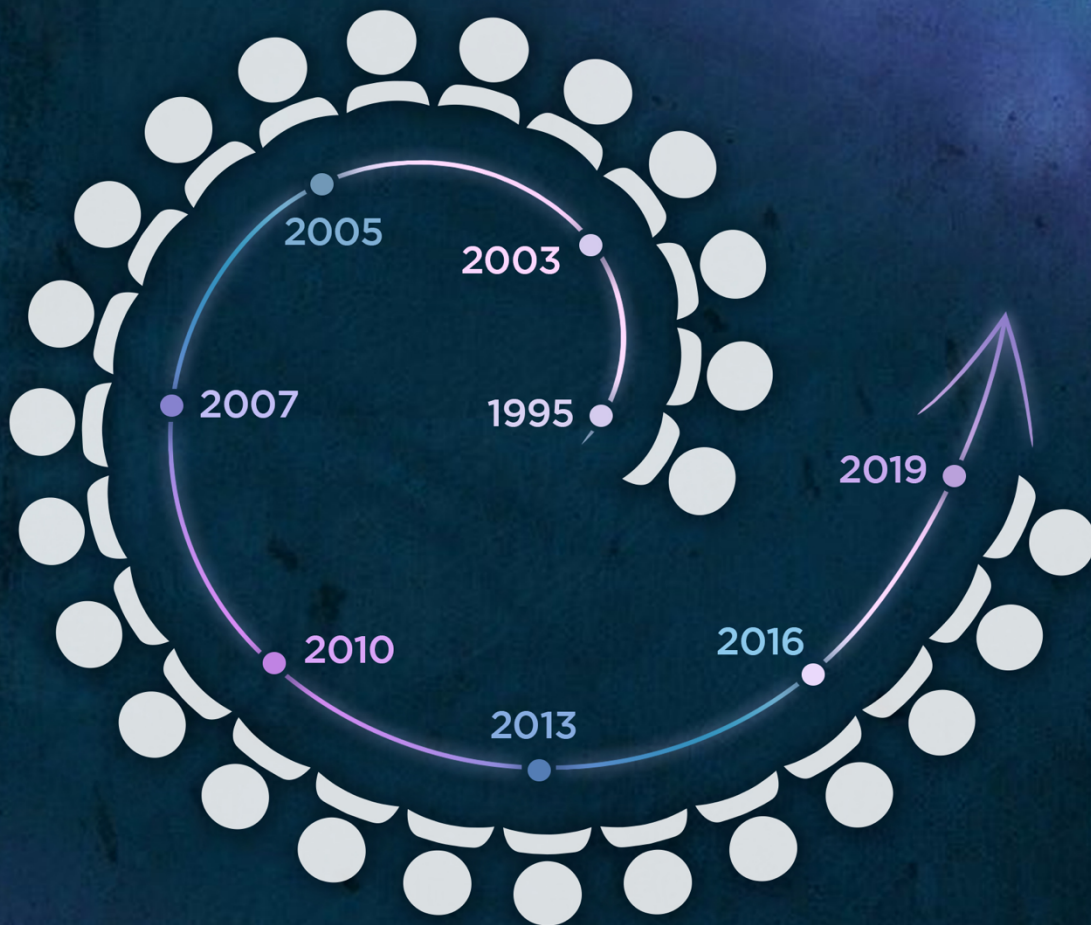


History of the Research Committee



Faculty of Medical Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



HISTORY OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

Document prepared by the Research Committee

Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

2021

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Declaration of interest

None of the authors declared any conflicts of interests.

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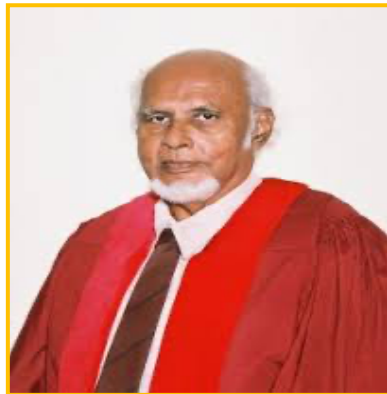
Introduction

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was established in 1993 under the Universities Act No.16 of 1978, under section 21. The first Research Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences was established in 1995. The mandate of the Research Committee was to promote research in the newly established faculty. Prof. E.R Jansz was appointed as the chairperson of the Research Committee while Dr. Hemantha Peiris was appointed as the secretary.

The committee achieved this objective by conducting workshops on research to its young faculty members and publishing booklets on research. Regular lectures were conducted on different aspects of research. Research sessions were held in the faculty, but this activity was not the responsibility of the Research Committee. Since 2012 the Research Committee was given the task of organizing the Annual Academic Sessions.

Research Committee 1995 – 2003

From the inception in 1995 till 2003 the Research Committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences functioned separately, but submissively. The founder chairperson Prof. E.R Jansz, and the first honorary secretary Dr. Hemantha Peiris continued serving in this capacity until 2003.



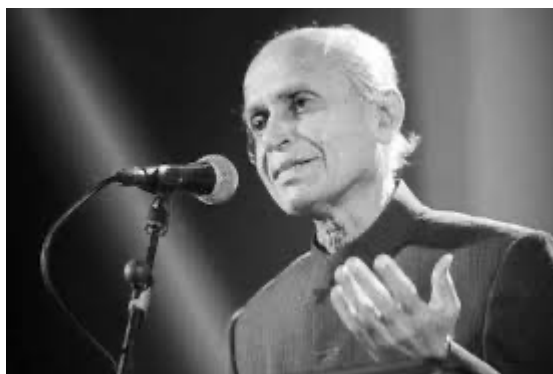
*1st Chairperson of the Research
committee Emeritus –
Prof. E.R Jansz
(1995 – 2003)*



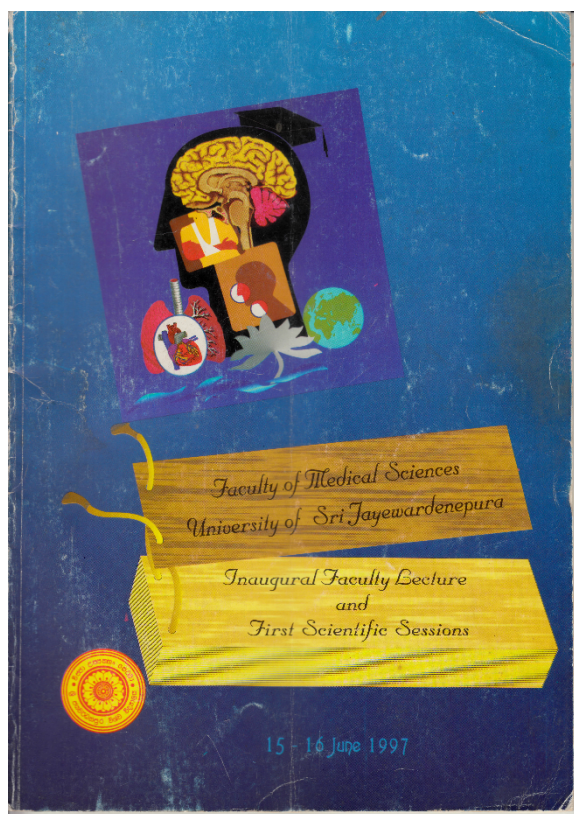
*1st Honorary Secretary of the
Research committee -
Dr. Hematha Peiris
(1995 – 2003)*

1st Annual Academic Sessions - 1997

The first Annual Academic Sessions of the Faculty of Medical Sciences were held on the 15th and 16th June 1997 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The late Prof. M.T.M. Jiffry served as the chairperson of the organizing committee. The inaugural lecture was delivered by the late Prof. Carlo Fonseka.



Prof. Carlo Fonseka.



*Cover and programme page
of the inaugural Annual
Academic Sessions*



*Chairman of the
organizing committee of
the inaugural Annual
Academic Sessions –
Prof. M.T.M Jiffry*

Programme		15th June 1997	
6.00 pm	Cereals and sweeteners: <i>their secrets</i>	6.55 pm	Address by the Chief Guest, Prof. V. Balakrishnan, Chairman, UGC
6.15 pm	Genomical protein analysis <i>under the hall</i>	7.00 pm	Vote of Thanks by Prof. Lucia A. de la Carranza
6.25 pm	National award for the best paper	7.05 pm	The Inaugural Faculty Lecture - 1997 Prof. Carlos Ernesto Zúñiga, <i>PhD in Asia</i> Centre for Advanced Studies
6.30 pm	Lighting the traditional oil lamp		
6.35 pm	Introduction by the Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Prof. M. M. Jiffry	7.20 pm	Award of Gold Medal
6.45 pm	Address by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. B. Williams	7.55 pm	Proposition to leave the hall
6.50 pm	Address by the Guest of Honor, Dr. Wilson de Silva	8.00 pm	Refreshments

Programme for Scientific Sessions		16th June 1997
Session I - Chairperson: Prof. M. M. Barry		
09:00-10:30 hrs	(1) The Hirschsprung defect: an innovative method of embryology based therapy	Prof. L. de A. Nogueira
09:30-10:30 hrs	(2) The use of the pattern of myelinated axons in the study of the development of the nervous system	Dr. B. K. Kishore
10:30-12:00 hrs	(3) An outbreak of <i>Phaenicia</i> in a laboratory of cell biology	Dr. S. R. K. Kishore, Dr. L. M. Kishore, Dr. S. R. K. Kishore
09:00-10:30 hrs G-122 LECTURE: Parasitology: Zoonotic Diseases		
10:30-12:00 hrs	TEA	
Session II - Chairperson: Prof. R. C. Williams		
12:00-12:30 hrs	(4) Malaria and climate change in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
12:30-12:45 hrs	(5) Genetic structure and evolution of the parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. H. Williams
12:45-1:15 hrs	(6) A study of the parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
1:15-1:45 hrs	(7) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
1:45-2:15 hrs	(8) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
2:15-2:45 hrs	(9) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
2:45-3:15 hrs	(10) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
Session III - Chairperson: Prof. L. de A. Nogueira		
3:15-3:45 hrs	(11) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. L. de A. Nogueira
3:45-4:15 hrs	(12) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. L. de A. Nogueira
4:15-4:45 hrs	(13) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. L. de A. Nogueira
4:45-5:15 hrs	(14) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. L. de A. Nogueira
5:15-5:45 hrs	(15) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. L. de A. Nogueira
Session IV - Chairperson: Prof. R. C. Williams		
5:45-6:15 hrs	(16) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
6:15-6:45 hrs	(17) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
6:45-7:15 hrs	(18) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
7:15-7:45 hrs	(19) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams
7:45-8:15 hrs	(20) The parasite <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> in Sri Lanka	Dr. R. Williams

The organizing committee of the inaugural Annual Academic Sessions

Organizing Committee

Professor M.T.M. Jiffry - Chairman – Organizing Committee

Members of the Scientific Programme Committee

Prof. E.R. Jansz – Chairman

Dr. Mohan de Silva

Dr. I.V. Premathilake

Dr. Hemantha Peiris

Dr. Nalini Wickramasinghe

Members of the Souvenir Committee

Dr. Sirimali Fernando – Chairperson and the Editor

Dr. Antonette Perera – Co-editor

Dr. Neluka Gajamanage

Dr. Mohan de Silva

Dr. R.Y.P. Weerasundara

Dr. M.C.J.M. Perera

Dr. Savithri de Silva

Indika Jagoda - student of the first batch

Lasantha Siriwardena - student of the first batch

Nimantha de Alwis - student of the second batch

Dinesh Karunaratne - student of the third batch

Members of the Inaugural Committee

Dr. Anil Goonetilleke – Chairman

Dr. Ranil de Silva

Dr. C.K. Seneviratna

Dr. Sirimathi Jayaratne

Dr. Chandanie Wanigatunge

Dr. Kamal Gunatunga

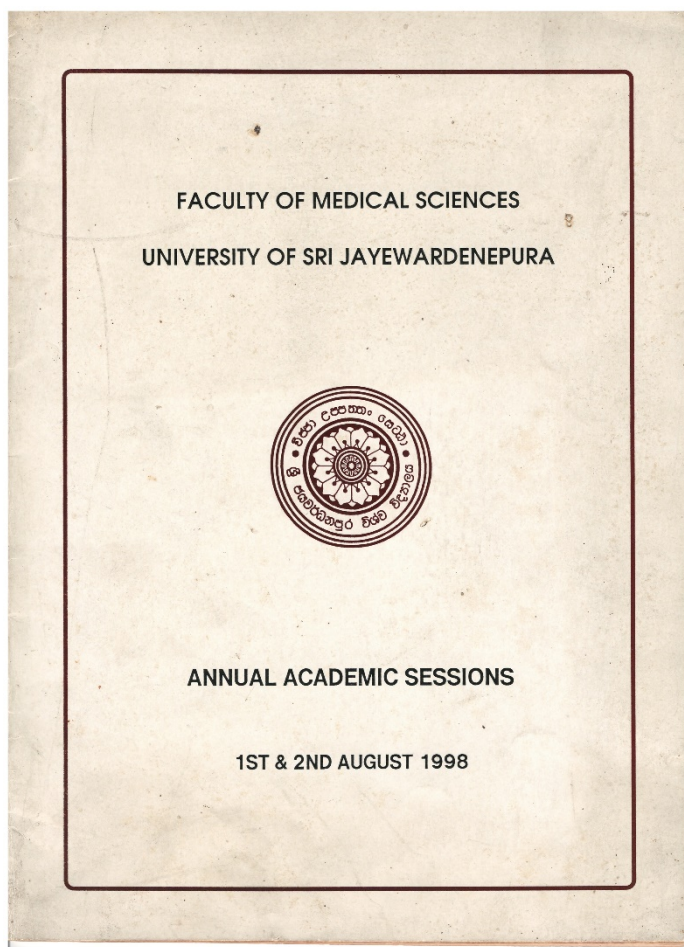
Dr. Sriyani Ekanayake – Treasurer

Dr. Renu Goonewardene – Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Samudra Katriarachchi – Public coordinator

2nd Annual Academic Sessions - 1998

The 2nd Annual Academic Sessions were held on the 1st and 2nd August 1998. Professor Devaka Fernando was appointed as the chairman of the organizing committee. Prof. S.N Arsecularatne, Professor of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, delivered the invited lecture. His lecture was titled “What is education and what is a university?” The session comprised of 12 oral presentations.



Front cover of the Annual Academic Sessions- 1998

The Organizing Committee 1998

Chairman

Prof. Devaka Fernando

Committee Members

Dr. D. K. Ruberu

Dr. Sirimali Fernando

Dr. Hemantha Peiris

Dr. Satheeka Kamaladasa

Dr. Deepthi Samarage

Dr. I. Jayawardene

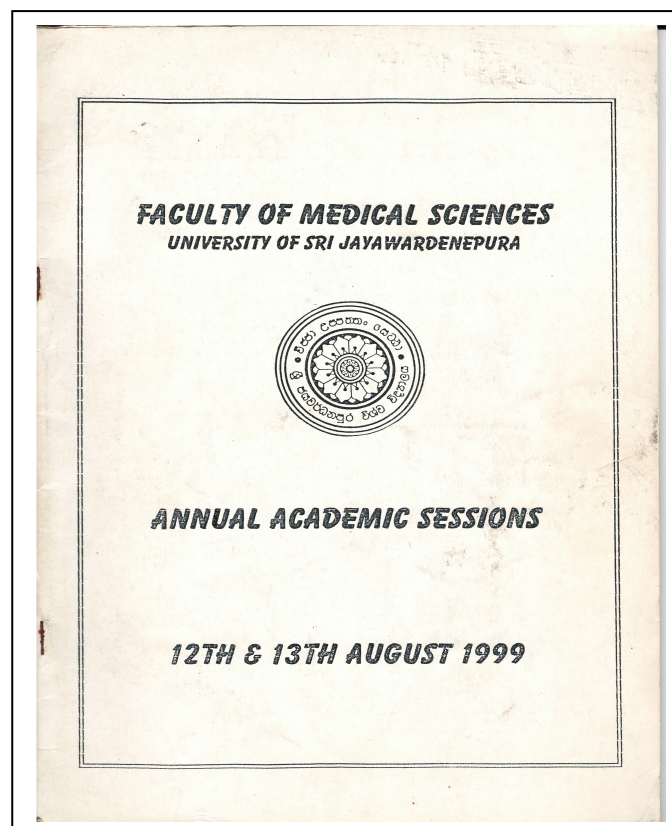
Dr. Ranil de Silva



*Chairman of the Annual Academic
Sessions 1998 – Prof. Devaka Fernando*

3rd Annual Academic Sessions - 1999

The 3rd Annual Academic Sessions were held on the 12th and 13th August 1999 at the Anatomy Auditorium of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The chairman of the organizing committee was late Prof. Dayasiri Fernando, and the joint secretaries were Dr. Mohan de Silva and Dr. Hemantha Peiris. The faculty oration was delivered by late Dr. A. Gabriel, former Senior Consultant Surgeon, National Cancer Institute, Maharagama. His lecture was titled “The Way Ahead”. There were 12 oral presentations during the sessions.



Front cover of the Annual Academic Sessions -1999

The Organizing Committee 1999

Chairman

Prof. Dayasiri Fernando

Joint Secretaries

Dr. Mohan De Silva

Dr. Hemantha Peiris

Joint Treasurers

Dr. Renu Wickramasinghe

Dr. Srimathi Jayarathne

Committee members

Dr. Dulani Gunasekara

Dr. Lilani Ranasinghe

Dr. I. Jayawardene

Dr. P. H. Dissanayake



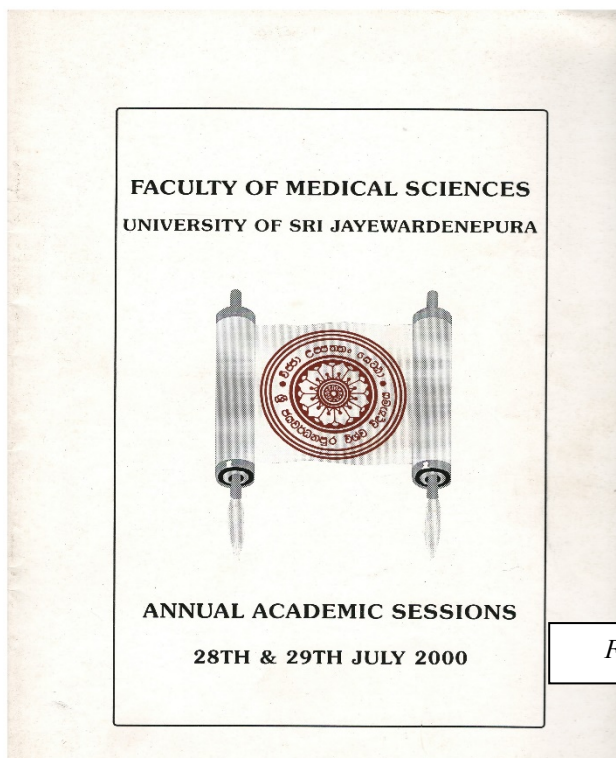
Prof. Dayasiri Fernando

4th Annual Academic Sessions - 2000

The 4th Annual Academic Sessions were held on the 28th and 29th July 2000 at the Anatomy Auditorium of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Prof. Devaka Fernando was appointed as the chairperson of the organizing committee while Dr. Hemantha Peiris and Dr. D.K. Ruberu served as the coordinators. The 4th Annual Faculty lecture was delivered during the academic sessions by Emeritus Prof. Colvin Goonaratne, Senior Professor in Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo on “Ethical Principles for University Teachers”. Sessions consisted of a pre-congress session, plenary lectures, and oral presentations.



*Annual Faculty lecture
delivered by
Prof. Colvin Goonaratne*



Front cover of the Annual Academic Sessions 2000

The Organizing Committee 2000

Chairman

Professor Devaka Fernando

Coordinator Academic Sessions

Dr. D.K. Ruberu

Dr. Hemantha Peiris

Dr. I. Jayewardene

Co- editors

Dr. J. Indrakumar

Dr. D. D. Weerasekara

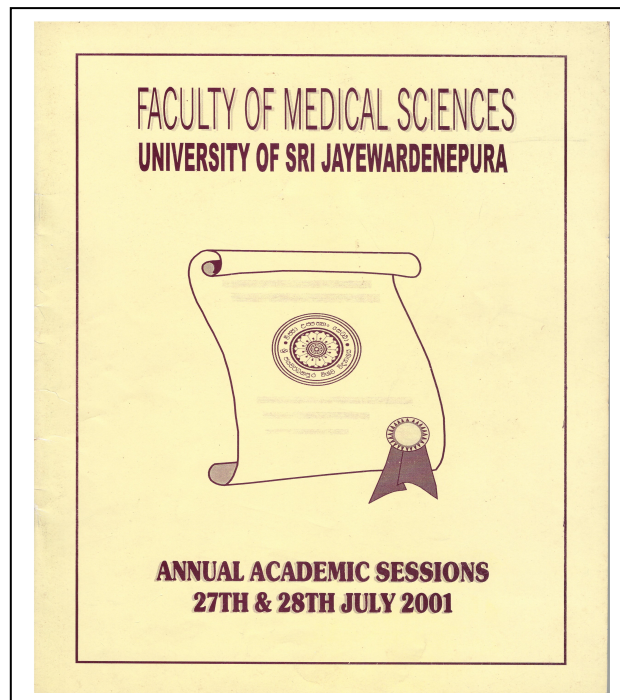
5th Annual Academic Sessions - 2001

The 5th Annual Academic Sessions were held on 27th and 28th July 2001 at the Anatomy Auditorium of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, with Professor Narada Warnasuriya as the chairman of the organizing committee. The Faculty lecture was delivered by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Former Director, Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals, World Health Organization Regional Office, South East Asia. The lecture was titled “Medical Education and Practice in the 21st Century: Prospects for Developing Countries”.

Pre-congress session on “Your queries on research” was organized by the Research Committee. The session had guest lectures on ‘Current trends in immunization’ by Prof. Lamabadusuriya, Professor of Paediatrics, Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, ‘Micromorphological changes of bone osteoporosis’ by Prof. J.A.P. Jayasinghe, former Professor of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, ‘Use of Twins in Research’ by Dr. Athula Sumathipala, and ‘Use of colonoscopic evaluation in disease of the cervix’ by Dr. Nalinda Rodrigo, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. There were 18 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations during the sessions.



*Dr. Palitha Abeykoon delivering the
Faculty Lecture*



Front cover of the Annual Academic Sessions 2001

The Organizing Committee 2001

Chairman

Prof. Narada Warnasuriya

Committee members

Dr. Nishanthi Dolage

Dr. Innocent Jayawardene

Dr. Thamasi Makuloluwa

Dr. Basil Marasinghe

Prof. Hemantha Peiris

Prof. Antionette Perera

Dr. Nalinda Rodrigo

Dr. Kusuma Ruberu

Dr. Anoja de Silva

Dr. Champika Wijeweera



*Prof. Narada Warnasuriya,
Chairman of the
Annual Academic Sessions 2001*

Research Committee 2003 - 2005

Prof. Sriyani Ekanayake served as chairperson to the 2nd Research Committee from 2003-2005, and Dr. Roshini Peiris-John was the secretary.

During this tenure, the Research Committee published 'Research Methodology' a book funded by the World Health Organization.

Citation

Peiris-John R., Fernando S. (Editors). *Research Methodology*. Research Committee, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda 2005.

ISBN No. 955-9054-49-X.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Prof. Sriyani Ekanayake
(2003 – 2005)*



*Honorary Secretary of the
Research committee -
Dr. Roshini Peiris-John
(2003 – 2005)*

Research Committee 2005 – 2007

The 3rd Research Committee which functioned from 2005 – 2007 was chaired by Dr. Dulani Gunesekara and Dr. U.G Chandrika as the secretary.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Dr. Dulani Gunesekara
(2005 -2007)*



*Secretary of the Research
committee -
Dr. U.G Chandrika
(2005 -2007)*

5th Annual Academic Sessions – 2007

The Annual Academic Sessions conducted in 2007 was held on 18th and 19th January 2007 at the new anatomy auditorium in the anatomy block in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, under the guidance of the 3rd Research Committee, which was a milestone of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. The annual academic session was ably organized by the chairperson Dr. Dulani Gunasekara and the convenor Dr.U.G. Chandrika

The faculty lecture was delivered by Vidyajothi Professor Lalitha Mendis. There were four plenary sessions on ‘Gene, cancer and genealogy’ by Prof. Rohan Jayasekara, Professor of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, ‘Obesity and metabolic syndrome’ by Prof. U Illangasekera, ‘Ethics in research’ by Prof. Anoja Fernando, Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna and ‘Psychosocial impact of conflict situations’ was delivered by Dr. H. V. J. Harischandra of the department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. The sessions had a symposium on ‘IT and Medicine’ which was conducted by Mrs. Sumana Jayasuriya and Dr. Chandanie Wanigatunge. There were 11 oral and 8 poster presentations.



*Vidyajyothi Emeritus
Prof. Lalitha Mendis*

The Organizing Committee 2007

Dr. Dulani Gunasekara (Chairperson)

Dr. U. G. Chandrika (Convener)

Scientific Committee

Prof. Hemantha Peiris (Chairman)

Dr. Dulani Gunasekara

Dr. Chandana Hewage

Dr. Surangi Yasawardene

Dr. Ravi Nanayakkara

Dr. U. G. Chandrika

Souvenir Committee

Dr. Sampatha Goonewardene (Chairperson)

Dr. Roshini Peiris- John

Dr. Chandana Hewage

Dr. Ravi Nanayakkara

Fund Raising Committee

Dr. J. Indrakumar (Chairman)

Dr. Aloka Pathirana

Facilities Committee

Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya (Chairperson)

Inaugural Social Event Committee

Prof. Antionette Perera (Chairman)

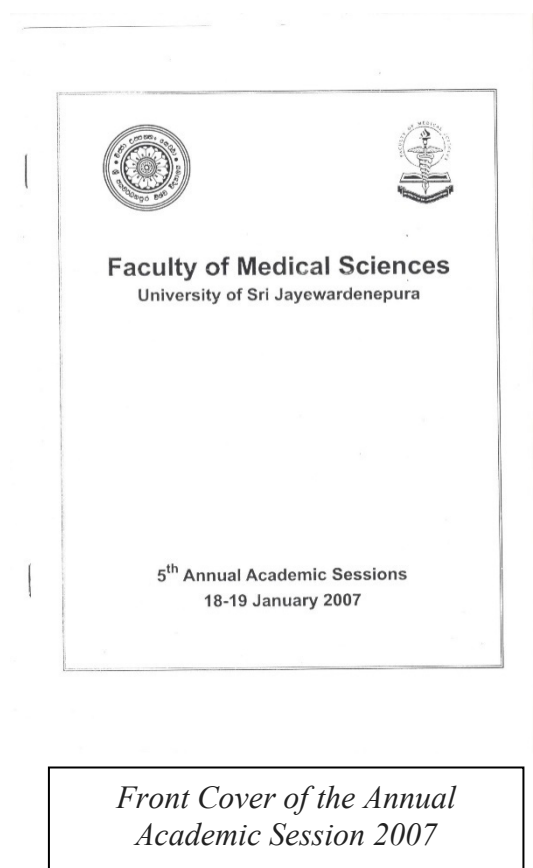
Dr. Aloka Pathirana

Dr. I. Jayawardene

Other Members

Prof. Sriyani Ekanayake

Dr. Ranil de Silva



Research Committee 2007 – 2010

From 2007– 2010, Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya, served as the chairperson of the 4th Research Committee and Dr. U.G Chandrika continued serving as the secretary.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya
(2007- 2010)*

Research Committee 2010 – 2013

Prof. Saman Gunatilake was appointed as the 5th chairperson of the Research committee, from 2010-2013, with Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardene as the secretary. The academic sessions were held under their tenure in 2010 and 2012.



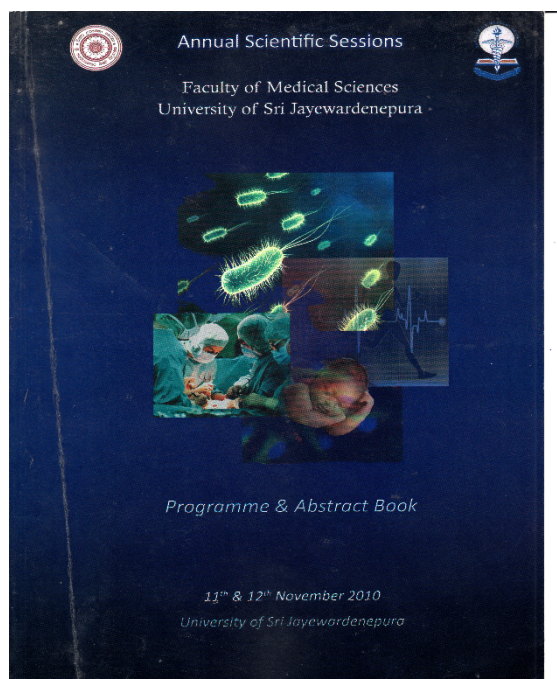
*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Prof. Saman Goonetilleke
(2010- 2013)*



*Secretary of the Research
committee -
Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardene
(2010- 2013)*

7th Annual Academic Sessions - 2010

The Annual Academic Sessions in 2010 were held on the 11th and 12th of November 2010 in the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce. The organization committee was headed by Prof. S. B. Gunatilake the Chairperson of the research committee.



Front cover of the Programme and abstract book - 2010

The plenary lecture of the Annual Academic Sessions 2010 was delivered by Prof. Saman Gunatilake, Professor of Medicine on “Medical students: The Good and the Bad”. A highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the invited presentations of five academic members of the faculty, who presented their work done during their doctoral thesis. There were three symposia, the first one on ‘Advances in surgery’. The speakers were Prof Mohan De Silva who spoke on Endoscopic Surgery, Dr. Aloka Pathirana on Liver Surgery and Dr. Bawantha Gamage on Laparoscopic Surgery. The second symposium was titled “Emerging Infections”. The areas covered in this symposium were Dengue by Prof. S.A.M Kulatilleke, Professor of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Typhus by Prof. Ranjan Premaratne, Professor in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya and Leishmaniasis by Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medical Sciences.



Highlights of the Annual Academic Sessions 2010

The third symposium was on “Modern Medicine”. At this symposium Prof. J Indrakumar Professor in Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences spoke on ‘Acute Coronary Syndrome’, Dr.Kamani Wanigasuriya, Department of Medicine; Faculty of Medical Sciences delivered a lecture on ‘Chronic Kidney Disease’, and Dr. Lalindra Gooneratne, Consultant Haematologist and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo spoke on ‘Bone Marrow Transplantation’. The sessions featured 15 oral and 21 poster presentations.

The Organizing Committee 2010

Chairperson

Prof. S. B. Gunatilake

Secretary

Dr. P. Jayawardane

Committee members

Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya

Dr. Indira Wijesiriwardane

Prof. U. G. Chandrika

Dr. A. L. P. De S. Seneviratne

Dr. Sampatha Goonawardane

Dr. Dammika Gunawardane

Dr. M. Bopagoda

Dr. Ravi Nanayakkara

Dr. Neelika Malavige

Dr. R. Perera

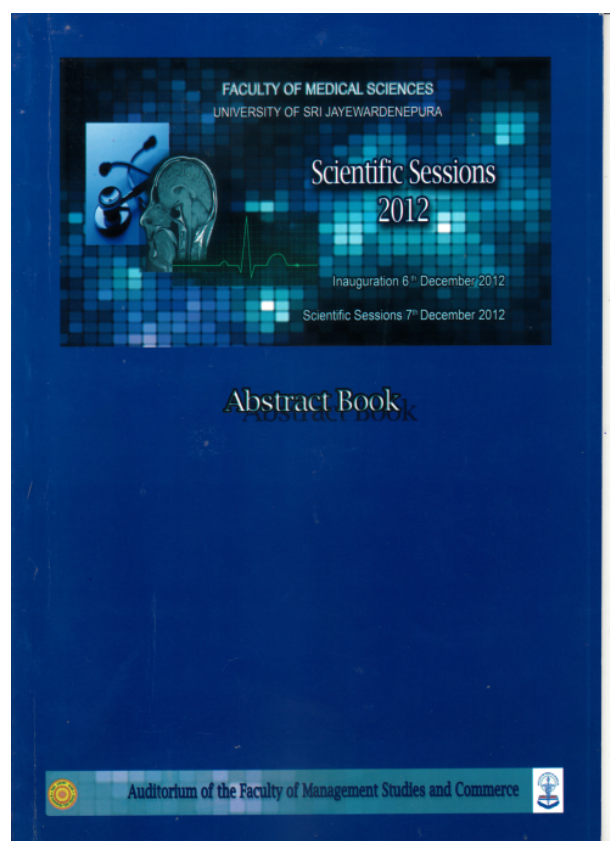
Dr. A. M. B. Priyadarshani

Mrs. S. M. D. K. G. Senaratne

Mr. Upul Cosman

8th Annual Academic Sessions - 2012

The Academic Sessions in 2012 was held at the Anatomy Auditorium on the 6th and 7th December 2012. Prof. S. B. Gunathilake served as the chairperson, while Dr. P. Jayawardane served as the secretary of the organizing committee.



Front cover of the Programme and abstract book - 2012

The first ever faculty oration was delivered during the sessions by Dr. Neelika Malavige, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, on “Tracking silent dengue infection”. The plenary was delivered by Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya on “Chronic Kidney Disease of unknown origin”.

The session comprised of four symposia. The speakers at the symposium on medical education were Dr. R. B Marasinghe Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, who spoke on ‘Medical education today: continuum, challenge and change’,

Dr. Indika Karunaratne, Senior lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo who presented on ‘Learning out come and instructional objectives’ and Dr. Gominda Ponnapperuma, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo delivered a lecture on ‘Power of assessment’.

This was followed by the symposium on Medicine. Three distinguished Consultant Physicians delivered timely speeches; Dr. Amitha Fernando on ‘Co-morbidities of asthma: does it matter’, Prof. Ranjan Premaratna on ‘Diagnosis of acute febrile illness in tropics’ and Dr. Chamil Marasinghe on ‘Age related physiological changes and their clinical significance’.

The third symposium was on childhood obesity. The symposium panel was attended by several academics prominent in the field. Dr. Ruwanthi Perera, Consultant Paediatrician and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, presented an overview of childhood obesity. Prof. Pujitha Wickremasinghe, Professor in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo spoke on the ‘Impact of childhood obesity on health’ and Dr. Angela De Silva, Regional Advisor, WHO, India discussed the ‘Management of childhood obesity’.

The theme of the fourth and final symposium was on surgery. Dr. Anurudhdha Abeygunesekara, Consultant Urologist, Colombo South Teaching Hospital addressed the symposium on the topic, ‘Urolithiasis: an overview’. Prof. Srinath Chandrasekara, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, spoke on ‘Physiological principals in the assessment of the lower urinary tract’. The final presentation of the session was on ‘Challenges in contemporary medical education’ by Mr. Chris Lawson Smith. There were 24 oral and 41 poster presentations at this conference.

The Organizing committee 2012

Chairperson

Prof. S. B. Gunatilake

Secretary

Dr. P. Jayawardane

Committee members

Dr. Kamani Wanigasuriya

Dr. Indira Wijesiriwardane

Prof. U. G. Chandrika

Dr. A. L. P. De S. Seneviratne

Dr. Sampatha Goonawardane

Dr. Dammika Gunawardane

Dr. M. Bopagoda

Dr. Ravi Nanayakkara

Dr. Neelika Malavige

Dr. Hasini Banneheke

Dr. R. Perera

Dr. A. M. B. Priyadarshani

Mr. UpulCosman

Research Committee 2013 – 2016

Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardane was appointed as the chairperson of the Research committee in 2013 for a period of three years until 2016. Dr. Bernadene Fernandopulle served as the secretary during this period.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Prof. Pradeepa
Jayawardane(2013- 2016)*



*Secretary of the Research
committee -
Dr. Bernadene
Fernandopulle(2013- 2016)*

9th Annual Academic Sessions – 2015

The sessions were held on the 1st and 2nd April 2015 at the Golden Rose, Borelasgamuwa, under the theme “Challenges in Medicine”.



The faculty oration was delivered by Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medical Sciences on “Characterization and genotyping of visceral leishmaniasis causing strains in Sri Lanka and epidemiological findings”. In addition to the plenary which was delivered by Prof. Aloka Pathirana, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences) on “Open Surgery – a thing of the past” there were three symposia, 12 oral and 48 poster presentations.

The first symposium at this conference was under the theme “Challenges in infectious diseases”. Under this theme ‘Challenges in malaria elimination and prevention of re-introduction’ was presented by Prof. Rajitha Wickremasinghe, Professor of Public Health Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Dr. Geethika Patabendige, Consultant clinical Microbiologist, National Hospital Sri Lanka spoke on ‘Antibiotic resistance – new challenges’ and Prof. Dulani Gunasekera, Professor of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medical Sciences, delivered a lecture on ‘Managing dengue in paediatric patients – the pitfalls and challenges’.



Highlights of the Annual Academic Sessions 2015

The second symposium was based on the theme neurodegenerative diseases. Three speakers participated in this symposium. Prof. Saman Gunatilake spoke on ‘Parkinson disease – aetiology’. ‘Vascular risk factors and dementia’ was presented by Prof. Asita de Silva, Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Dr. M.T.M Riffisy Consultant Neuro Physician from the Dr Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital spoke on ‘Motor Neuron Disease’.

The third symposium was on ‘Prevention of cancer and other non-communicable diseases’. The first speaker was Snr. Prof. Kumudu Wijewardene, Senior Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, who spoke on ‘Gender based violence – challenges for the future’. This was followed by the presentation ‘Identifying pre-cancerous lesions the way forward in cancer prevention’ by Dr. Bimalka Seneviratne, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences. Further a lecture on

‘Planning a healthy exercise schedule scientifically’ was delivered by Dr. Harindu Wijesinghe, Consultant Rheumatologist.

There was also an academic debate on Medical Education: Modern Medical Curriculum vs Old Medical Curriculum. The old medical curriculum was supported by Prof. Saman Gunatilake Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences and Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge, Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medical Sciences and the opposing team supporting the new medical curriculum included Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Professor in Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and Prof. Janaki Hewavisenthi, Professor of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. It was an interesting event for all present.

The Organizing Committee 2015

Chairperson

Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardene

Secretary

Dr. Bernadene Fernandopulle

Committee members

Prof. S. B. Gunatilake

Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe

Prof. U. G. Chandrika

Dr. Ramani Perera

Dr. Shamini Prathapan

Dr. Sampatha Goonawardane

Dr. Sugandika Suresh

Dr. Neelika Malavige

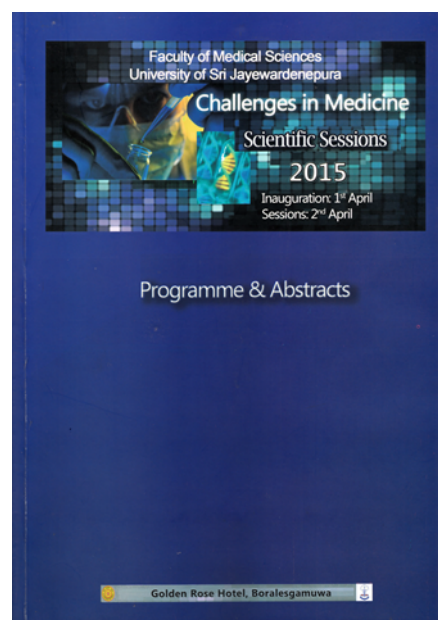
Dr. J. Wijeyabandara

Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe

Dr. R. B. Marasinghe

Dr. Chandima Kulathilake

Dr. Manjula Weerasekara



10th Annual Academic Sessions - 2016

The theme for the 2016 Annual Academic Sessions was “Excellence in medicine through innovative research” and was held at the Golden Rose, Borelasgamuwa on the 7th and 8th April 2016 under the research committee headed by Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardena.

The oration of the Annual Academic Session 2016 was delivered by Prof. Sugandhika Suresh Professor in Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences on “The role of herbal extracts and functional foods in the management of chronic disorders”. The plenary lecture was delivered by Prof. Srinath Chandrasekara on “Management of urolithiasis, the need for further research and innovation”. There were four symposia, 12 oral presentations and 53 poster presentations.

The first symposium was themed ‘Excellence in research’. The first lecture titled ‘Ethics in research’ was presented by Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge followed by a lecture ‘Clinical trials’ by Prof. Priyadarshini Galappatthy Professor in Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Prof. Hemantha Peiris Professor of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences spoke on the topic ‘Bench to bedside’.



‘Advances in cardiac arrhythmias’ was the theme of the second symposium which comprised of three speakers from Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital. At this symposium, Dr. Suresh Kottegoda, Consultant Cardiac Electrophysiologist, gave an overview of arrhythmias. Non cardiac aetiology of arrhythmias was presented by Dr. Shyama Subasinghe Consultant Physician, while Dr. Rajitha Y de Silva Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, elaborated on ‘Cardiac surgeons’ perspective on arrhythmias.

A symposium on ‘Controversies in Medicine’ was held with three distinguished speakers Prof. Diyanath Samarasinghe, former Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo who spoke on ‘Creating disease’, Prof. Kamani Wanigasuriya, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on ‘Chronic Kidney Disease in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka; have we done enough?’ and Dr. Uditha Bulugahapitiya Consultant Endocrinologist at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital on ‘Controversies in management of diabetes’.



Highlights of the Annual Academic Sessions 2016

The fourth and final symposium was themed on ‘Multidisciplinary approach in medicine’. Dr. Dilhara Samaraweera, Consultant Physician, Colombo South Teaching Hospital addressed the conference on ‘issues on teaming up towards better health care for the elderly.’ A lecture on ‘Palliative care a timely need’ was delivered by Dr. Udayangani Ramadasa Consultant Physician, District General Hospital, Rathnapura and Dr. Thushan Beneragama Consultant Surgeon, National Hospital Sri Lanka spoke on the ‘Functional reconstruction of the injured hand and upper limb’.

The Organizing committee 2016

Chairperson

Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardene

Secretary

Dr. Bernadene Fernandopulle

Committee members

Prof. S. B. Gunatilake

Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe

Prof. Neluka Fernando

Prof. Neelika Malavige

Prof. Sugandika Suresh

Dr. Sampatha Goonewardene

Dr. Guwani Liyanage

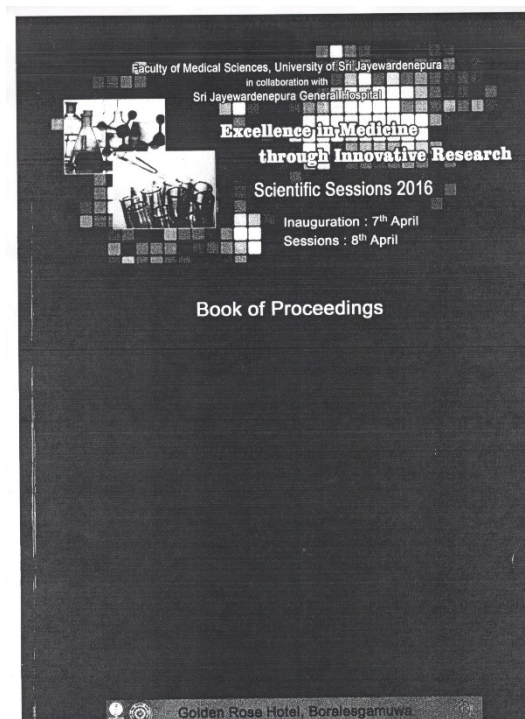
Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe

Dr. R. B. Marasinghe

Dr. Chandima Kulathilake

Dr. Manjula Weerasekara

Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake



Research Committee 2017 – 2019

Prof. Neluka Fernando served as the chairperson of the Research committee from 2017-2019 while Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake was appointed as the secretary.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee - Prof. Neluka Fernando
2017- 2019*



*Secretary of the Research
committee –
Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake
2017 - 2019*

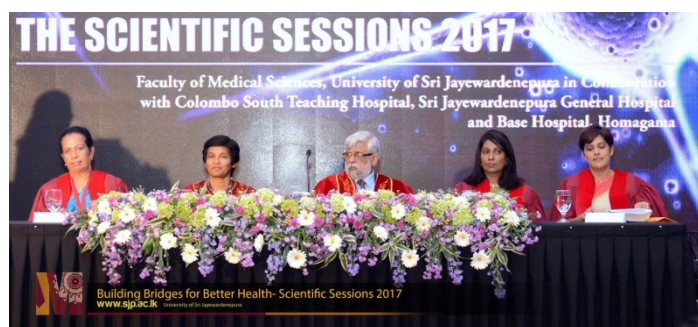
11th Annual Academic Sessions –2017

The Annual Academic Sessions were held on the 24th and 25th May 2017 at the Golden Rose Hotel, Boralesgamuwa. The Scientific sessions were held in collaboration with the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and Base Hospital, Homagama. The sessions were conducted on the theme ‘Building Bridges for Better Health’ which was especially adopted to communicate the importance of connecting research and clinical practice.

Collaborating with the extended faculties has enabled diverse clinical fields to be brought to one common platform and sharing of knowledge among academics and other professionals in clinical practice which greatly improved the quality of the program. A world renowned academic, Prof. Malik Pieris from the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong was invited as the keynote speaker of the Scientific Sessions. His presentation on “A lifetime of Bio-medical research: The excitement and challenge” was inspiring and exciting. The Faculty of Medical Sciences oration was delivered by Prof. D.M.S. Fernando, Department of Physiology. The conference included 4 symposia, 12 oral and 94 poster presentations.



Prof. D.M.S Fernando (Orator) delivering the Faculty of Medical Sciences oration at the Inauguration ceremony of the Annual Scientific Sessions 2017



Highlights of the Annual Scientific Sessions 2017

The Organizing committee 2017

Chairperson

Prof. Neluka Fernando

Secretary

Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake

Conference Secretary

Dr. Chandima Kulathilake

Treasurer

Dr. Usha Hettiaratchi

Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Nalinda Silva

Committee Members

Prof. Saman Gunatilake

Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake

Dr. Pradeepa Jayawardene

Dr. Nirmala Wijekoon

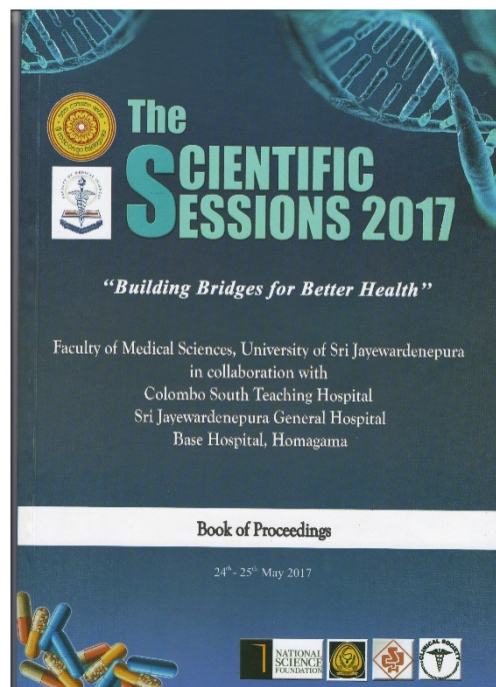
Dr. Bawantha Gamage

Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe

Dr. Manjula Weerasekara

Dr. Bernadene Fernandopulle

Dr. S. S. P. Warnakulasuriya



12th Annual Academic Sessions 2018 - International Conference on Health Sciences 2018

The year 2018 marked 25 years since the commencement of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and the Annual Academic Sessions conducted by the Research Committee was expanded as an International Conference on Health Sciences, with faculty from a variety of countries. The conference was held at the Waters edge, Battaramulla from the 7th - 9th of October 2018, under the theme "Beyond Borders - Towards Excellence". The conference was held in collaboration with the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital and Base Hospital Homagama.

The inauguration was held on the 7th October 2018 with the faculty oration delivered by Snr. Prof. Kumudu Wijewardene, Professor of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences. The title of her presentation was "Dreams and reality" where she highlighted some of the work she has done on sexual and reproductive health and gender equality and equity, an area not much studied in Sri Lanka.



*Snr Prof. Kumudu Wijewardene
delivering the Faculty of Medical
Sciences Oration at the International
Conference on Health Sciences - 2018*

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Kamani Wanigasuriya on "Chronic kidney disease of unknown aetiology-Sri Lankan Perspective". Two plenary lectures were conducted at this event. Prof. Andrew McBain from the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of

Manchester, UK, spoke on "Wound Management consensus guidelines' while Prof. Andrew Dawson talked on 'Importance of identity and purpose in research collaboration'.

There were three symposia on the first day. The first symposium was on 'Polymicrobial infections. The lectures included "Microbial bio films on chronic infections" by Dr. Manjula Weerasekera from the Department of Microbiology, Dr. Andrew McBain on "Emerging strategies for combating bacterial bio film infections" and Prof. Neelika Malavige, Department of Microbiology on "Microbiome in non-communicable diseases".

The second symposium was conducted on the theme 'Advances in clinical practice', the three speakers were Dr. Sunethra Senanyake, Consultant Neurologist at Colombo North Teaching Hospital who spoke on "Recent advances in management of refractory epilepsy", the second speaker was Dr. Yasas Abeywickrama Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, on the topic "In search of better outcomes in burns" and the third and final speaker was Dr. Lallindra Gooneratne, Consultant Haematologist and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo who spoke on "Bone marrow transplant: the Sri Lankan experience".

The final symposium on the first day was organized by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine and National Research Council on "Excellence, governance, and ethics in health research". The three speakers for this symposium were Snr. Prof. Rohini de Alwis Seneviratne from the Department of Community Medicine from the Kotelawala Defense University who spoke on "Striving for excellence in conduct of health research", the second speaker was Emeritus Professor Anoja Fernando who spoke on "Beyond borders on ethics in health research" and the final speaker was Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, Director, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health who spoke on "Research governance strategy for Sri Lanka".

The second day commenced with a very novel and absorbing lecture on "Nanotechnology in health and research" delivered by Prof. Ravi Silva, Director, Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) and Head of Nano Electronics, University of Surrey, UK. The guest lecture on the second day was delivered by Dr. Indira Kahavita, Consultant Dermatologist, Base hospital, Homagama on "Leprosy; everybody's responsibility".

The fourth plenary lecture was delivered by Prof. Dujeepa Samarasekera, Director, Centre for Medical Education (CenMED), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and Senior Consultant

Health Professions Education, at the Ministry of Health Singapore who spoke on a very timely topic "Being professional in hypocritical practice setting: Training the future health care practitioner".

On the second day in addition to the lectures there was a symposium on 'Pharmacology and Toxicology' and an interactive session on 'Professionalism'. Prof. Andrew Dawson Clinical Professor of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, Australia spoke on "Beyond Serendipity: Clinical Toxicology research in Sri Lanka". The second speaker Prof. Ravi Silva, Director, Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) and Head of Nano Electronics, University of Surrey, UK addressed the gathering on "Nano particles for therapeutics" and the third and final speaker Emeritus Professor Ajith Abesekara spoke on "Safety of herbal drugs".

The interactive session on "Professionalism" was the culmination of the academic sessions. There were three speakers for this session, viz., Ms. Kumudini Hettiarchchi, a senior journalist, Dr. Anuruddha Abeygunasekera, Genito-urinary Surgeon from the Colombo South Teaching Hospital and Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya, Paediatric Neurologist, Lady Ridgway Hospital.





Highlights of the International Conference on Health Sciences 2018

The Organizing committee 2018

Chairperson

Prof. Neluka Fernando

Secretary

Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake

Treasurer

Dr. Usha Hettiaratchi

Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Nalinda Silva

Committee members

Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake

Prof. RenuWickeamasinghe

Prof. J. Indrakumar

Prof. Pradeepa Jayawardene

Dr. Nirmala Wijekoon

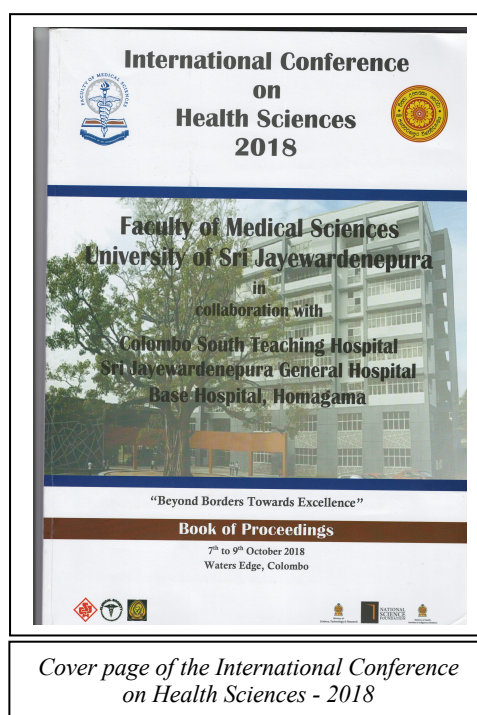
Dr. Chandima Kulathilake

Prof. Bawantha Gamage

Dr. Shalindra Ranasinghe

Dr. ManjulaWeerasekara

Dr. Bernadene Fernandopulle



Cover page of the International Conference on Health Sciences - 2018

Research Committee 2019 – 2021

Prof. Shamini Prathapan took over reins as the chairperson of the research committee in 2019 and Dr. Varuni Tennakoon was appointed as the secretary. The annual scientific sessions were held on the 17th and 18th October 2019, at the New Examination Hall, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The theme of the sessions was “Steering Horizons; Aspiring Excellence”.



*Chairperson of the Research
committee -
Prof. Shamini Prathapan
(2019- 2021)*



*Secretary of the Research
committee -
Dr. Varuni Tennakoon
(2019- 2021)*

13th Annual Academic Sessions 2019 – International Conference on Health Sciences 2019

The oration was delivered by Prof. Bawantha Gamage, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on “Modified Enhanced Recovery after Surgery after colorectal surgery: an outcome of novel experience in colorectal surgery in Sri Lanka”. The keynote speaker was Dr. Pubudu Pathiraja, Consultant Gynaecologic Oncological Surgeon from the Oxford University Hospital, UK and his presentation was based on the information gathered from patients and families on health related management of gynaecological cancers.



Prof. Bawantha Gamage delivering the oration for the year 2019



Front cover of the Programme and abstract book - 2019

The conference had one pre-congress session and three Symposia. The pre-congress workshop was on ‘from research to publication: navigating barriers and pitfalls. The resource person was Dr. Anita Jain, Clinical Editor, British Medical Journal. The workshop addressed aspects of research inquiry and study designs, reporting methods in line with standard reporting guidelines, publication ethics, choosing right journals and peer review process.

The first symposium was on facets of health care with special emphasis on drugs and its rational use and cost. It was delivered by Prof. Chandanie Wanigatunge, Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, and Prof. Asita De Silva Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Dr. Anita Jain, clinical editor of the BMJ spoke on publishing of research related to health care.

The second symposium was on “The broken pieces: Picking and Mending, the area on holistic approach in ensuring road safety” was discussed by Dr. Razia Pendse, the WHO Country representative for Sri Lanka. Dr. Harsha Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, spoke on the role of imaging in the management of Trauma, the third speaker Dr. Jayamal De Silva, Psychiatrist, Senior lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences, spoke on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders.

The third and final symposium was on “Patient care in the next Generation”. Four speakers presented at the symposium. Prof. Aloka Pathirana, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medical Sciences spoke on “Taming the liver”, Dr. Dilhara Samaraweera, Consultant Physician, Colombo South Teaching Hospital spoke on “Better tomorrow for Silver generation”, Dr. Ranjith de Silva spoke on “Recent advances in cardio thoracic surgery” and Dr. R Prathapan, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Homagama General Hospital spoke on “Challenges in sub-fertility and cutting-edge fertility management options”. There were 36 oral and 96 poster presentations



Highlights of the International Conference 2019

The Organizing committees 2019

Chairperson

Prof. Shamini Prathapan

Secretary

Dr. Varuni Tennakoon

Conference Secretary

Dr. Manori Gamage

Conference Assistant Secretary

Dr. Niroshima Withanage

Conference Treasurer

Prof. Guwani Liyanage

Conference Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Savini Senadheera

Committee members

Prof. Renu Wickremasinghe

Prof. Neluka Fernando

Prof. Nirmala Wijekoon

Dr. JananieKottahachchi

Dr. ChinthikaGunasekara

Dr. ChamarikaMoonesinghe

Dr. ThamaraAmarasekara

Dr. Nithushi Samaranayake

Dr. Sanjeewa Wijekoon

Dr. Chamara Senarathna

Achievements and milestones

1995	The first Research committee of the Faculty of Medical Sciences was established
2012	The first ever faculty oration was established
2018	The Annual Scientific Sessions were made an International conference, with participation of academicians from variety of countries.