussion:

Dr. Preethi Wijegoonewardene, Senior Family Physician, Past President CGPSL/SLMA
Dr. Sankha Randenikumara, Family Physician, Young Doctors' Lead of WONCA

Tuesday 27th June 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV MEDICINE

Thirty Five Year fight against HIV

The HIV Epidemic in Sri Lanka, Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. K A M Ariyaratne, Coordinator- Strategic Information, National STD/AIDS Control Programme

Diagnosing HIV: Are we in the correct direction?

Dr. Nimali Jayasuriya, Coordinator- HIV Testing, STI Care and EMTCT, National STD/AIDS Control Programme

Overview of Paediatric HIV

Dr. Thilani Ratnayake, Consultant Venereologist, STD Clinic, Anuradhapura

Tuesday 15th August 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH CEYLON COLLEGE OF CRITICAL CARE SPECIALISTS

Tetanus - Not uncommon in neurocritical care

Dr. Anthony Mendis, Consultant Intensivist National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Cure sometimes, treat often and comfort always

Dr. Sankalpa Vithanage, Consultant Intensivist National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Critical Care Quiz

Dr. Sunali Nanayakkara, Consultant Intensivist National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Tuesday 22nd August 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS of SRI LANKA

Topic: Beyond Eyes

Case discussion

Steven Johnson Syndrome / TEN - combating the ocular complications

Dr. Medhavini Dissanayake, Senior Registrar National Eye Hospital Colombo

Sudden Loss of vision presented with psoriasis like rash

Dr. Dimuthu Gunasekara, Senior Registrar National Eye Hospital Colombo

Beyond Cotton wool spots in the Retina

Dr. Supul Banagala, Senior Registrar National Eye Hospital Colombo

Discussion

Dr. Kusum Ratnayake, Consultant Cornea & External Eye Disease, National Eye Hospital, Colombo 10.

Dr. K.R. Dayawansa, Consultant Ophthalmologists National Eye Hospital, Colombo.

Dr. Kushlani N. Gooneratne, Consultant Ophthalmologists National Eye Hospital, Colombo.

Tuesday 19th September 2023.

IN COLLABORATION WITH SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF MICROBIOLOGISTS

Topic: Combatting antimicrobial resistance through antimicrobial stewardship

Think twice. Seek advice. Antibiotics aren't always the answer

Dr. Rohini Wadanamby, Consultant Microbiologists President Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists

Implementation of antimicrobial stewardship in healthcare setting: Challenges faced in Sri Lanka

Dr Kushlani Jayatilleke, Consultant Microbiologist, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Introducing AWaRe classification & antibiotic stewardship in primary care setting

Dr Madhumanee Abeywardena, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist National Hospital Kandy

Tuesday 17th October 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS

Lupus Nephritis in pregnancy

Case Presentation

Dr Chandana Jayasundara, MBBS, MD, MRCOG Senior Lecturer, Head of Department in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Discussion

Dr. Shemoon Marleen, MBBS, MD (Colombo), MD Research (London), FRCOG, FSLCOG, DFSRH, Dip in Endoscopy (France), CESR (UK), Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Specialist in Fetal Medicine, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital & Postgraduate Training Centre Sri Lanka, Hon. Senior Lecturer University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

MCQs

Prof. S. H. Dodampahala, MBBS, MD, FRCOG, FRCSE, FRANZCOG, FSLCOG
Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, President Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Chairman, National Research Council

Tuesday 07th November 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FACULTY OF DENTAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

Topic: Symposium on oral Health for the general practitioner

Introduction

Dr (Mrs) Rasika Ekanayake, Senior Lecturer in Oral Pathology Department of Oral Pathology Faculty of Dental Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Common Dental diseases & their presentations

Dr (Mrs) V. Rajaganesh, Senior Lecturer in Orthodontics Faculty of Dental Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Oral & Systemic link

Dr Ananda Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer Department of Oral Surgery, Faculty of Dental Sciences. University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Tuesday 28th November 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGISTS

Imaging in Stroke

Dr. Amila Chandrakumara, MBBS, MD Neuroradiologist (Acting) National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

Interventional Radiology in Management of Stroke

Dr. Praneeth Athukorala, MBBS, MD, EBIR Consultant Interventional Radiologist National Hospital of Sri Lanka

Interventional Radiology in Emergency and Acute Trauma

Dr. Sathiyaseelan Maniharan, MBBS, MD, FRCR (UK), EBIR Consultant Interventional Radiologist National Hospital-Kandy

Imaging in Paediatric Acute Abdomen

Dr. Dinithi Ashwini Herath, MBBS MD Senior Registrar in Pediatric Radiology Lecturer- Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

Tuesday 05th December 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Topic: Medical officers' role in prevention and early detection of oral diseases

Introduction to Dentistry and Oral Health

Dr. Nilantha Ratnayake, BDS MSc MD Consultant in Community Dentistry Institute of Oral Health Maharagama

Prevention of Common Oral Diseases

Dr. Hemantha Amarasinghe, BDS (Sri Lanka), MSc, MD (Community Dentistry) FDSRCPS (Glasgow) Cancer Epidemiologist & Board-Certified Consultant in Dental Public Health Senior Lecturer Head of the Department of Community Dental Health Faculty of Dental Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Case Presentation for Early Identification of Oral Mucosal Diseases

Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan, BDS (SL), MS (Col), FDSRCS (Eng), FDSRCS (Ed), MSurgDentRCS (Ed), FIAOMS, FICCD Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Dental Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Tuesday 12th December 2023

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF ONCOLOGISTS

Topic: Management of esophageal cancer

Case Presentation: Patients with lower oesophageal malignancy

Dr. P W Rasanga Thissera, MBBS, MD Clinical Oncology Senior Registrar Clinical Oncology Apeksha Hospital Maharagama

Overview of Management of esophageal malignancies

Dr. P K D Pradeep Alahakoon, MBBS, MD clinical oncology Consultant Oncologist Teaching Hospital Badulla

Annexure 3: Programmes of Regional Meetings

JOINT CLINICAL MEETING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NATIONAL DENGUE CONTROL UNIT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

31st January 2023 at the NIID, Auditorium

"An Update on Dengue Clinical Management"

Registration

National Anthem

Lighting of the Lamp of Learning

Welcoming the participants on behalf of SLMA and session objectives

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

Welcoming the participants on behalf of National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU)

Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, Director, NDCU

Chairpersons: Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

Dr. Nimalka Pannila Hetti, Consultant Community Physician, NDCU

Current country situation and notification of Dengue

Dr. Jagath Amarasekara, Consultant Community Physician, National Dengue Control Unit

Overview of management of Dengue Fever (DF) and Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) in adults

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases

Chairperson: Dr. Anoja Dheerasinghe, Consultant Community Physician, Dengue Control Unit, Director, NIID

Interactive case discussion

Dr. Damayanthi Iddampitiya, Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases

Dr. Susantha Asiri, Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases

Dr. Thisara Perera, Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases

Lessons learned from Dengue case reviews

Dr. Srilal De Silva, Consultant Paediatrician, National Coordinator for Education and Training, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

Q and A session (Open to both physical and online participants)

All Resource

Vote of thanks and Conclusion

Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Honorary Secretary, SLMA

JOINT CME PROGRAMME WITH THE RDHS OFFICE, GALLE AND GALLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

27th February 2023 at the Auditorium, Auditorium, Base Hospital, Balapitiya

“Managing Common Presentations at Primary Care Level – A Brief Guide from Experts”

Welcome

Address by the President, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

Introduction and Objectives of the session

Dr. Amila Chandrasiri, RDHS Office

Don't mess up with serpents, managing snake bite

Dr. Malik Fernando, Past President, SLMA

Member Snakebite Committee

Dr. Kasun Fernando, Member Snakebite Committee

Common is common; managing a patient coming with chest pain

Dr. Sajiv de Silva, Consultant Physician, Base Hospital, Balapitiya

Rising temperature; managing a child with fever and febrile fits

Dr. Nayana Liyanarachchi, Consultant Paediatrician, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya

It's hard to be a mum: managing hyperemesis gravidarum and other common obstetrics complaints

Prof. Lanka Dasanayake, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Teaching Hospital, Mahamodara

Help them breath free; manage of acute exacerbation of asthma in child

Dr. Nayana Liyanarachchi, Consultant Paediatrician, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya

Vote of thanks and programme conclusion

Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the Batticaloa Medical Association and Regional Directorate of Health, Services, Batticaloa

22nd March 2023 at the Auditorium, Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa

“Strengthening the Peripheries – Reflections from the East”

National Anthem

Opening remarks

Address by the President, Batticaloa Medical Association

Dr. S. Branavan

Address by Regional Director of Health Services, Batticaloa

Dr. G. Sukunan

Address by the President, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Address by the Vice Chancellor, Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Prof. V. Kanagasingam

Symposium

The Triumphs and Challenges- Cath Lab and Cardiac Surgery in Batticaloa- A Collaboration with Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

“Hope for the Little Heart”- Introduction to the collaborative work

Ms. Penny Jayawardena, Chairperson, Sri Sathya Sai Karuna Nilayam Foundation

“From Vision to Reality”

Cath Lab Services in Batticaloa

Dr. S. Vinothan, Consultant Cardiologist, TH Batticaloa

“Heart to Heart”

The first ever paediatric cardiac surgeries in Batticaloa- Experiences and Challenges

Dr. Ragini Pandey, Head of Department of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery

Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital, Raipur, India

Debunking fat and carb myths

Dr. K. T. Sundaresan, Senior Lecturer, FHCS, EUSL, Honorary Consultant Physician, TH Batticaloa

Anti-Microbial Resistance- Are we capable to resist it?

Dr. Vaithehi Rajeevan Francis, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, EUSL

Honorary Consultant Microbiologist, TH Batticaloa

Are we out of danger?

Lessons learned from patient screening campaigns of PSSP Project -Batticaloa

Dr. Dharshini Murugupillai, Medical Officer in Charge

Provincial Health Training Centre, Eastern Province

Vote of Thanks and Programme Conclusion

Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the Clinical Society of Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

26th April 2023 at the Auditorium, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

“Clinician’s Role in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety”

Registration

Chairperson: Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

National Anthem

Welcome by the President, Clinical Society, SJGH

Dr. Kushlani Jayatilleke, President, Clinical Society of Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital

Introduction to objectives of SLMA Regional Meetings

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

Introduction with examples of issues related to quality and safety

Dr. Wimal Karandagoda

What can be done to improve quality and safety in healthcare (doctors’ role)

Dr. Sridharan Sathasivam

Surgical Safety

Prof. Ranjan Dias

What is done in Sri Lanka related to quality and safety in hospitals

Dr. Alan Ludowyke

Discussion

Moderated by Dr. Kushlani Jayatilleke

Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the College of Military Medicine

18th May 2023 at the at the Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda Auditorium, Trincomalee

“An Overview of one Health, Environment Health and Planetary Health”

Registration

Lighting oil lamp

National Anthem

Opening remarks

Address by the President, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Address by the President - SLCOMM

Dr. RPNN Wijedoru, USP

SESSION

Microplastics and human health the unseen aspect of a known disaster

Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Dept. of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Ecosystem management in a changing climate in the context of one health

Dr. Ananda Mallawatantri PhD, Advisor to the President on Environment, Climate Change and Green Finance

Sri Lanka Navy’s role in environmental health security steps to achieve goals of one health, eco health & planetary health

Surgeon Captain Duminda Samarawickrama, A/ Commodore Superintendent of Health Eastern Naval Command

Overview of Environmental Health, One Health and Planetary Health

Prof. Indika Karunathilake, Professor in Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Safe and secure global society

Retired Admiral Piyal De Silva, WWV & Bar, RWP, RSP, VSV, USP, ndu, MSc (MS & NSSS),
MBA in HRM, PG Dip in HRM, AMCIPM
Special Advisor Sri Lanka and IORA Countries for CRIMARIO Project
Consultant Marine & Energy Project Cluster Hayleys Aavantis

Question and Answer session**Vote of Thanks****Joint CME Programme in Collaboration with the General Practitioner's Association, Ratnapura and Provincial Directorate of Health Services, Sabaragamuwa**

20th June 2023 at the at the PDHS Office Auditorium, Ratnapura

"Strengthening Primary Health Care Physicians for Effective Management of Common Ailments"**Registration****Lighting oil lamp****National Anthem****Objectives of the SLMA Joint Regional Meeting****Address by the President, Sri Lanka Medical Association**

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Opening remarks Address by the PDHS Sabaragamuwa

Dr. Kapila Kannangara

Opening remarks

Address by the President - General Practitioners Association, Ratnapura

Dr. W.A.C. Premathilaka

Heart Failure, what is new?

Dr. Chinthaka Hathlahawatta, Consultant Cardiologist, TH Ratnapura

A hypopigmented patch; Could it be Leprosy, Challenges in leprosy diagnosis and management

Dr. Chathurarya Siriwardena, Consultant Dermatologist, BH Balangoda

Common eye problems for primary care physicians

Dr. Sanjeewa Kaluarachchi, Consultant Vitro-Retinal Surgeon, TH Ratnapura

Chronic disease management in Primary Care through Person Centeredness

Dr. Shalinie Fernando, Specialist in Primary Care and Family Medicine Ministry of Health

Q and A**Vote of Thanks****Programme Conclusion and Lunch****Joint CME Programme with the Kilinochchi Medical Association**

8th November 2023 at the Auditorium, District General Hospital, Kilinochchi

"Reflections from the North"

Ceremonial Opening of the session

Welcome Address- Dr. Suganthan Selvaraja, Director DGH Kilinochchi

Opening remarks

Address by the President, Kilinochchi Medical Association

Dr. Masilamany Thavarasa

Opening remarks and Objectives of the SLMA Regional Clinical Meeting

Vice President, Sri Lanka Medical Association

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran

Palliative care services in Kilinochchi district

Dr. M. Jeyarasa

Senior Medical Officer, Focal Point/ Palliative Care Services, Kilinochchi

Care for the survivors of Gender Base Violence- The Clinician's Role

Dr. S. Hemapriya

Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist

Morning refreshments and group photo

Notification of Communicable Disease- What we should know?

Dr. K. Rachan

Regional Epidemiologist, Kilinochchi

Respectful Maternity Care

Dr. Y. Shivakaran

Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, DGH Kilinochchi

Q and A session

Closing Remarks Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, SLMA

Vote of thanks and Programme conclusion

Joint CME Programme with the Vavuniya Medical Association
 9th November 2023 at the District General Hospital, Vavuniya
"Reflections from the North"

Ceremonial Opening of the session
 Opening remarks
 Address by the President, Vavuniya Medical Association
 Dr. S. Shashikaran
 Opening remarks and Objectives of the SLMA Regional Clinical Meeting
 President, Sri Lanka Medical Association
 Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
 Orthogediatric Co Management in Elderly Care
 Dr. S. Shashikaran, Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon, DGH Vavuniya
 Care for the survivors of Gender Base Violence- The Clinician's Role
 Dr. S. Hemapriya, Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
 Morning refreshments and group photo
 Frailty and Sarcopenia: An integrated Approach to Comprehensive Gediatric Care
 Dr. Sivayogasundaram Premraj, Consultant Physician, DGH Vavuniya
 Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) in Sri Lanka
 Dr. S. Sasikanth, Acting Consultant Nephrologist, DGH Vavuniya
 Q and A session
 Closing Remarks (by Vavuniya Medical Association) and programme conclusion







JOINT REGIONAL MEETING

Organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association
In Collaboration with
the Kilinochchi Medical Association

"REFLECTIONS FROM THE NORTH"

WEDNESDAY
08 NOVEMBER 2023

TIME
08.30AM ONWARDS

DOH KILINOCHCHI



JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 833 2032 2620
PASSCODE: 474410



Dr. N. ZEYARASA
Senior Medical Officer, Paediatric Outpatient
Care Services, Kilinochchi



DR. S. HEMANPREYA
Senior Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecologist



DR. K. RANJITH
Regional Epidemiologist, Kilinochchi



DR. Y. SHIVAMURUGAN
Consultant Obstetric and Gynaecologist, DOH
Kilinochchi



JOINT REGIONAL MEETING

Organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association
In Collaboration with
the Vavuniya Medical Association

"REFLECTIONS FROM THE NORTH"

THURSDAY
09 NOVEMBER 2023

TIME
08.30AM ONWARDS

DOH VAVUNIYA



JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 833 0007 2027
PASSCODE: 849216



DR. S. SANKARAN
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon,
DOH Vavuniya



DR. S. HEMANPREYA
Senior Consultant Obstetrics and Gynaecologist



DR. SIVAYOGASUNDARAM PREMRAJ
Consultant Physician,
DOH Vavuniya



DR. S. SANKARATH
Asst. Consultant Nephrologist,
DOH Vavuniya





JOINT REGIONAL MEETING

Organized by the
Sri Lanka Medical Association
In collaboration with the Batticaloa Medical Association &
Regional Directorate of Health Services, Batticaloa

"Strengthening the Peripheries – Reflections from the East"

WEDNESDAY
22 MARCH 2023

TIME
05.00AM ONWARDS

TEACHING HOSPITAL,
BATTICALOA



JOIN VIA ZOOM

https://bit.ly/3yrtw9t
MEETING ID: 836 843 0232
PASSCODE: 828966



DR. VINAYA ARIYARATNE
Asst. Dir. (HLS), DOH, Batticaloa
Regional Director of Health Services,
Batticaloa



DR. S. VINODHAN
Consultant Cardiology,
Tiruchendur



DR. RADINI PANIBEY
Head of Department of Paediatrics, Batticaloa
DOH Batticaloa



DR. K.T. SUNDARESAN
Senior Lecturer, FMSC, BMS,
Senior Lecturer, Pharmacology,
Tiruchendur



DR. VAIRATHI RAJKUMAR FRANCIS
Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, DOH,
Batticaloa



DR. CHANDRASEKHAR MURALIUPILLAI
Medical Officer in Charge, Provincial
Health Training Centre, Batticaloa





JOINT REGIONAL MEETING

Organized by the
Sri Lanka Medical Association
in collaboration with the General Practitioners' Association, Battaramulla,
and BMS of Sri Lanka, Colombo

"STRENGTHENING PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF COMMON ILLNESSES"

TUESDAY
19 JUNE 2023

1 PM
DR. GOSAN CHANDRAS

PMHS OFFICE, A/107/03/04, RATHNAPURA

JOIN VIA ZOOM
MEETING ID: 888 8887 8100
PASSWORD: 888888

DR. VINAYA ARIYARTNE
President of Sri Lanka Medical Association

DR. CHATHURAJITHA SRINIVASALINGAM
President of General Practitioners' Association

DR. CHINTHANA PATHIRAJAYARATNE
President of BMS of Sri Lanka

DR. SAMUDRA RAJAPAKSHE
President of Sri Lanka Medical Association





JOINT REGIONAL MEETING

Organized by the
Sri Lanka Medical Association

In Collaboration with
Sri Lanka College of Military Medicine



"AN OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, ONE HEALTH AND PLANETARY HEALTH"

WEDNESDAY
18 MAY, 2023

TIME
08.30AM ONWARDS

ADMIRAL WASANTHA KARANNAGODA,
AUDITORIUM TRINCOMALEE



JOIN VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 898 7950 1076
PASSCODE: 238948



DR. VINAYA ARİYARATNE
President of Sri Lanka Medical Association



DR. ANANDA MALLAWATHANTRI
PIO, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka



ADMIRAL (Retd) PYTAL DE SILVA
Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Navy



SURGEON CAPTAIN DUMINDA SAMARAWICKRAMA
AI, Commander, Sri Lanka Navy



PROF. INDIKA KARUNATHILAKE
Professor in Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo



DR. E.A.S.T. EDIRISINGHE
President, Sri Lanka Medical Association





Inauguration Dr. E. M. Wijerama Endowment Oration

Friday 24th November 2023

INAUGURATION

Arrival of Guests
 Ceremonial Procession
 National Anthem
 JMA Anthem
 Traditional lighting of the oil lamp
 Address by The President, Jaffna Medical Association
 Dr. Chrishanthi Rajasooriyar
 Address by The President, Sri Lanka Medical Association
 Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
 Address by the Chief Guest
 Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne, Immediate Past President, SLMA
 Presentation of SLMA Research Prizes and Awards 2023
 Presentation of SLMA Awards for Excellence in Health Journalism 2023
 Vote of Thanks
 Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Honorary Secretary, SLMA
 Dr. E. M. Wijerama Endowment Oration
 "Current concerns in health development in Sri Lanka: a view from the boundary"
 Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
 Past-President, SLMA
 Cultural Performance
 Procession leaves the hall
 Reception

Saturday 25th November 2023

Venue: Auditorium Medical Student's Hostel Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

Unveiling of the portrait of the Founder President of Jaffna Medical Association

Registration

Welcome Address

Presidents of SLMA & JMA

Keynote speech

Recalibrating Primary Health Care for Sri Lanka's Next Generation

Dr. Alaka Singh, WHO Representative, Sri Lanka

Reversal of Diabetes: Myth or Reality

Dr. Manilka Sumanatilleke, Consultant Endocrinologist

Symposium – "Interface between medicine and psychiatry"

Mental health in the hands of an internist

Dr. Sujanitha Vathulan, Senior Lecturer in Medicine

Prescribing psychotropics in non-psychiatric settings

Dr. Chathurie Suraweera, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry

The role of liaison psychiatry in poor resource settings

Prof. S. Sivayokan, Professor of Psychiatry

Tea

Sir Marcus Fernando Oration

"Reducing antibiotic prescriptions for viral acute respiratory infection in Sri Lanka"

Professor Gayani Tillekeratne

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Duke University School of

Medicine, Assistant Research Professor, Duke Global Health Institute

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

Guest Lecture

The Impact of Climatic Crisis on Children

Dr. Surantha Perera, Consultant Paediatrician

Symposium 2: Neurology

What is new in Management of Stroke?

Dr. Ajantha Keshavaraj, Consultant Neurologist, Jaffna Teaching Hospital

New onset seizure diagnosis and management

Dr. Saamir Mohideen, Consultant Neurologist

Management of Primary Headaches in older adults

Dr. Padma Gunaratne, Consultant Neurologist

Prevention and early detection of oral cancer: Sri Lankan Experience

Dr. Hemantha Amarasinghe, Consultant in Dental Public Health

Oral cancer - Current research and involvement in slaked lime on OSCC

Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy

Birds of Northern Province Sri Lanka

Dr. Murali Vallipurathan, Consultant Community Physician

Vote of thanks - JMA Secretary

Lunch







Annexure 4: Programmes of Symposia, Lectures, Seminars, Webinars and Workshops

Symposium on “Challenges in Eliminating Leprosy in Sri Lanka”

27th January 2023 at 12.00noon at the SLMA Auditorium

Global and local situation of leprosy

Dr. Prasad Ranaweera, Director, Anti-Leprosy Campaign, Sri Lanka

Clinical diagnosis and treatment of leprosy

Dr. Indira Kahawita, Consultant Dermatologist, Anti-Leprosy Campaign, Sri Lanka

Laboratory diagnosis of leprosy

Dr. Chintha Karunasekara, Consultant Microbiologist, National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases, Welisara

Discussion

Webinar on “An update on Glaucoma”

11th March 2023 at 7.00 pm via zoom

Organized by the Eye Care Cener, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Introduction

Prof Maduwanthi Dissanyake, Consultant Eye Surgeon, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo & Director, Eye Care Center, UCFM

Update on investigations

Dr Lalitha Senerath, Consultant Eye Surgeon, TH Karapitiya & Glaucoma Focal Point, Vision 2020 Programme

Treatment Options

Dr Pradeepa K. Siriwardene, Consultant Eye Surgeon, NEHSL & Chairperson, Glaucoma interest Group, College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

Guest Lecture on “Stroke Rehabilitation; An effective intervention for all forms of stroke”

(Recommended for Consultants, trainees in medical rehabilitation, Rheumatology, Neurology, Therapists and Nurses)

16th March 2023 at 12.00 noon at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Jointly Organized by Expert Committee on Rehabilitation on Disabilities

Dr Veena Raykar

Senior Rehabilitation Physician, Concord Hospital Sydney, Australia

Symposium on “Empowering the family in critical times”

17th March 2023 at 2.00 pm at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Jointly Organized by Expert Committee Women's Health- SLMA

Economy at home

Dr Nisha Arunathilaka, Director of Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka

Prioritizing needs over wants for better health and wellbeing

Dr Enoke Wickramasinghe, Head/ Strategic Information, Preschool Health promotion, Planning, M&E Unit, Health Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Health

Nutrition at home: current issues

Dr Deepa Gunasekara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Bio-Chemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

A Nutritional guide for the whole family during times of crisis

Dr. Rajika Savanadasa, Associate of the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka, Medical Officer, Family Health Bureau

Stress, anxiety and violence at home

Dr Pushpa Ranasinghe, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, National Institute of Mental Health

Measures being taken to reduce family stress, anxiety and violence

Dr Vindya Wijayabandara, Member of Sri Lanka College of Psychiatry, Consultant Psychiatrist, Provincial General Hospital Rathnapura

Expert Talk On "Leptospirosis"

Organised by Sri Lanka Medical Association

20th March 2023 at 9.00 am at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Epidemiology of leptospirosis

Dr Thushani Fabreera, Consultant Community Physician, Epidemiology Unit

Changing face of leptospirosis

Dr Wimalasiri Uluwattage, Consultant Physician, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya

Role of the Laboratory in the management of Leptospirosis

Dr Lilani Karunanayake, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Medical Research Institute

Guest Lecture

24th March 2023 at 12.00 noon at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Covid 19: Controversies, Conspiracies and the future

Prof Deepthi Jayasekera, MBBS, MD, FACP, Fellow IDSA
Infectious Diseases Specialist, Los Angeles, USA

Management of Alzheimer's Disease – what's new

Dr Ruvani Gunawardana

Medical Director & Consultant Neurologist Centre for Brain & Neurocare Affiliate Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, USA

Symposium on "Listeriosis – Another epidemic on the horizon?"

31st March 2023 at 12.00 noon at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Symposium jointly Organised by The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists and Sri Lanka Medical Association

Case Presentation – Tragedy at the summit

Dr. J C P Rajendra, Consultant Physician, Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura

Role of the laboratory in listeriosis

Dr. Geetha Nanayakkara, Consultant Microbiologist, Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura

Investigation process and the immediate preventive measures of the reported Listeria case

Dr Tilanga Ruwanpathirana, Consultant Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit

Listeriosis as a food-borne pathogen

Dr Sujatha Pathirage, Consultant Microbiologist, MRI

Symposium on "The World faces an upsurge of 7th cholera pandemic: Be prepared to confront it"

24th April 2023 at 12.00noon at the SLMA Auditorium

History, current global situation and steps to prevent cholera in Sri Lanka again

Dr. Thilanga Ruwanpathirana, Consultant Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health

Clinical presentation and management of cholera

Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu, Consultant Physician and Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Laboratory diagnosis and preventive measures

Dr. Sujatha Pathirage, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, Medical Research Institute, Colombo

Discussion

Guest Lecture on "Surgery for seizure freedom, is it old wine in a new bottle?"

11th May 2023 at 12.00 noon at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Dr Sanjaya Fernando, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Colombo North Teaching Hospital and the National Epilepsy centre of Sri Lanka

Guest Lecture on "New Zealand public health system and lessons from Covid-19 response"

17th May 2023 at 12.00 noon at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Dr Anura Jayasinghe, MBBS, MSc, MD, FNZCPHM

Specialist in Public Health Medicine, TE WHATU ORA – Health New Zealand

"Discussion on how to reduce downtime of equipment and improve maintenance function in National hospitals of Sri Lanka"

31st May 22, 2023

Introduction to the discussion-President, SLMA

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne

Problems related to downtime and Maintenance of equipment

Eng. Nihal Cooray

Maintenance of utilities and instrumentation in hospitals

Eng. Sena Peiris

Sharing of experiences by the team

Discussion on way forward

Talk on women's health

8th June 2023 at 4.00cpm at the SLMA Auditorium

Organized by women's Health Committee

"Hypertension in Women: Family wellbeing"

Prof. Udaya Ralapanawa

MBBS(Pera), MD(Colo), MRCP(UK), FRCP(London), FRCP(Edin), FCCP, FNASSL, ISHF

Professor in Medicine, Head of the Department of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

Consultant Physician, Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya

Convener: Dr Deepa Gunesakera, Senior Lecturer Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry Faculty of Medicine Ragama

Expert Talk On "Health Sector Sustainability Through SCP Based Equipment Maintenance"

Organised by Sri Lanka Medical Association in collaboration with Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum, Sri Lanka and College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka
15th June 2023 at 9.00 am at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium

Registration

Lighting oil lamp

National Anthem

Address by the President, Sri Lanka Medical Association, Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Opening remarks Address by Eng. Nihal Cooray

Health Sector Sustainability through Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Based Equipment Maintenance

Eng. Nimal Perera, President, Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum, Sri Lanka

ABC of Medical Equipment Management

Dr. Sudath K. Dharmaratne, Deputy Director General Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health

Medical Equipment Management in Hospitals

Dr. H.M. Arjuna Thilakarathne, Director – TH Peradeniya, Senior Medical Administrator

Discussion

Panellists

Eng. Nimal Perera, President, Sustainable Consumption and Production Forum, Sri Lanka

Dr. Sudath K. Dharmaratne, Deputy Director General Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health

Dr. H.M. Arjuna Thilakarathna, Director – TH Peradeniya, Senior Medical Administrator

Vote of thanks

Symposium on "Temperature changes in future.... Are we ready to the challenges?"

16th June 2023 at 7.00 pm via zoom

Organized by Expert Committee on Disaster Resilience and Management - SLMA

Dr Shiromani Jayawardena

Director (Weather forecasting and Decision support) Department of Meteorology

Mr. K M H S Premalal

Former Director General Meteorology

Moderator: Dr Lahiru Kodituwakku, National Dengue Control Unit, Ministry of Health

Symposium on "Recently reported Measles cases in Sri Lanka: Lessons to be learnt"

12th September 2023 at 12.00noon at the SLMA Auditorium

Global and local situation of measles and prevention

Dr. Manjula Kariyawasam, *Consultant Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of health*

Clinical presentation & management of measles

Dr. B.J.C. Perera, *Senior Consultant Paediatrician, Colombo*

Virology and Laboratory diagnosis of measles

Dr. Janaki Abeynayake, *Consultant Medical Virologist and Head, Department of Virology, Medical Research Institute, Colombo*

Discussion

Symposium on "Insight into eye infections in Children"

31st October 2023 at 12.00 noon at the SLMA Auditorium

Clinical presentation of eye infections in Children

Dr. Prasad Chathurangana, Consultant Pediatrician, Senior Lecturer, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Pathogens responsible for eye infections in Children

Dr. Dhammika Vidanagama, Consultant Microbiologists, Lady Ridgway Hospital for Children

Management of eye infections in Children

Dr Hiranya Abeysekera, Consultant Eye Surgeon, Lady Ridgway Hospital for Children

Discussion

"Craze for skin fairness - is it worth?"

17th November 2023 at 3.00 pm at the SLMA Auditorium

"Is fair skin synonymous with beautiful skin?"

Dr. Nayani Madarasingha Consultant Dermatologist Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa
“The mind underneath the skin”
Prof Miyuru Chandradasa, Head, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Symposium on “The Current surge in Respiratory illnesses among Children and adults in Sri Lanka”

7th December 2023 at 12.00 noon at the SLMA Auditorium.

organized by the Expert Committee on Communicable Diseases of the Sri Lanka Medical Association
In collaboration with the National Influenza Centre, MRI

Virological Aspects

Dr. Jude Jayamaha

Consultant Medical Virologist, National Influenza Centre, Department of Virology, Medical Research Institute, Colombo

Mitigating the impact of Recurrent Respiratory Epidemics

Dr. Niranjana Dissanayake

Consultant Pulmonologist, Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura

The impact, clinical spectrum and principles of management in children

Dr. Channa de Silva

Consultant Pulmonologist, Lady Ridgeway Hospital. Colombo

Symposium on “Activism for prevention of violence against women and girls 2023”

11th December 2023 at 3.00 pm at the SLMA Auditorium.

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President SLMA

Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe, Chairperson, Women's Health Committee

Theme: Marital Rape in Sri Lanka –Issue that needs addressing

Speaker 1: Medico-legal aspects

Prof Indira Kitulwatta, MBBS(Col), DLM (Col), MD (For Med) (Col)

Professor in Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Speaker 2: Psychological aspects

Dr. Mahesan Ganesan MBBS(Col), MD (Psy)(Col)

Consultant Psychiatrist, National Mental Health Institution (Rtd)

Speaker 3: Socio cultural aspect

Dr. Sepali Kottegoda, BA(Hons)(Kel), MPhil (Sussex), DPhil (Sussex)

Director Programmes of Women's Economic Rights and Media Women & Media Collective, Colombo

Speaker 4: Marital rape the laws- National and International

Hon. Justice Kumudini Wickremasinghe

Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, MA (Theory and Practice of Human Rights) University of Oslo, Norway

Symposium on Marital Rape in Sri Lanka –Issue that needs addressing

Programme

Invitees take seats

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Marital Rape in Sri Lanka –Issue that needs addressing

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Introduction of the panelists

Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe & Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

Medico-Legal aspects: Prof. Indira Kitulwatta

Psychological aspects: Dr. Mahesan Ganesan

Socio-Cultural aspects: Dr. Sepali Kottegoda

Marital rape the laws- National and International:

Hon. Justice Kumudini Wickramasinghe

Question Discussion

Concluding remarks (Legal academic/ Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe)

CME Programme

14th December 2023 at 12.00 noon at the SLMA Auditorium

Organized by Sri Lanka Medical Association in Collaboration with Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists

From *Schistosoma haematobium* circulating antigens research to *Candida albicans* surgical voice prosthesis infections: Exploring clinical and academic eukaryotic microbiology

Prof. Fritz Muhlschlegel (MD, FRCPath, FRSB)

Honorary Professor, Division of Natural Sciences, School of Biosciences, University of Kent, UK

Update on dengue vaccine

Prof. Aravinda de Silva (PhD)

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina



Annexure 5: List of New Members

Life Members (137)

Dr. S. A. D. N. Chaminda Wijesinghe	Dr. W. D. Y. Niranjala Walpita	Dr. G. D. H. D. Pathiragoda
Dr. M. S. M. Rizny	Dr. Vijayakanth Vijayakumar	Dr. N. R. De Silva
Dr. D. K. Yasas	Dr. L. Isanka Malalasekara	Dr. S. Niruban
Dr. S. S. Wijayalath	Dr. V. Jithmal Meegoda	Dr. P. R. K. Gamage
Dr. I. R. H. Sathyajith Ihalagama	Dr. A. L. N. S. Kumara Liyanage	Dr. Aysha Ziauddin
Dr. K. M. M. Thivanka Ranasinghe	Dr. M. A. A. Eranga Wijayasekara	Dr. B. M. D. S. Balasooriya
Dr. E. A. A. M. Wickramarathna	Dr. A. M. M. Godavitharana	Dr. N. W. V. M. N. Bandara
Dr. L. S. M. Alwis	Dr. W. A. O. N. Wickramasinghe	Dr. A. W. S. Kumara
Dr. W. A. P. S. Ruwan Weeraratna	Dr. T. A. Ariyawansa	Dr. D. C. S. Talagala
Dr. R. A. D. D. Asanaka Kumara	Dr. H. M. Roshantha	Dr. Ruwanthi Jayasekara
Dr. C. Chandana Dahanayake	Dr. M. R. N. Costa Jayawardena	Dr. W. A. N. N. Peries
Dr. Sivapalan Sanchayan	Dr. I. Kalpani Sudasinghe	Dr. G. Wijesuriya
Dr. T. Umayanga Subasinghe	Dr. W. G. S. R. Boteju	Dr. R. Menon Gengatharan
Dr. W. M. A. B. W. Eriyawa	Dr. N. Dilrukshi Yahampath	Dr. S. S. Subasinghe
Dr. A. B. Molligoda Liyanage	Dr. D. M. G. Dissanayake	Dr. S. R. Issadeen
Dr. D. N. Warnasuriya	Dr. P. M. T. Warnakula	Dr. T. N. Amarasena
Dr. P. A. H. Fernandopulle	Dr. S. N. Farahath	Dr. E. W. Kosgallana
Dr. H. D. Kavindya De Silva	Dr. D. H. Hettige	Dr. H. R. S. D. Samarasekara
Dr. E. N. Silpage	Dr. A. D. P. Athukorala	Dr. S. S. J. Nanayakkara
Dr. S. M. Samarasinghe	Dr. N. V. J. Thenuwara	Dr. Gihan Ranasinghe
Dr. K. B. Ekanayake	Dr. S. A. D. S. Kaushalya	Dr. Arunath Visvalingam
Dr. S. W. Rajapaksa	Dr. K. S. Atapattu	Dr. Hasini Nirupama
Dr. P. D. W. Dilhani De Zoysa	Dr. W. W. S. Wijenayake	Dr. M. H. Fathima Nowfeen
Dr. A. Eranthi Fernando	Dr. K. T. Samarathna	Dr. F. R. Niyas
Dr. H. K. M. P. Kariyawasam	Dr. R. T. Balasuriya	Dr. K. A. S. K. Yogananda
Dr. K. H. J. Nuwan Kularathne	Dr. K. A. Indrani	Dr. P. H. R. S. De Silva
Dr. M. M. Basith	Dr. H. M. S. L. Gunatilake	Dr. E. R. S. Bandara
Dr. Buddhika Lokugamhewa	Dr. G. U. Rambukwella	Dr. W. D. C. Niroshini Adikaram
Dr. D. N. Abeygunathilaka	Dr. T. K. G. Saranga Sumathipala	Dr. I. P. Nanayakkara
Dr. C. D. Tissa Ratnasooriya	Dr. Gobith Ratnasasingam	Dr. C. Samjeevan Xavier
Prof. S. P. D. R. Rajapakse	Dr. C. D. Ratnayaka	Dr. Casthuri Kandasamy
Dr. E. D. Thilini Rupasinghe	Dr. B. P. N. Wijerathne	Dr. Akalanka Dodamgoda
Dr. A. J. P. Marian Jayawardene	Dr. D. M. A. Bandula Senaratna	Dr. H. C. Mathula Hettiarachchi
Dr. K. M. W. Wathsala Priyadarshani	Dr. Thilini Rajapakse	Dr. M. A. A. S. Munasinghe
Dr. P. H. G. Janaka Pushpakumara	Dr. S. M. S. Fernando	Dr. P. S. Perera
Dr. M. S. Shakir Mohammed	Dr. D. M. C. S. Jayasundara	Dr. G. K. H. Perera
Dr. W. S. Hewanayake	Dr. K. G. Kamaladasa	Dr. Chiranthi N. Dhanasinghe
Dr. W. G. G. Bandara Kumarasinghe	Dr. T. D. Kalinga	Dr. H. A. G. D. Thathsara
Dr. Paneetha Seneviratne	Dr. P. M. Panditha Gunawardena	Dr. Sanjaya Bandarage
Dr. V. S. Isuru Ahesh	Dr. A. I. Biyanwila	Dr. Nadeeshan Pathirana
Dr. Meneka Ranaweera	Dr. Sriharan Ganeshamoorthy	Dr. M. R. Jamaldeen
Dr. K. Anushka Peiris	Dr. K. W. S. M. Wijayawardhana	Dr. Mohamed Shuja
Dr. M. H. M. Wickramasekara	Dr. T. Dilshan Lamahewage	Dr. L. T. Godakumbura
Dr. A. A. D. D. N. Amaratunga	Dr. J. Baranidu Wickramasinghe	Dr. Gayani Kohombakadawala
Dr. Sakunthala Liyanage	Dr. S. Sashikaran	Dr. K. B. N. Isuru Kariyawasam
Dr. P. Kumari Bandutilake	Dr. H. T. Deepaka Sanath	

Ordinary Members (76)

Dr. M. D. S. V. Kularathna	Dr. L. D. Manchanayake	Dr. H. S. R. Kumara
Dr. S. S. Welgama	Dr. C. U. K. Samarajeewa	Dr. M. L. Delpachithra
Dr. A. N. Mohamed Sanfar	Dr. U. W. N. K. Dharmasoma	Dr. A. Issadeen
Dr. C. N. Dhanasinghe	Dr. S. Charuhasini	Dr. S. Gishanthan
Dr. D. K. Illangasinghe	Dr. N. N. Wickrama Arachchi	Dr. A. R. M. Isthiyak
Dr. A. L. M. H. Basree	Dr. K. T. R. Perera	Dr. D. Gunawardhana
Dr. G. A. Ramya Ranawaka	Dr. R. N. Samarasinghe	Dr. M. L. N. S. Gunawardana
Dr. D. T. M. N. Dasanayake	Dr. B. S. Nikapitiya	Dr. K. W. Karunaratne
Dr. Sasini Jagoda	Dr. H. H. Chamila Priyadarshani	Dr. S. P. Vidanagamage
Dr. Thabitha Thayalanesan	Dr. R. D. D. Kaushalya Ariyaratna	Dr. Nadeera T. Weerasuriya
Dr. S. S. Kasturirachchi	Dr. M. Z. Mohamed Sarfraz	Ms. T. Chekala Pannala

Dr. Nuwan Wijewardene
Dr. W. A. D. J. Jayangani Herath
Dr. Hettitantiye Ayodhya Emalie
Dr. Nilanka Mudithakumara
Dr. A. W. P. Isiri Upeksha
Dr. U. A. G. H. Wickramasuriya
Dr. P. Tharaka Wickramage
Dr. W. K. B. A. Fernando
Dr. N. N. M. Karunasingha
Dr. P. T. S. Prasanga
Dr. Jeewan Samarasekera
Dr. A. Inuka Ranasinghe
Dr. M. F. Abdul Cader
Dr. L. S. Wickramasinghe
Dr. W. M. Y. U. Wijekoon

Dr. S. T. Safiudeen
Dr. Thilini Epa
Dr. N. Daupadie Alpitirachchi
Dr. M. D. U. B. Gunawardana
Dr. D. S. K. D. Gunawardana
Dr. R. A. W. N. Ranasinghe
Dr. W. P. M. Gunawardana
Dr. G. A. N. C. Wickramasinghe
Dr. P. A. M. Hansika
Dr. Sanjeewa Shehan
Dr. U. P. N. P. R. Ranaweera
Dr. E. Uthayaseelan
Dr. E. K. N. De Soyza
Dr. N. Chathurika Gray

Dr. E. K. S. L. Karunadhipathi
Dr. Mekala Gunawardana
Dr. A. H. Amjath Hasan
Dr. Yalinie Pirashanth
Dr. M. A. Amila Udara
Dr. M. B. F. Yoosoof
Dr. W. D. S. Niluka
Dr. S. A. Wasala
Dr. D. S. Paranamana
Dr. S. S. Kaviratne
Dr. Ruwanthi Ananda
Dr. A. A. C. Nuradi Athukorala
Dr. Shylagan Aruran
Dr. G. T. Anuththara

Student Members (240)

Dr. Yogendrarajah Shahithyan
Ms. K. Prasadini Ravihari
Ms. A. Sothithasan
Ms. F. M. Thamien
Ms. Sandarekha Perera
Ms. S. R. P. Ranjika Rathnayake
Mr. Jemini Wickramanayake
Ms. M. Prabodha Wimalaratne
Ms. Hajanthi Jeyapragasam
Mr. S. S. G. Sri Withanage
Mr. W. G. D. M. J. C. Dissanayake
Ms. N. R. Kiriwaththuduwa
Mr. B. Charith Dishan
Ms. S. C. Rathnayake
Mr. Y. I. Wickramaarachchi
Ms. Lakhini Gunawardana
Mr. Rajakoone Chriswin
Ms. W. Nadeesha Indunil
Ms. T. Chekala Pannala
Mr. M. H. A. Madusara Indrajith
Mr. D. N. Perera
Ms. D. D. G. Madushika Wijesinghe
Mr. U. M. Absan
Ms. D. D. Navodya Gunasekara
Ms. Manoshi Parindya
Mr. H. N. Wickramagunaratne
Mr. Janidu Ekanayake
Ms. G. G. Bhagya Sarathchandra
Mr. G. Manahara Padmasiri
Ms. Oshadhi Jayasena
Ms. N. Sandhara Athukorala
Mr. J. M. Figurado
Mr. P. Sachithra Babilawattage
Mr. M. N. Jayaratne
Ms. L. Wimansa Grero
S. C. Janith Fernando
Ms. S. Dakshina Dissanayake
M. K. Prabashwari Karunathilake
Ms. J. Dinesha Nagodavithana
Ms. Saumya Sivakumaran
Ms. A. Sashikala Arampath
Mr. D. D. M. B. Dodangoda
Mr. N. Nipun Siyambalapitiya
Mr. Uvindu P. Wickramarachchi
Ms. M. R. Sandeepani Dissanayake
Ms. E. M. Mahesha Nirmani Edirisinghe
Ms. D. M. B. Pamalka Dissanayaka
Mr. U. K. Mandara Permalal

Ms. C. G. K. Samaranayake
Dr. H. Bhagya S. Jayalath
Mr. I. D. Samarawickrama
Mr. M. R. L. Thennakoon
Mr. R. N. U. Jayathissa
Ms. Zainab Shajahan
Ms. Shaifa Siyam
Mr. Hirusha Fernando
Mr. W. M. C. Yasiru Lakrandu
Mr. R. S. R. Fernando
Ms. S. N. Kumari
Mr. W. D. Dharmkeerthi
Ms. M. E. Kulathunga
Mr. Tharindu Rukshan
Ms. J. U. Gunawardana
Mr. M. S. Mayuran
Ms. L. Poorni Imasha
Ms. M. Apsara Driberg
Ms. T. V. Wijerathna
Mr. C. Danosha Perera
Ms. Kumudu Wijerathna
Mr. Dulanka Ekanayake
Ms. Nipuni Gunawardana
Mr. P. A. R. Vishwanath Pahanage
Mr. T. S. Senadeera
Ms. Keethana Muhunthan
Ms. V. Kithusari Wickramasinghe
Mr. P. Dilshan Gunarathna
Mr. R. A. M. Sanjeewa
Ms. Janeesha Gunawaedana
Ms. Apsara Kalansooriya
Ms. W. I. S. Nawagamuwa
Ms. H. H. C. Priyadarshani
Mr. Akhila Munasinghe
Ms. Jananie Jayasinghe
Ms. S. Vishwaji Gamage
Ms. Dasanthi Gamage
Mr. I. U. Hettiarachchi
Mr. Rushdi Hassen
Ms. T. C. Siriwardhana
Mr. T. M. W. Gunawardhana
Ms. M. Savithri Sulakkhana
Ms. Madhushani Jayathissa
Ms. T. M. S. Lakmini Thennakoon
Ms. S. N. Edirisooriya
Mr. Thihara Weerasekera
Ms. T. A. D. Droston
Mr. B. A. S. K. Amaradasa

Dr. Yasiru Viduranga
Mr. Thanuka Rupasinghe
Mr. Y. Sithiravel
Mr. Dileepa Manawadu
Ms. Navini Hulathduwa
Ms. Nadini Manawadu
Mr. L. Mihiraj Sumanapala
Ms. H. M. P. Wimalaratne
Mr. K. B. S. Dunuwila
Mr. D. M. Rathnayake
Mr. D. M. B. D. Dissanayake
Ms. W. G. G. V. Kumarasinghe
Mr. M. K. Muneera Farween
Mr. Milinda Godamunne
Mr. R. D. Gallage
Ms. N. M. Kodithuwakku
Ms. G. K. Bandaranayake
Ms. H. R. Jayalath
Ms. Kasunika Perera
Ms. Sehani Wijerathne
Ms. U. D. Pitigala
Ms. P. I. Upekkha Wijewardena
Ms. Shavindi Gunaratne
Ms. P. K. A. P. Gunathilaka
Mr. A. Nirmal Heenkenda
Mr. H. G. T. Wickremasinghe
Mr. S. Milinda Gamhewage
Ms. J. Lakshika Withana
Ms. A. G. Jayasinghe
Ms. M. S. Fathima Shazna
Ms. A. Inodara Pathirage
Mr. K. M. Bulathsinghala
Mr. Huzair Mohammed
Mr. P. Y. Jayamanna
Mr. T. G. J. Nimal Gamage Dr.
Dr. A. Udhishtran
Mr. P. Sridharan Sivabalan Ms.
Mr. Sanuda Liyanage
Ms. V. K. Sumanapala
Mr. M. R. L. Thennakoon
Ms. K. K. T. Subhanee
Mr. Prasanna Jayathilake
Mr. I. Chiranth Hordagoda
Mr. W. A. D. Y. Wellappuli
Ms. Kosala Sivabalan
Ms. N. Akalanka Fernando
Mr. W. A. U. S. Nadeeshan
Mr. R. M. I. C. Y. Rajaguru

Mr. M. P. I. Nallahewa	Mr. M. P. Rajakaruna	Ms. Sayuni Ruwanpura
Ms. Kithsara Darshani Wickramasinghe	Mr. Tharindu Kulawansa	Ms. K. T. S. Dewindi Fernando
Mr. N. P. Sandeep Muthumala	Mr. P. A. S. Shashiranga Jayawardana	Mr. Charith Samarasooriya
Ms. Abiramy Arudsivan	Ms. S. D. Samosekara Agampodi	Ms. S. Tharundi Balasinghe
Ms. I. Sajini Lakshika Ilukpitiya	Mr. K. W. D. Chathuranga Kapuwatta	Ms. R. P. Chathunika Imanji
Ms. S. Imasha Kirinda	Mr. T. A. S. Buddhika Sampath	Ms. A. H. Fathima Fazniya
Ms. W. A. P. Navoda Chandrasiri	Mr. K. K. Nipun Sadesh Fernando	Mr. Gajaba Nayakarathne
Ms. E. M. Thilini Ekanayake	Ms. Yeheni Edirisinghe	Mr. R. S. Ishan A. Ekanayake
Ms. Fathima Najdah	Mr. Dinith Devshan Fernando	Ms. Devanji Perera
Ms. N. T. Wijayatilaka	Ms. Kasuni Ananda	Ms. U. L. Tharushika Nethmini
Ms. M. Abdhul Careem	Ms. W. M. T. N. Wanninayake	Ms. R. S. Rupasinghe
Ms. W. M. B. Sewwandi Wasala	Ms. M. D. Muthumalee Welikala	Mr. T. Daksina Thanthriwattage
Mr. A. Pramodaya Jayathissa	Ms. L. Reeshani U. Fernando	Ms. S. A. V. W. Wijesinhe
Ms. D. N. Jayalath	Ms. J. C. Chuwan	Mr. Sathushan Thavendren
Mr. M. D. Weerathunge	Mr. Kinley Wangchuk	Ms. K. L. Hiruni T. Ekanayake
Mr. Tshering Kinzang	Mr. P. G. C. P. Weerakoon	Ms. R. Priyamali Wijerathna
Ms. D. M. J. M. Elikewala	Ms. K. M. C. N. K. Karunathilake	Ms. S. H. Sachini Sineka
Ms. Malisha V. Fonseka	Mr. Kasun Gunathilaka	Mr. M. K. S. Randil
Ms. Dulangi Beneragama	Mr. R. T. I. D. Rajapaksha	Ms. C. Yasassree Senanayake
Ms. K. G. R. S. Rathnapriya	Ms. R. Sewwandi Devinuwara	Mr. M. K. S. Rashmith
Ms. T. Nawodani Senanayake	Ms. P. G. Thilini Nayanakanthi	Mr. Sahan Wijesooriya
Mr. K. P. Ashan Shanaka	Ms. T. Meenakshi Weerasinghe	Mr. Hassen Rushdi
Ms. Bhagya K. Weerakkody	Ms. Luckshana Michael	Mr. K. G. S. H. Weerakoon
Mr. Amal Rajitha Weeratunga	Mr. Isuru Weerasinghe	Mr. Pesala Adikaranayake
Ms. K. G. Dilmin Tharindi Weerakkodi	Ms. Kasunika Perera	Ms. S. M. Weerasinghe
Ms. Dasanthi Gamage	Ms. J. P. H. Chamalka Keshari	Mr. R. M. L. M. Rathnayake
Ms. Ayasha S. Uyangodage	Mr. Lahiru Kasun Weerasekara	Ms. H. M. S. W. Karunarathna
Ms. T. W. M. S. V. Karunathilaka	Ms. Sushana Gurung	Ms. Virajini. K. Kodithuwakku
Ms. E. M. Navodya K. Ekanayake	Mr. A. I. Nilaweera	Mr. Chandika K. Athukorala
Ms. Ashani Sugumar	Mr. Tharushini Jayawardena	Ms. Malsha N. Gamage
Ms. Kosala S Welsh	Mr. Sachin D. Athauda	Ms. Kamishani N Beneragama
Mr. Ayman Mohamed	Ms. H. M. Chamoda D Bandara	Ms. C. M. N. M. Bandara

Ordinary to Life Members (2)

Dr Dinesh Koggalage

Dr Mounasamy Mathurageethan

Annexure 6: Auditors' Report

Sri Lanka Medical Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 October 2022


ASSETS	Note	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	3	39,750,478	29,573,331
Deferred tax asset	17.3	-	517,252
		<u>39,750,478</u>	<u>30,090,583</u>
Current Assets			
Advance and prepayments	4	103,345	229,343
Short-term investments	5	43,290,068	39,610,493
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	20,154,190	34,819,034
		<u>63,547,603</u>	<u>74,658,870</u>
Total Assets		<u>103,298,081</u>	<u>104,749,453</u>
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Funds			
Accumulated fund		84,532,077	82,867,110
Oration and awards reserve	7	1,511,613	1,446,971
Building fund		20,000	20,000
Oration and awards fund	8	5,474,276	5,474,276
Restricted development funds	9	4,795,621	7,995,987
		<u>96,333,587</u>	<u>97,804,344</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Retirement benefit obligations	10	1,855,745	1,737,810
Deferred grants	11	1,731,779	1,804,078
Deferred tax liabilities	17.3	1,012,902	-
		<u>4,600,426</u>	<u>3,541,888</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables		149,866	147,316
Other payables	12	1,192,948	950,607
Income tax payable		1,021,254	2,305,298
Bank overdraft	6.2	-	-
		<u>2,364,068</u>	<u>3,403,221</u>
Total Funds and Liabilities		<u>103,298,081</u>	<u>104,749,453</u>

It is certified that the Financial Statements have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.


Finance Officer

The Committee is responsible for these Financial Statements. Approved and signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


President


Hon. Treasurer

The Accounting Policies and Notes on pages 07 to 17 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



Sri Lanka Medical Association
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
Year ended 31 October 2022

	Note	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Incoming resources	13	24,754,750	22,929,928
Project expenditure	14	(10,647,555)	(5,201,985)
Surplus/(Deficit) from project activities		14,107,195	17,727,943
Other income	15	12,479,791	18,402,517
Administration expenses		(21,350,611)	(19,666,504)
Net surplus/(deficit) before tax	16	5,236,374	16,463,956
Income tax	17	(3,571,407)	(4,663,853)
Net surplus/ (deficit) for the year		1,664,967	11,800,103

The Accounting Policies and Notes on pages 07 to 17 form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



Sri Lanka Medical Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31 October 2022

13. INCOMING RESOURCES	2022	2021
	Rs.	Rs.
Subscription and entrance fee	715,025	1,316,084
Anniversary International Medical Conference	17,054,707	15,431,163
Rent income	5,904,253	4,760,218
Auditorium and council room hire	559,900	702,500
Career Guidance seminar	-	2,000
Income from Ceylon Medical Journal (13.1)	520,864	717,962
	<u>24,754,749</u>	<u>22,929,928</u>
13.1 Income from Ceylon Medical Journal	2022	2021
	Rs.	Rs.
Sale of journal	18,500	2,500
Processing fee	433,869	589,311
Interest on CMJ	68,495	126,151
	<u>520,864</u>	<u>717,962</u>
14. PROJECT EXPENDITURE	2022	2021
	Rs.	Rs.
Annual academic session	7,885,688	3,204,084
Operational expenditure (Note 14.1)	1,733,258	1,600,788
Ceylon Medical Journal (Note 14.2)	1,028,609	397,113
	<u>10,647,555</u>	<u>5,201,985</u>
14.1 Operational expenditure	2022	2021
	Rs.	Rs.
Auditorium equipment repair	27,500	165,465
Lectures and meetings	546,989	622,053
Foundation celebration session	48,811	525,507
Sessions Co-coordinator monthly allowance	378,000	287,763
Medical dance	731,958	-
	<u>1,733,258</u>	<u>1,600,788</u>
14.2 Ceylon Medical Journal	2022	2021
	Rs.	Rs.
Printing expenses	740,000	344,000
Monthly allowance	252,000	21,000
Telephone and Fax	33,009	29,313
Sundry expense	3,600	2,800
	<u>1,028,609</u>	<u>397,113</u>



Sri Lanka Medical Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 31 October 2022

15. OTHER INCOME	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Interest income	2,281,881	2,215,508
Sponsorships	600,000	3,530,462
Amortization of grants	72,300	75,328
Other donations	5,829,941	9,146,311
Sale of books	16,950	43,113
Sundry income	2,676,046	2,099,539
Electricity income	722,447	615,339
Clinical Trial Registry proposal	409,267	200,130
Income on FERCSL conference	15,800	158,618
ERC income	25,235	322,887
SLMA - ID	6,001	7,000
Loss on disposal of PPE	(176,077)	(11,717)
	<u>12,479,791</u>	<u>18,402,517</u>

16. NET SURPLUS BEFORE TAX	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Stated after charging		
<i>Included in Project Expenditure</i>		
Employees benefits including the following	252,000	21,000
- Other staff costs	252,000	21,000
<i>Included in Administration Expenses</i>		
Employees benefits including the following	6,651,655	6,827,543
- Defined benefit plan costs - Gratuity	117,935	66,491
- Defined contribution plan costs - EPF and ETF	673,972	653,960
- Other staff costs	5,859,748	6,107,092
Auditor's remuneration	275,000	218,350
Professional subscriptions	24,375	19,500
Depreciation	2,756,384	2,238,535

17. INCOME TAX

The major components of income tax expense for the years ended 31st March are as follows :

	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Income Statement		
Current Income Tax		
Current tax expense on ordinary activities for the Year (Note 17.1)	(2,041,254)	(1,813,067)
Deferred Income Tax		
Deferred tax recognised (Note 17.2)	(1,530,154)	(2,850,786)
Income tax expense reported in the statement of financial activities	<u>(3,571,407)</u>	<u>(4,663,853)</u>



Sri Lanka Medical Association
DETAILED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
Year ended 31 October 2022

STATEMENT - I


ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Salary and overtime	5,510,070	5,471,146
EPF and ETF	673,972	653,960
Bonus	349,678	635,946
Staff welfare	198,478	100,126
Travelling and hiring	213,781	132,559
Gratuity	117,935	66,491
Audit fee and expenses	347,943	237,000
Tax professional fee	51,500	22,000
Annual Return expenses	124,150	102,962
OPA membership fee	24,375	19,500
Membership fees	81,812	-
Repair and maintenance	845,516	1,603,236
Depreciation	2,756,384	2,238,535
President induction ceremony	711,845	901,920
Printing and stationery	3,258,688	2,961,744
Postage	44,530	3,840
Telephone and fax	413,875	324,688
Water	133,875	51,904
Electricity	1,653,625	1,677,692
Rates and taxes	212,058	212,058
Security charges	979,516	413,600
Internet charges	359,114	594,660
Franking machine	188,000	214,912
AGM expenses	35,583	25,431
Council group photograph	27,600	30,200
Research promotion grant	-	200,000
Advertisement expenses	10,200	19,116
Law and medical cricket match expenses	370,000	250,000
News Letter Allowance	158,550	-
Charity & Donations	25,000	-
Bank charges	152,632	101,652
Sundry expenses	1,320,326	399,627
	21,350,611	19,666,504



Press Statement

Annexure 1: An appeal on behalf of the health care system and the citizens of Sri Lanka



SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
6, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka TPhone: 2693324 Fax: 2688802
E-mail: office@slma.lk Website: www.slma.lk

16th January 2023

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe,
President,
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Dear Sir,

An appeal on behalf of the health care system and the citizens of Sri Lanka

We wish to bring to your notice the urgent and life threatening plight faced by the citizens of Sri Lanka, directly related to their health and survival. The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) of Sri Lanka is the regulatory body that ensures the quality, safety, efficacy and need of medicines. The clinical and technical decision-making of the NMRA are made by representatives from the four main specialties of medicine, namely physicians, surgeons, paediatricians and obstetricians. These representatives as well as Professors in pharmacology and pharmacy are nominated to the Board of the NMRA.


While the importation of a drug in to Sri Lanka requires the approval of the NMRA obtained via regular process, a 'Waiver of Registration' (WoR) is issued for an essential medicine if there are no registered suppliers for the product.

It has been brought to the notice of the SLMA that recently the Minister of Health has submitted two cabinet papers seeking approval to purchase certain medicines from two companies, namely 'Savourite' Pharmaceutical (Pvt) Ltd and Kaushik Pharmaceutical (Pvt) Ltd, implying that these are essential medicines not available in the country. We are made to understand that the first cabinet paper was given conditional approval by the cabinet leading to the NMRA deciding to issue a Waiver of Registration for a list of medicines to be purchased from 'Savourite'.

It is the view of the SLMA that these are serious irregularities which can endanger the lives of patients and are unethical violations of due process.

Our contentions are as follows:

1. None of these products is registered in Sri Lanka by the NMRA; therefore, there is no assurance of the quality, safety, and efficacy of these medicines. The integrity of the registration certificate issued by the NMRA for other drugs and consumables are also compromised by issues such as the one illustrated above.
2. It appears that the suppliers mentioned have been selected violating the due legal process as they are not registered with the NMRA.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
6, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka TPhone: 2693324 Fax: 2688802
E-mail: office@slma.lk Website: www.slma.lk

3. One supplier, Kaushik Pharmaceutical, is blacklisted by the State Pharmaceutical Corporation in 2017.

4. Contrary to what has been conveyed to the cabinet, both lists include several non-essential medicines. By giving WoR, the NMRA has allowed these to be imported to the country using a loan facility when many essential medicines are not available.

5. According to the data from the MSD, some of the medicines in the list are available with reasonable stocks at MSD not necessitating the to bypass the usual procedure tender procedure.

6. The Board of the NMRA is not fully constituted by the Minister of Health. It is short of representatives of several clinical disciplines after the previous board was dissolved by the Minister of Health a few months ago. The Board of the NMRA should include three (03) representatives from the Ministry of Health as per the Act of Parliament establishing the NMRA in 2015. However, since the last dissolution of the NMRA Board in April 2022 three (03) seats that should be filled by Ministry of Health representatives remain vacant.


Given the above, we kindly request you take urgent measures to


1. Immediately stop the proposed procurement by the Ministry of Health.
2. Initiate a prompt and impartial inquiry into the how distorted facts were communicated to the cabinet in the two cabinet papers referred to in this letter.
3. Direct the Ministry of Health to expedite the existing mechanisms to purchase medicines and confine these to purchasing essential medicines.
4. To instruct the relevant officials to nominate the representatives of the Ministry of Health.
5. Properly constitute the Board of the NMRA.

We once again urge you to initiate action regarding this matter pertinent to the health, safety and the survival of the citizens of Sri Lanka, already burdened by a multitude of socio-economic catastrophes affecting their lives. We make this appeal to you with the hope that we have a shared aspirations to ensure the right of every citizen to health and safety.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,


 Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
President, SLMA


 Dr. Sajith Edirisinghe
Honorary Secretary, SLMA

SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Wijerama House
No. 6, Wijerama Mawatha,
Colombo - 7.

Copies:

Hon. Dr. Keshiya Rambukwella, Minister of Health
Mr. S. Janaka Sri Chandragurtha, Secretary, Ministry of Health
Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Director General of Health Services
Prof. S. D. Jayaratne, Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority

Press Statement

Annexure 2: ඔබ ඔබේ ප්‍රවේශම ගැන සහතික වී පුරවැසි වගකීම ඉටු කරන්න

මේ සෑම අනතුරකම වසර බර අවසානයේ දරන්නේ මේ සමස්ත සමාජය වීමයි.

රිය අනතුරු සැලසුම්වෙතත් මාරාන්ත රිය අනතුරු නිසා බිදීවන ආර්ථික හානිය පිළිබඳව විධිමත් සංඛ්‍යාලේඛන සහිත සමාජ පර්යේෂණයක් රට තුළ සිදු වී නැත. එහෙත් ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානය පෙන්වා දෙන්නේ මාරාන්ත අනතුරුවලින් සියයට 93ක් සිදුවන්නේ අඩු සහ මධ්‍ය ආදායම් ලබන රටවල බවය.

රිය අනතුරු හේතුවෙන් එම රටවල දළ ජාතික නිෂ්පාදනයෙන් සියයට 3ක් විනාශවන බවය. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මෙම අගය දළ ජාතික නිෂ්පාදනයෙන් (GDP) 2% දක්වා අගයක් ගන්නා බව අපේක්ෂා කිරීමේදී කැර නිවේ. (එය රු. බිලියන 200 - 300ක් අතර අගයකි.නවද සෞඛ්‍ය සදහා වාර්ෂිකව සංස්ථාගාරයෙන් වෙන්කරන මුදල හා සමානය.)

රටේ තත්ත්වය

අප ඒවත් වෙමින් සිටින්නේ බිහිසුණු ආර්ථික අර්බුදයක් මැද මිහින රටකය. මහලොකු වාර්තාව අනුව මේ ව්‍යස්නය වන්නේ සමස්ත අය වැය හිඟය 2021 වසර වනවිට සියයට 12.2ක් වූ රටකය. මධ්‍යම රජයේ නොපියවූ දේශීය සහ විදේශීය ණය 2021 වසර අවසන් වනවිට දළ දේශීය නිෂ්පාදනයෙන් සියයට 104.6ක් දක්වා වර්ධනය වී තිබුණු රටකය.

විදේශ සංචිත භාණ්ඩයන් සමග ඖෂධ ආනයනය අදාත්තේ අසීරු අඩියකය. රට පුරා රඟ ඖෂධ හිඟයක් පවතී. මේ අවස්ථාවේ ජාතියක් ලෙස මේ අසීරු මොහොත පරගත කරන්නේ වළක්වා ගත හැකි රෝග, වළක්වා ගත හැකි අනතුරු අවම කරගැනීමෙන් පමණි.

හදිසි අනතුරුවලින් අති මහත් බහුතරයක් යහපත් සිහිනුවමක් කටයුතු කිරීමෙන් වළක්වා ගතහැකි ඒවාය. මේ ව්‍යස්නයෙන් එතෙරටවිට හැක්කේ ඔබ හැදිලි අනතුරකට ලක්වුවහොත් එහි බර මුදු වැය බර සමාජයක්ම දැරිය යුතු බවට වන සමාජ වගකීම පිළිබඳ අවබෝධය ඔබ තුළ ඇතිවන මොහොතේ පමණි.

මේ පුරවැසි වගකීම සම්බන්ධව වගවීම අප අප තුළින් මතු කරගත යුතු වැදගත්ම මොහොත එළඹී තිබේ.

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ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සංගමය



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2022 ජනවාරි 19

මාධ්‍ය නිවේදනය

ඔබ ඔබේ ප්‍රවේශම ගැන සහතික වී පුරවැසි වගකීම ඉටු කරන්න...

රිය අනතුරුවල ස්වභාවය

අප ඒවත් වන්නේ දෛනිකව මාරාන්ත රිය අනතුරුවලින් 08 දෙනෙක් මහජන මිය යන රටකය. පසුගිය 2020 සහ 2021 දෙවසර තුළ පැවති වෛද්‍ය ව්‍යංගන තත්ත්වයන් නිසා සංවර්ණය සීමා විය. එබැවින් රිය අනතුරු සම්බන්ධව අපට ලබා ගතහැකි සංඛ්‍යාති අසන්නා දන්නාය එන්නේ වර්ෂ 2019 දීය. වර්ෂ 2019 දී මාරාන්ත රිය අනතුරු 2647ක් රට තුළ සිදුවිය. ඉන් 2839ක් මිය ගියේය.

2022 වර්ෂය ආරම්භ වන්නේ ද ආර්ථික හේතු මත සංවර්ණය සීමා කරමිනි. මේ මොහොතෙන් වාතනයක් මහජන දමන්නේ සීමාකාරී සංඛ්‍යා රැසකට යටත්විය. ඒ තත්ත්වය තුළින් දෙසැම්බර් මස 31 වනදා වන විට රට තුළ මාරාන්ත රිය අනතුරු 2371ක් සිදු වී තිබිණි. ඉන් පුද්ගල ජීවිත 2475ක් අහිමි විය.

දෛනිකව රිය අනතුරු මරණය 08ක් හේ සෞඛ්‍යය ද දෙසැම්බර් 20 සිට ජනවාරි මුළු සතිය දක්වා කාලය තුළ මරණ 13 - 14 තෙක් වැඩිවන බව පොලීස් රාමාංගන අංශය සංඛ්‍යා ලේඛන හෙළි කරයි.

දෛනිකව රට තුළ සිදුවන රිය අනතුරුවලින් දූෂ වශයෙන් 61 දෙනෙක් බරපතල තුවාල ලබති. අපට පෙන්වා දෙන යථාර්ථය නම් සෑම දිනකම දෙදරටත් එළියට යන පුද්ගලයින් 69 දෙනෙක් තුවාල පිදුන සමස්ත දර මොනවා වුව. සමාජය සැනකෙළි සිරිස විදින මේ කාල සීමාව තුළ එම ප්‍රමාණය සියළු ඉක්මවා යා හැකි බව පොලීස් රාමාංගන කොට්ඨාසය පෙන්වා දෙයි.

බේද්‍යවාවය වන්නේ මේ වකවානුවේ සිදුවන සමස්ත රිය අනතුරුවලට දෙවැනි හෝ තුන්වැනි ප්‍රධාන හේතුව වන්නේ ඕමන්ව රිය පැදවීමය.

සමස්ත හදිසි අනතුරු


රජයේ රෙජිස්ට්‍රා පෙන්වා දේ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවෙන් ලද දත්ත ප්‍රකාරව කොළඹ ජාතික රෝහලේ හදිසි අනතුරු අංශය ප්‍රකාශ කරන්නේ රටේ සමස්ත හදිසි අනතුරුවලින් සෑම වසරකටම 12000ක් පිරිසක් මිය යන බවය. ඒ සමස්ත හදිසි අනතුරු මරණවලින් සියයට 36කට හේතුව මාරාන්ත අනතුරුය. හදිසි අනතුරුවලින් සියයට 75ක් සිදුවන්නේ එක්සත් නිවිස තුළය. තුනීතම මහා මාරාන්තය.

හදිසි අනතුරු මරණ සහ බරපතල තුවාලවලට දෙසැම්බර් අවසන් සති දෙක සහ ජනවාරි මුළු සතියේ සහ සිංහල හින්දි ඉන්දු සමාජ ඉහළ යන ආකාරය කොළඹ ජාතික රෝහලේ හදිසි අනතුරු අංශය නිරීක්ෂණය කරන්නේය.

කොළඹ ජාතික රෝහලේ හදිසි අනතුරු දැඩි සත්කාර ඒකකයේ ඇදුන් 10ක් තිබේ. එම එක ඇදුන ප්‍රතිකාර ලබන රෝගියෙක් වෙනුවෙන් දෛනික වියදම රුපියල් ලක්ෂයකට වඩා වැඩි බව ජාතික රෝහල පවසයි.

Press Statement

Annexure 3: Committee to explore feasibility of cultivating cannabis for export.



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9. Will armed forces or police protection be provided to these plantations?

10. Have other less harmful more acceptable cash crops (E.g. castor bean - beeth endam, citronella etc) been considered for export with a potential saving of foreign currency?


11. What are the examples of countries that have successfully addressed balance of payment crises through cannabis cultivation?

12. Will the committee take into account the large investments made by the tobacco industry in cannabis companies although the cannabis companies are making billion-dollar losses?


We also wish to bring to your attention, the danger of promoting use of cannabis by giving it the level of publicity it receives now. As you may be aware, there is a concerted effort to promote cannabis through social media. The current publicity relating to decriminalization and legalizing (even only for export) will ensure a synergistic effect, resulting in normalizing cannabis use. Evidence show that such publicity related to one substance can lead to increase in use of other substances as well.

We are concerned because cannabis is already the most widely used psychoactive substance in Sri Lanka and the world. It is also the most used illegal drug by young people around the world. Despite claims of medical benefits, there are many health harms of cannabis including mental disorders such as depression and schizophrenia, cannabis use disorders and serious lung ailments. It also affects brain development of adolescents and is associated with self-harm and suicide as well as road traffic accidents which already are major killers in Sri Lanka.

Therefore, wish to earnestly request you to be extremely cautious when considering any form of legalizing of cannabis -- even the relaxation of laws on cultivation, for doubtful "economic" benefits. Prices of cannabis products have fallen steeply during the last 6-7 years in world markets due to over-supply and all predictions of it being the goose that lays golden eggs, that were made 4 to 5 years ago, have been shown to be spurious. The population of Sri Lanka is suffering on multiple fronts, and the "cure" of cannabis cultivation dangled in the front of the government can end up being far worse than the illness. Sri Lanka does not deserve more misery.




Dr. Vinyo Ariyaratne
President, SLMA



Prof. Narada Warnasuriya
Chairperson, Export Committee on Tobacco, Alcohol and Illicit Drugs

2



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14th February 2023

Mr. E. M. S. B. Ekmanayake,
Secretary to the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1

Dear Sir,

Committee to explore feasibility of cultivating cannabis for export.

We are concerned of the continuous efforts to legalize cannabis cultivation under various pretenses in Sri Lanka. We learned from the media that the government has appointed a committee to explore the feasibility of legalizing cultivation for the export of cannabis products. The arguments used for economic benefits are mostly false. However, only those who have studied them carefully can counter the various beguiling claims made by advocates - with vested interests. Those who want to promote cannabis smoking, for profit, cover up the real intention by presenting it as a foreign exchange earner through hemp export. Hemp is a dead market with prices plummeting over the years and companies making billion-dollar losses. The lucrative market is selling cannabis cigarettes.

The current economic crisis seems to be the latest lever used by interested parties to proceed on their objectives. Though we are convinced that this committee was appointed in good faith by the government, we wish to place the following queries before this committee.

1. What is the need for new policies or laws, as growing cannabis for medicinal purposes is already allowed?
2. Has an independent and credible international market survey been carried out estimating the market share we can get, the prices, the profits and the actual amount of foreign currency that the country and the government will earn? This is because there is a surplus of hemp production around the world, leading crashes in market prices, putting farmers in debt and causing billion-dollar losses to cannabis companies.
3. Are there studies to ascertain if have the economies of scale to compete with the current "legal" growers such as China, Netherlands?
4. Is the current international illegal cannabis market taken into account which produces millions of tons of cannabis annually, and can easily compete with "legal" exports from small countries such as Sri Lanka?
5. Will any multinational cannabis companies be allowed to grow cannabis in Sri Lanka, alone or in collaboration with a local partner or the government?
6. If so, will these entities be allowed repatriate their profits in foreign currency from Sri Lanka?
7. What are the steps that will be taken to ensure that they do not falsify data to ensure that their sales proceeds are kept abroad without coming back to Sri Lanka through practices such as transfer pricing?
8. Will government land be allocated to cannabis cultivation in the context of real and potential food shortages in Sri Lanka?

1



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Dr Anula Wijewardena

25th April 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

The Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation was signed on 24th April 2023. This was a renewal of the existing MOU and will further strengthen the collaboration between SLMA and 1990 Suwa Seriya.

Based on the MOU, SLMA will provide medical advisory service for COVID-19 or any other medical emergency situation that will affect the entire country through DOC Call 247 patient helpline. The 247 services of the SLMA will provide telephonic triage and have the option of requesting 1990 Suwa Seriya to provide transport to necessary patients to hospitals on information gathered from the phone conversation initiated by the patient.

This partnership has served the nation at critical phases of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA), in collaboration with 1990 Suwa Seriya and SLT-Mobitel, introduced the Doc Call 247 COVID-19 Helpline in August 2021, when the country was experiencing an unprecedentedly challenging number of patients when the healthcare system was reaching its tipping point. Since its inception, this initiative has completed more than 100000 calls and contributed in a significant way to reduce the oversaturation of hospital bed occupancy and facilitated home-based-care management of patients.

Upon renewal of the MOU, the 247-helpline service will expand its scope of coverage beyond COVID. This collaboration will be an immense benefit to the patients, specially during this crisis.

Dr Vinya Ariyaratne
President, SLMA



Press Statement Annexure 5: Road safety week on prevention of traffic accidents launched targeting schools



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To the Heads of all Media Agencies and the Media Directors

Press Release "Road Safety Week on Prevention of Traffic Accidents Launched Targeting Schools"

The Ministry of Education has announced a school road safety week on road safety. As a result of a discussion between the Sri Lanka Medical Association's Road Accident Prevention Expert Committee and the Minister of Education Dr. Susil Premajayanthi and Ministry of Education officials, this road safety week aimed at school children will be held in conjunction with the United Nations Global Road Safety Week from May 12 to 16. This road safety week was announced as the first step in implementing a vision to educate children, inculcate road discipline and create a future generation with such discipline with the aim of preventing school children from road accidents and transforming the areas where schools are located into safe areas free from road accidents.

This program is expected to be implemented under the Preparedness and Emergency Response Committee mentioned in No. 2 of 2.2.3 of the School Safety Guidelines Code for Disaster Risk Management No. 16/201 issued by the Co-curricular Guidance and Counseling Branch of the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education has instructed that this program be supervised by Zonal Disaster Management Officers and Provincial Officers.

Why implement such a program targeting school children?

The Sri Lanka Medical Association made a request to the Minister of Education to implement such a program in the subject of school children after an evaluation of the terrible socio-economic disaster revealed by the ongoing road accidents. According to the World Health Organization, most children under the age of 19 die in car accidents. According to the organization, most of the world's traffic accidents occur in low-income and middle-income countries. This is a country where a person dies on the road every 4 hours. Last year, the number of road accident deaths in the country was 2515. The number of deaths in 2021 is 2513. Even in 2020, when the country was closed due to Covid, 2363 road accident deaths were reported. The total number of road accidents reported during the Covid period was 21953.

The tragedy of children's deaths due to road accidents is that at least 15 percent of these accidents are among school children under 19 years of age. In 2022, nearly 400 children under the age of 19 died in road accidents. Roughly, it accounts for 16 percent of all road accident deaths. It must be understood that we as a nation, have failed to make our roads a safe place when it comes to children. We as a country did not have a high social vision and altruism to create such a discipline.

Our school transport services are more than deplorable than any society can even dream of. The country's dilapidated and oldest vehicles are used to transport school children who are the country's most valuable resource. There are no safety regulations for bringing children to school in three-wheelers. There are some adults in this country who do not have the discipline get their own children to wear a helmet who is brought to school on a motorcycle. In such an uncaring society, the lives of children walking on the roadside cannot be guaranteed. It is this form of irresponsible behavior that manifests itself in the influx of school children's deaths every year.

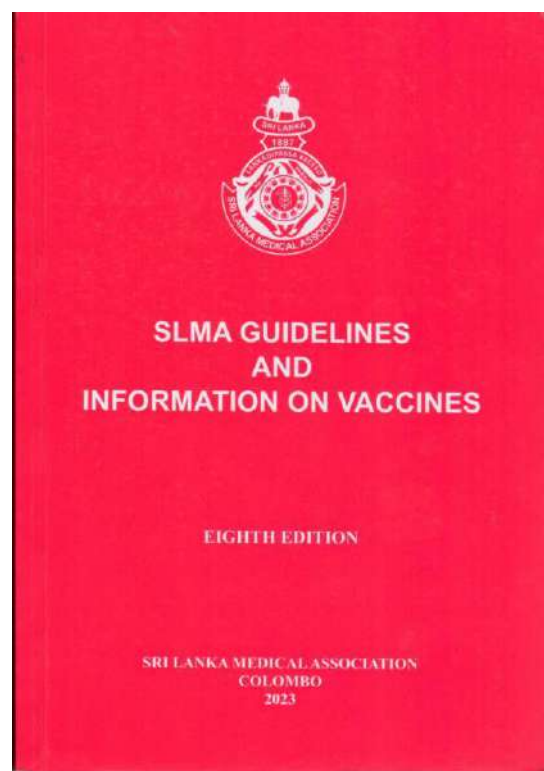
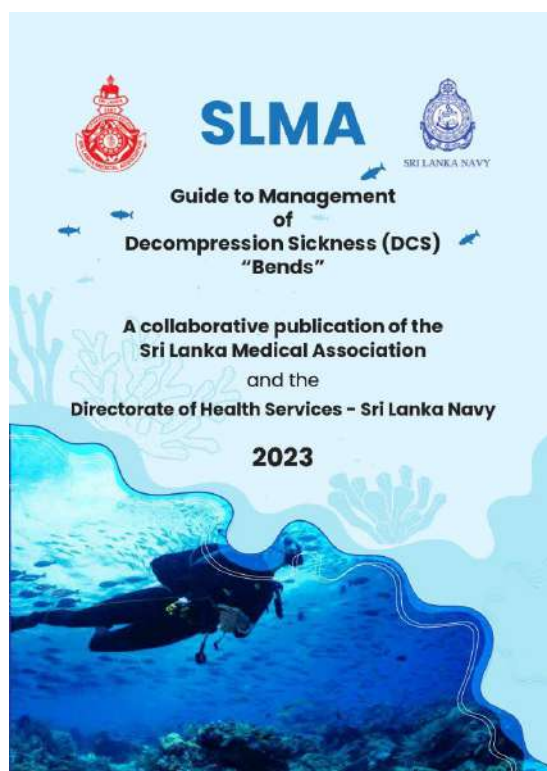
After announcing the target objective of a school road safety week, we expect to continue the process of developing this road safety knowledge culture that is born from schools without limiting it to one week. Finally, the ambitions of creating a disciplined future society with a discipline and habit of safety is the vision. Road safety has become extremely prominent as a country at the moment. Car accident is the worst disaster created by man. The social disaster caused by it has not yet been calculated in this country. But this disaster announced by the World Bank can give us some idea about how road accidents eat into the economy of a country. The gross national product of Sri Lanka is 89 billion US dollars. That is 28,500 billion Sri Lanka Rupees. According to World Bank leaders, the economic damage caused to a country due to road accidents is 3 to 5 percent of the gross national product.

Even if it is considered as a minimum of three percent, the amount lost to the country annually due to road accidents is 855 billion rupees. 2.67 billion dollars. The time has come when as a country that has fallen into begging in front of the world without foreign exchange should be intelligently understood how much of a hindrance is caused by road accidents. We believe that in a country where a child under the age of 19 dies on the road every day, social reforms to prevent road accidents should start from the school community. We respectfully request all the media organizations to cover the nationally important program and stay with this effort to recover from the disaster of road accidents as a nation.

Prof Samath D. Dharmaratne
Chairperson
SLMA Expert Committee on PRTC

Dr. Ruwan Thushara Matiwala
Convener
SLMA Expert Committee on PRTC

28. PUBLICATIONS



29. SLMA KIDS' ART; THE CONNECTION

In order to write under this title, I went on a journey on a fact-finding mission about Art and Painting. That quest gave me some precious jewels which became almost a turning point for me to virtually induce me to drop medicine and pick up art instead.

"I dream of painting and then I paint my dreams"

Vincent Van Gogh

"Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up". Pablo Picasso

"Creativity takes courage" Henri Matisse

On further exploration focused on art, I came across an array of very attractive descriptions.

Art is the conscious creation of something beautiful and meaningful, using skill and imagination.

Art provides a platform to voice our feelings, thoughts and identities. and is an unparalleled medium enabling people to convey sentiments and share experiences.

Art is a universal language which transcends the world. Language is not a barrier to enjoy, feel calm, be uplifted in mind and spirit, to feel good while creating or appreciating a work of art.

Art experience boosts critical thinking, while teaching students to take time to be more careful and thorough in how they observe the world. Creating art requires problem solving skills and decision making. In every drawing made, one has to try to solve the problems involved in clarifying, interpreting and communicating what is important to each person.

An art education builds a variety of important thinking skills that can be applied to real – world situation.

Considering all the effects of art on a child, one can clearly state that decision of SLMA to conduct Child Art Creations as an annual event in the calendar is most certainly one of the wisest steps.

“The solution to adult problems of tomorrow depends on large measure upon how our children grow up today.”
Margaret Mead

Kids, art, and the SLMA connection started in 2016 as a way of involving children who accompanied their parents to participate in SLMA Run & Walk. Painting and drawing while parents walked evolved into getting children to submit their creations beforehand which was judged by a panel and the winners received prizes while parents participated in adult events of the Run & Walk.

The venue shifted from Viharamahadevi park open air theatre in 2016 to the BMICH lawn and then to the SLMA Auditorium in 2019 and we disengaged art from sports. We started the event as a collaborative effort with other stakeholders – with the Ministry of Education and also with the Child Development Ministry.

The experience gained through years had brought confidence to the SLMA to conduct the event by ourselves. Selecting the best out of 3000 – 4000 art submissions every year, done on given themes, the latest being “What Makes Me Happy” is not at all a walk in the park. Every year we obtained best support possible from judges of aesthetic department of education ministry and also artists and art teachers.

To judge thousands of art work, considering the clarity of the theme, creativity and uniqueness, overall design, colour & tone and overall impression is very definitely a Herculean task.

This year we were supported by Mrs. Nisansala Rajapakse, a reputed artist, and Mr. Upul Jayarathne, a reputed teacher in the University of Aesthetic Studies.

The bright and eager young faces filling up our SLMA auditorium and our displaying their colourful creations, breathing joy, blue skies with puffs of white clouds, birds chirping on trees, flower blooming, families at work in gardens and fields, pets rolling around, rivers and streams flowing by, little ones at play are our precious gifts after months of challenging work.

I was compelled to feel that these are the things that life is made of.





30. PRESS ACTIVITIES

The role of Sri Lanka Medical Association during national crisis

The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) has been instrumental in providing medical services and support during the national crisis. The association has been actively involved in various initiatives, including the distribution of medical supplies, the provision of medical services, and the implementation of health and safety protocols. The SLMA has also been working to raise awareness about the importance of health and safety during the crisis.

SLMA's role in the national crisis

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SLMA urges government to focus on preventing road accidents

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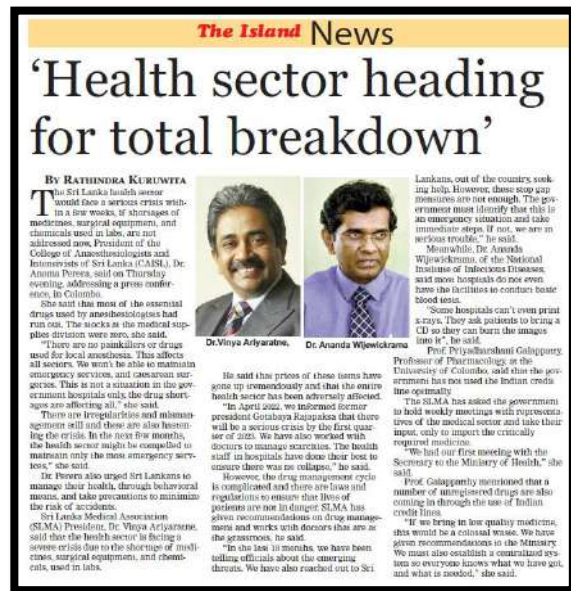
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8 March

Women's Day

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News

FRIDAY MARCH 17, 2023
www.ft.lk

THE Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has reissued summons to heads of several state health sector institutions over the acute drug shortages in Government hospitals. The HRCSL said as part of its inquiry based on complaints received about the lack of medicinal drugs in Government

Accordingly, summons had been issued to the Ministry of Health Secretary, the Health Services Director General and the National Medicines Regulatory Authority Chairman.

However, the HRCSL said none of the officials who attended the inquiry representing these organisations on the day was in key decision-making positions forcing it to reissue summons to the heads of institutions.

Accordingly, the HRCSL has now postponed the inquiry to 23 March. Issuing

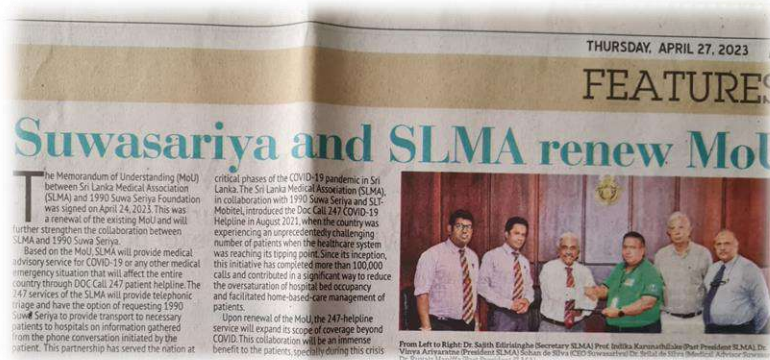
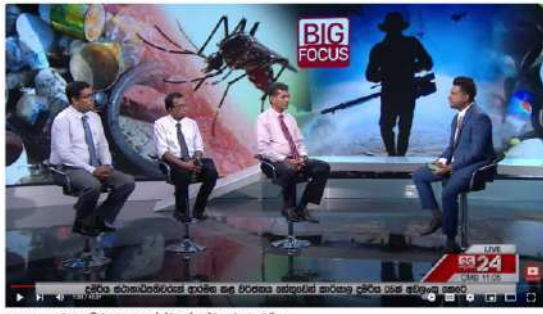
a statement, the HRCSL said it considers the acute drug shortages in hospitals as a matter of national importance that requires urgent intervention. It added that therefore steps have been taken to summon the heads of the institutions before the HRCSL immediately thereby considering it a high-

priority issue that must be promptly resolved. The Sri Lanka Medical Association and the Doctors Union Alliance for Medical and Civil Rights are the petitioners and have claimed that the human rights of the people have been violated due to the shortage of medicines and the increase in the price of medicines.



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நாட்டில் எலிக்காய்ச்சல் தீவிரமாக பரவுவதால் மக்கள் மத்தியில் மிகுந்த அவதானம் இதனால்

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EARTH TODAY

MONDAY 3 JULY 2023 C9

A-PAD and UoC hold Climate Action panel discussion

A panel discussion on climate action held by the A-PAD and UoC...

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கனம் மருத்துவ அமைச்சர்...



Aluth Parliementhuwa 23-08-2023



Newsline | Sri Lanka's healthcare on verge of collapse | Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne | 11th September 2023



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Senyuktha | ITN Sri Lanka | 2023-08-16



මෙම තුළ, ආහාර සහ පෝෂණය | Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne | News Insight Live

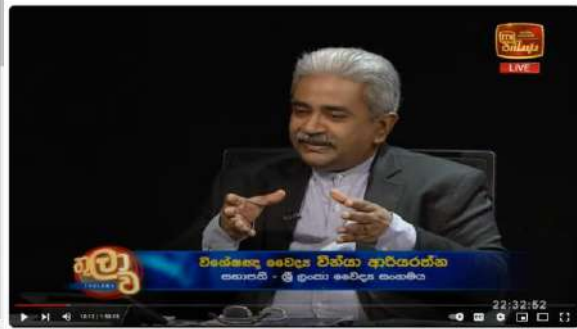


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Thulawa - (2023-09-20) | ITN



Thulawa - (2023-09-21) | ITN



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SRI LANKAN ACADEMICS PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

By Awaragtha Ertsoonya

Climate change is a topic which captures the attention of the public quickly. This is because climatic change is visible to anyone who is sensitive to the environment. According to United Nations climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural, due to changes in the sun's activity or large volcanic eruptions.

By taking this subject into account the Sri Lanka Medical Association organised a conference on September 26 at its office in Colombo. The conference was titled 'Climate change impact policies, people, health and beyond'.

Secretary Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasinghe presented his views regarding climate change at the conference.

"In Sri Lanka we have been experiencing a continuous rise of ambient temperature. This is very important. If you take the last several decades there was an increase in droughts and floods, high intensity rain, landslides, intense lightning and the total number of dry days. So this is the impact of climate change that we are already experiencing. For these issues Climate Action is the answer," explained Dr. Jasinghe while giving a background explanation to the much talked about environmental issue.

Further Dr. Jasinghe offered a basic explanation to climate action. Simply climate action is the answer for climate change. Dr. Jasinghe pointed out the three pillars of climate action which are mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.

"In any country there are high emission sectors. Then we have to work in which sectors we have to mitigate or to reduce emissions. Then you have to work on how to absorb carbon dioxide. The impact of climate change is not going to fade soon. We need to adapt ourselves into the impact of climate change. There are ways and means of adapting. For example if you take

agriculture how do we practise our agriculture," added Dr. Jasinghe.

To take a glance at the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, it ensures that the appropriate means of implementation (finance, trade, capacity building or science, technology and innovation) were given attention in the formulation of almost every Sustainable Development Goal.

Dr. Jasinghe underscored how developing countries like Sri Lanka are going to deal with climate change.

"Now every country in the United Nations Climate Change framework



Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary Ministry of Environment, was one of the key speakers at the conference organized by the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) on September 26 at its office in Colombo regarding climate change and titled 'Climate change impact policies, people, health and beyond'.

needs to submit its nationally driven contributions. We of course submitted ours in 2021. The first one we submitted in 2016 and in the year 2021 we submitted an ambitious set of nationally determined contributions. When it comes to mitigation our targets are spelled



Continued on Page 2

4th October, 2023

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the morning

Today's Paper < News Cartoons Business Sports International Brunch Editorials

Threats to judge: Northern lawyers conduct token strike, warn of continued action Proposed electricity tariff hike

Economic crisis: Wave of migration spells doom

23 Sep 2023



- Health and education sectors turn to retired members
- SriLankan Airlines turns to hiring foreign pilots

31. SLMA MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Report presented by Dr Sajith Edirisinghe, Honorary Secretary, SLMA

During the year 2023 the following repairs and maintenance work were conducted at the SLMA

1. Replacement of water sump tank s

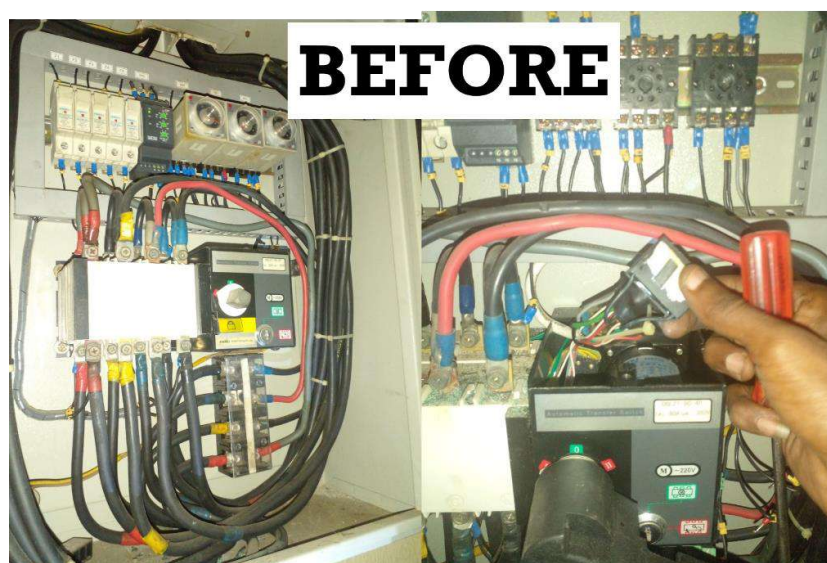
The underground concrete water sump of 2000L started leaking and getting contaminated with muddy water due to several cracks. The entire area was cleaned and we inserted a new plastic waster sump to provide clean water to SLMA in November 2023. A new direct water line was installed to overhead tanks, in addition to the electrical water pump which was already in existence. This helped to fill the overhead tanks without using the water pump most of the time, thereby saving on the usage of electricity.



2. Change-over switch replacement for the generator

The 60KV / 90 A generator was installed in the year 2015 with a change-over system. The change-over system which was fixed at the SLMA was found to be a duplicate/alterd (Pay attention to the parts held by the hands – internally modified parts in the images) with a capacity of 80A. Somehow the changeover had not been in a functional status for a long time. The generator has been serviced biannually but the output could not be taken

to SLMA main power supply due to the change-over failure. A new fully automatic change-over of 100A was installed in December 2023. Now the SLMA generator is back online and is kept on standby in automatic mode to kick-start automatically to provide electricity whenever there is a power failure.



3. Cleaning of store rooms and cupboards and disposing of waste papers for recycling

The entire SLMA storerooms and cupboards were cleaned and cleared. During this process it was noted that there were old SLMA publications which were not distributed at appropriate times and the publications are now outdated. There were lot of newsletters, annual reports and conference proceedings which have been printed but not distributed. The council, professional colleges, SLMA expert committees were informed to collect whatever the books they need on or before 01st December 2023. The remaining books were sent to National Paper Company Limited outlet at Kirillapona for recycling. Total of 1,040Kg of waste papers, newsletters and books were handed over during this cleaning process.





4. Door locks, gates and keys

Most of the door locks of SLMA had only a single key and there were no backup or duplicate sets of keys. None of the main gates including garage roller gates had padlocks/locking mechanisms which was a major security issue. Also, the main entrance and exit gates wheels were worn off and it was very difficult to move the gates. There was one master key which opened up SLMA main doors, lobby areas, auditorium exit and auditorium store. The SLMA Secretary took a personal interest on these defects and removed all the locks and replaced them with new locks, introduced new padlocks and locking machines, repaired the damaged and malfunctioning gates. Also he introduced a 'key board' to the SLMA office where all the keys could be kept in order and under a separate lock and key. A duplicate set of keys were made and kept as a backup. Regularising of these keys were not an easy task as most of the locks had no keys. Those locks were changed with great difficulty as some of them had rusted and had been stuck. From December 2023, a key handing over and pickup book has been started. This makes all the office staff to be responsible and accountable for the SLMA property.





Key Box



5. Water leaks from the roof

There were several water leaks and stagnation of water on slabs. Also, there were requests from some colleges to repair their leaking roofs. All these leaks were repaired and the sun-roof of the front and side of the SLMA was concreted and waterproofed. New extra water drainage lines were added to the drainage system. It was advised to get a labourer once in 02 months and clean all gutters, drainage lines and rooftops for early detection of damages and proper maintenance.





6. Auditorium storage

The SLMA auditorium was having water leaks from roof and all the valuable electronic and non-electronic equipment were kept in without any proper order and the situation was quite messy. New steel wall racks were installed and roof repair was done. All racks were labelled and taken an inventory was started for the items in the store-room. For the shelves the wooden examination writing boards were used. These board are no longer in use for conducting of examinations.



7. Installation of a Surge Protector Devices (SPD)

So far the electricity supply (Three phase) of the SLMA was functioning without a surge protection system. On several occasions many SLMA staff have noticed burning out of electric bulbs and equipment when there is a power restoration from the main grid. Therefore, a type 01 SPD (Installed at the service entrance / main distribution panel to protect against direct lightning strikes and severe surges originating from external sources) and type 02 SPD (Installed downstream from the Type 1 SPD at the distribution panel / subpanel to protect against the secondary effects of surges and transient voltage spikes) were installed. A new earth connection was also installed.



8. SLMA sharamdana 2023

The SLMA Shramadana event for the year 2023 was held on 16th December 2023. Most of the council members and past presidents contributed by providing goods, paints, food, labourers and financial donations to purchase the needed paint and other logistics. Entire outdoor and indoor of SLMA were painted and all damaged areas were repaired.



9. Repair and restoration the broken pieces of equipment at SLMA

There were 6L stainless steel electric water boiler and two microwaves donated to SLMA which have been out of order due to minor faults that were about to be removed as broken equipment. All broken equipments was repaired and taken into active service of SLMA.



10. SLMA CCTV cyber security threats

SLMA CCTV security system (NVR with 22 cameras) has been accessed remotely through a mobile device. During this process certain cameras have been switched off, has played back old videos etc. During the investigation it was found that there were 03 admin login accounts where SLMA do not have the password except for 01 login. After consulting with the company which installed the NVR system, SLMA managed to delete the other accounts where SLMA does not have the passwords. It was decided to take an expert opinion from a subject expert and resolve the issue.

11. Pest control

The routine pest control process was carried out at the periphery of the SLMA and the indoors of the SLMA.

12. SLMA Solar electricity project

SLMA receives an electricity bill around Rs 300,000.00 every month. It was decided to invest on a solar project. Tenders have been called and four reputed companies were short-listed. The total estimated budget for the 60KW solar project is around 12 million rupees. It was decided to get a structural stability assessment of the roof before awarding the contract to the supplier. The estimated amount to get a structural assessment and report cost around Rs. 400,000.00. SLMA requests all members and Past Presidents to contribute for the SLMA solar project which is a long-term investment for SLMA.

Additionally, there were donations (Past Presidents and Council Members) for four 200W solar street lamps to illuminate the back and side of the SLMA. This is important for the security measures of the SLMA.



13. Installation of land telephone line to the ground floor.

A parallel land telephone line was installed at the ground floor. This was installed with the intention of conveying any messages to SLMA security officer during afterhours and help the security officer to inform any emergency at once without any undue delay.

The extension was taken from the SLMA general line number 0112693324 to the ground floor. Incoming calls get diverted to ground floor line after 5.00pm to 8.00AM the next day during weekdays and for the entire day on Saturdays, Subdays and Public Holidays.

The fixed dialling outgoing numbers were assigned for the keypad

- When you press Number 01 - call goes to 119 (Police emergency line)
- When you press Number 02 - call goes to 110 (Fire brigade)
- When you press Number 03 - call goes to 0112422222 (Fire brigade)
- When you press Number 04 - call goes to 1112422223 (Fire brigade)
- When you press Number 05 - call goes to 1990 (Suwasariya Ambulance)
- When you press Number 06 - call goes to President SLMA
- When you press Number 07 - call goes to Secretary SLMA
- When you press Number 08 - call goes to 0112433333 (Police emergency line)
- When you press Number 09 - call goes to 0112422521 (Police emergency line)



14. Installation of new cupboards

The empty wall space at office was converted to a wall cupboard to keep important documents under lock and key.



BEFORE



AFTER

15. Introducing a gate pass system to SLMA

With the intention of regularising the logistic handling at SLMA a new gate pass system was introduced as in the routine practices at other institutions. The accountability is with the Secretary of SLMA, Administration Officer and the Security personnel. Separate files were opened with the Security Officer and the Administration Officer for documentation.

16. Installation of Plastic collection bin at SLMA

A pet bottle and plastic collection bin was installed near the exit gate of the SLMA to collect single-use plastic bottles and direct them for recycling. The SLMA members, staff and neighbors were invited to dump the plastic waste and help to reduce plastic mismanagement and inappropriate disposal of plastic waste.





SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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