

# **SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL**

## **CENTENARY ACADEMIC SESSIONS**



**Patient Safety and Quality Healthcare for All**  
**A Century of Dedication**  
**1925 - 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2025**  
**9.00 AM - 4.00 PM**  
**at Lotus Hall**

**Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall**



### **Vision**

A health system in which the patients are treated and cared for by competent, humane, ethical, and safe healthcare professionals.

### **Mission**

To protect, promote, and maintain the health and safety of the public by setting, maintaining, and raising standards of education and practice of healthcare across the country.

## **Sri Lanka Medical Council Celebrates 100 Years of Service to the Nation**

It is with profound pride and a deep sense of historical reflection that the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) marks the occasion of its Centenary Celebrations, commemorating a century of steadfast service to the nation. The apex regulatory authority for medical, dental and other healthcare professionals in Sri Lanka, the SLMC, since its inception in 1925, has been unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding the quality, integrity, and ethical standards of healthcare practice across the country.

For one hundred years, the SLMC has served as the guardian of professional excellence, entrusted with the vital responsibility of ensuring that medical, dental, and other healthcare practitioners meet the highest standards of education, competence, and conduct. Its statutory mandate extends beyond regulation to encompass the promotion of ethical medical practice, the protection of patients' rights, and the advancement of medical education in keeping with global benchmarks.

Throughout this century-long journey, the Council has continued to:

- Maintain accurate and transparent registers of qualified practitioners;
- Accredite undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in medicine and dentistry in accordance with internationally recognised standards;
- Uphold ethical medical conduct through structured disciplinary processes; and
- Promote continuous professional development to ensure safe and high-quality patient care.

The Centenary Commemoration, scheduled to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), will serve as a landmark event in the history of the Council. This occasion will bring together national and international stakeholders, including healthcare leaders, academics, policymakers, and representatives of global regulatory bodies, to reflect on the SLMC's achievements and its evolving role in a dynamic global healthcare context.

This centenary marks not only a celebration of the SLMC's legacy but also a renewed commitment to the principles of professionalism, accountability, and equity in healthcare, principles that will guide the Council as it embarks on its second century of service.

## Sri Lanka Medical Council - Centenary Academic Sessions

Date: Saturday, 5th July 2025

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Venue: Lotus Hall, BMICH

### 9.00AM - 9.05 AM | Welcome Address

Prof. Ranil Fernando - Chairperson, Centenary Celebrations Committee

### 9:05 AM – 10:00 AM | Plenary Session 1 (55 min)

"A Century of Excellence: Reflecting on SLMC's Legacy and Achievements"

(Each speaker 15 min)

**Chair** - Prof. Surangi G. Yasawardene, Former Vice President, SLMC

- 100 Years of Regulating Healthcare in Sri Lanka: Key Milestones, Challenges and Success Stories - Prof. Vajira H.W. Dissanayake, President, SLMC
- The Role of Regulation in the Sri Lankan Healthcare System: A Medical Administrator's Perspective - Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Mass Media
- Global Perspectives on Medical Governance in the Last Century  
Ms. Joan Simeon, Chair of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)

### 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | Plenary Session 2 (60 min)

"Ensuring Quality and Safety in Healthcare Delivery"

(Each speaker 15 min)

**Chair** - Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, Council Member, SLMC

- Patient Safety and Quality Assurance: Towards a Culture of Zero Harm  
Prof. Priyadharshani Galappaththy, Senior Professor and Chair of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- Maintaining Global Standards: Harmonizing Medical Education and Accreditation  
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Former Head of Accreditation Unit, SLMC
- Strategies for Addressing Malpractices in Healthcare Systems  
Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda, Judge of the Supreme Court, Sri Lanka

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Panel Discussion (60 min)**

"Medical Ethics, Professionalism, and Regulatory Challenges"

(Each Panellist 15 min)

**Moderator** - Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan, Council Member, SLMC

- **Navigating Ethical Complexities in Modern Medicine**  
Prof. Anoja Fernando, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, University of Ruhuna
- **Building Trust Between Regulators, Clinicians, and the Public**  
Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen, Chair of Council, General Medical Council, UK
- **Regulating Technology in Healthcare**  
Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne, Senior Attorney-at-Law, Sri Lanka

**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch Break**

Sapphire Banquet Hall, BMICH

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Plenary Session 3 (60 min)**

"The Future of Medical Education: Aligning with Global Standards"

(Each speaker 15 min)

**Chair** - Dr. Chandika Epitakaduwa, Vice President, SLMC

- **Integrating Technology into Medical Curricula**  
Prof. Dujeepa D. Samarasekara, Head of the Centre for Medical Education (CenMED), Yong LOO Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS)
- **Addressing Gaps in Healthcare Workforce Training**  
Prof. Madawa Chandratilake, Council Member, SLMC
- **Should We Revisit Entry Criteria for Medical Education?**  
Prof. Gominda Ponnampereuma, Head of Accreditation, SLMC

**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Plenary Session 4 (30 min)**

"Integrating Innovative Technologies and Research"

(Each speaker 15min)

**Chair** - Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe, Council Member, SLMC

- **Digital Health, Telemedicine, and Data Privacy: Transforming Patient Care**  
Prof. Pandula Siribaddana, Professor in Medical Education at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo and a specialist in Digital Health
- **Translational Research and Innovation: From Bench to Bedside in Sri Lankan Medicine**  
Prof. Anuji Upekshika Gamage, Chairman, National Research Council

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Keynote Lecture (30 min)**

"The Vision and Future Direction of the SLMC: A New Medical Act for Sri Lanka"

Prof. H. Janaka De Silva, Council Member, SLMC

**3.00 PM – 3:20 PM | Chair & Moderated Audience Discussion**

"SLMC's Future"

Dr. Sunil R. Wijayasinghe, Council Member, SLMC

**3:20 PM – 4:00 PM | Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks**

- **Summary of the Proceedings**  
Prof. Ranil Fernando, Chairperson of Centenary Celebrations Committee
- Distribution of the award for the logo and stamp competition winner
- Release of Special Edition of SLMA Newsletter on SLMC Centenary Celebrations
- Vote of Thanks – Dr. H.D.B. Herath, Registrar, SLMC
- National Anthem

## **PLENARY SESSION 01**

**9:05 AM – 10:00 AM**

**"A Century of Excellence: Reflecting on SLMC's Legacy and Achievements"**

**Chair**

Prof. Surangi G. Yasawardene, Former Vice President, SLMC

**100 Years of Regulating Healthcare in Sri Lanka: Key Milestones, Challenges  
and Success Stories**

Prof. Vajira H.W. Dissanayake, President, SLMC

**The Role of Regulation in the Sri Lankan Healthcare System: A Medical  
Administrator's Perspective**

Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Mass Media

**Global Perspectives on Medical Governance in the Last Century**

Ms. Joan Simeon, Chair of the International Association of Medical Regulatory  
Authorities (IAMRA)

**Prof. Surangi G. Yasawardene**

*MBBS (Colombo), PhD*

*Chair and Senior Professor of Anatomy  
Former Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences  
Founder Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura*



Prof. Surangi G. Yasawardene is a distinguished academic with an extensive career dedicated to higher education, research, and institutional development. With over three decades of experience in academia, Prof. Yasawardene has contributed significantly to the advancement of medical education in Sri Lanka. She is attached to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and has held various prominent positions, including Chair and Senior Professor of Anatomy, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and Founder Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Prof. Yasawardene served the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) from 2017 to 2025 as a council member, including a short period as the Vice-President, SLMC to uplift the standards of medical education, medical practice and patient safety to acceptable global standards. As a founder member of the Accreditation Unit (AU) of the SLMC, she played a key role in obtaining the recognition of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).

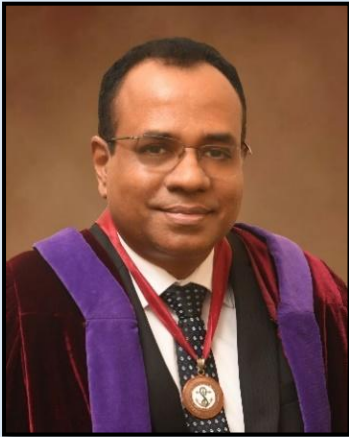
Prof. Yasawardene has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations and has supervised more than 10 MPhils and PhDs. Served on national committees and advisory boards, contributing to policy formulation and institutional reforms in higher education. Served as President of the Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka, 2017–2018. Her collaborative approach has enabled partnerships with global institutions, enhancing research opportunities and knowledge exchange.

**CHAIR - PLENARY SESSION 01**

**"A Century of Excellence: Reflecting on SLMC's Legacy and Achievements"**

**Vidya Jyothi Prof. Vajira H.W. Dissanayake**

*MBBS (Colombo), PhD (Nottingham),  
FNASSL (Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka),  
FIAHSI (Fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics),  
FCMA (Fellow of the Commonwealth Medical Association),  
FRCP (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians)  
President, Sri Lanka Medical Council  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka  
Chair and Senior Professor of Anatomy, Genetics and Biomedical Informatics, Faculty of Medicine,  
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*



Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake MBBS (Colombo), PhD (Nottingham), FNASSL (Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka), FIAHSI (Fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics), FCMA (Fellow of the Commonwealth Medical Association), FRCP (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians) is the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, and the Dean of the Faculty and Chair and Senior Professor of the Department of Anatomy, Genetics, and Biomedical Informatics of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

He has held and continues to hold many leadership positions nationally and internationally. He is a Past President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association and Past President of the Commonwealth Medical Association. He was also the Immediate Past Chairperson of the Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance and Immediate Past Registrar of the Ceylon Medical College Council. He is the Chairperson of the Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health and a member of the Global Existential Security Threats Board of the InterAction Council of Former Heads of State and Government.

He was conferred the Sri Lankan national titular honour of Vidya Jyothi on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Medical Association in 2019.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 01**

**“100 Years of Regulating Healthcare in Sri Lanka: Key Milestones, Challenges and Success Stories”**

## 100 Years of Regulating Healthcare in Sri Lanka: Key Milestones, Challenges, and Success Stories

**Vidya Jyothi Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake**

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC), established in 1925 as the Ceylon Medical Council, has played a pivotal role in safeguarding the standards of medical education and practice in Sri Lanka for a century. This centenary marks not only a historical milestone but also an opportunity to reflect on the SLMC's enduring contribution to the nation's health system, its evolution amidst changing healthcare landscapes, and its resilience in the face of global and local challenges.

This presentation will chart the journey of the SLMC over the past 100 years, highlighting key milestones that have shaped the regulation of healthcare in Sri Lanka. From its inception during the colonial era, the Council was instrumental in setting foundational standards for medical education and licensing, aligning with British medical traditions. Post-independence, the SLMC adapted to the emerging needs of a growing nation, expanding its regulatory scope to include dental, nursing, and other allied health professions, ensuring comprehensive oversight of the health workforce.

A central focus of the talk will be the legislative transformations that enhanced the SLMC's authority and accountability, including the Medical Ordinance revisions that enabled stronger disciplinary processes and the recognition of medical education standards, ensuring both local and international standards were upheld. The presentation will also examine the role of the SLMC in times of national crises, demonstrating its agility in maintaining professional standards while supporting healthcare delivery under extraordinary circumstances.

Equally important are the challenges the SLMC has faced. These include balancing regulatory independence with governmental oversight, managing the tensions between protecting public safety and respecting professional autonomy, and responding to the rapid advances in medical science, technology, and globalization of healthcare. The growing demand for international recognition of Sri Lankan medical qualifications and the necessity to align with global accreditation frameworks have required the SLMC to continually modernize its processes and policies.

The latter part of the presentation will spotlight transformative changes initiated in recent years, particularly from 2021 to 2024, a period marked by significant reform. These include the introduction of competency-based assessments for foreign-qualified medical graduates, the digitization of registration processes, the move towards competency-based revalidation, and the adoption of transparent mechanisms for handling complaints and disciplinary inquiries. The SLMC's leadership in fostering ethical medical practice and enhancing public trust through

greater engagement with stakeholders, patients, professionals, educators, and policymakers will be emphasized as a critical success story.

Finally, the talk will reflect on the future of healthcare regulation in Sri Lanka. With the rise of genomics, artificial intelligence, and digital health technologies, the SLMC's role is poised to expand beyond traditional regulatory domains. Ensuring that healthcare regulation remains responsive, ethical, and patient-centered in this rapidly evolving landscape will be essential.

This centenary celebration is not only a commemoration of the SLMC's legacy but also a reaffirmation of its commitment to protecting the health of the Sri Lankan people for generations to come.

## Dr. Anil Jasinghe

*MD (Lvov), Specialist in Medical Administration  
Secretary, Ministry of Health and Mass Media*



Dr. Anil Jasinghe is a leader whose career has left an indelible mark on Sri Lanka's healthcare and environmental sectors, blending academic rigor, administrative excellence, and global advocacy. Dr. Jasinghe currently serves as the Secretary of Health Ministry of Health and Mass Media. Prior to this, he served as the Senior Additional Secretary at the Presidential Secretariat and CEO of Sri Lanka's Climate Change Office; Dr. Jasinghe's trajectory reflects a rare confluence of technical expertise and strategic leadership. His tenure as Secretary of the Ministry of Environment from 2020 to 2023 was a period of transformative progress. He led the amendment of the National

Environment Act, crafted the National Environment Policy, and spearheaded the National Environment Action Plan for 2022-2030. His advocacy for sustainable practices culminated in the endorsement of Sri Lanka's Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly in 2022, highlighting his influence on the global environmental agenda. Internationally, he represented the country with distinction, serving as Vice President of the Global Green Growth Institute, where he worked alongside prominent figures like former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, and as Chair of the Asia-Pacific Environment Authorities Forum, fostering collaboration among 41 nations. His efforts have underscored Sri Lanka's commitment to addressing critical global challenges like climate change and sustainable development. Parallely, Dr. Jasinghe's medical career is a testament to his exceptional leadership in public health. A graduate of the Lvov State Medical Institute, he began his medical journey in Sri Lanka in 1990 and rose to become the Director General of Health Services. He played a critical role in the country's disaster management framework, demonstrating remarkable leadership during the 2004 tsunami and the civil war by deploying medical teams to affected areas and establishing the Trauma Secretariat to introduce trauma system management in Sri Lanka. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his decisive actions as Director General of Health Services were instrumental in curbing the initial outbreak, earning widespread recognition. Beyond his administrative roles, Dr. Jasinghe has been a prolific academic contributor, holding positions such as Chairman of the Board of Management in Medical Administration and serving as an examiner for postgraduate medical programs. His extensive publications and orations at international forums reflect his commitment to advancing knowledge in healthcare and environmental science.

### **SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 01**

**“The Role of Regulation in the Sri Lankan Healthcare System: A Medical Administrator's Perspective”**

## **The Role of Regulation in the Sri Lankan Healthcare System: A Medical Administrator's Perspective**

**Dr. Anil Jasinghe**

Regulation plays a vital role in sustaining and strengthening Sri Lanka's healthcare system, which is renowned for providing free and equitable healthcare. It ensures that both public and private health services meet minimum quality and safety standards, while also safeguarding patient rights and upholding professional ethics.

The Ministry of Health and other regulatory authorities ensure that healthcare institutions and professionals are properly registered, competent, and ethical in practice. Having a robust Health Management Information System (HMIS) is a prerequisite that supports these efforts by tracking outcomes and identifying areas for improvement.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) serves as the primary regulator of healthcare professionals, overseeing registration, continuing medical education, and disciplinary processes to uphold professional standards and public trust. The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) ensures the safety, efficacy, and affordability of medicines and medical devices through provisions of the NMRA Act, including essential drug lists and price regulation.

Facilities in the private sector are subject to monitoring by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council (PHSRC) under the provisions of the Private Medical Institutions Act, while ethical oversight of the Ministry of Health guarantees ethical and safe research practices. Initiatives like the Charter for Ensuring Patients' Safety and Well-being and the Personal Data Protection Act reinforce the legal and ethical framework for patient care and data privacy.

During public health emergencies such as COVID-19, regulation enables effective disease surveillance and vaccination programs. It also ensures equitable access to services, especially in underserved areas, through policies and targeted health campaigns.

Ultimately, regulation is not about control; it is about ensuring a fair, safe, and resilient healthcare system for all Sri Lankans.

**Ms. Joan Simeon**

*Chair, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)*

*Chief Executive, Medical Council of New Zealand*



Joan is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA). She is also the Chief Executive of the Medical Council of New Zealand, having spent 20 years working in medical regulation.

Joan holds a Master’s in Public Management and a post-graduate qualification in Dispute Resolution.

She has a strong interest in using medical regulatory levers, alongside influence, to build public trust in the medical profession, with a focus on improving professionalism and promoting good medical practice. Joan is an advocate for equity and cultural safety in healthcare and sees the regulator as having a key role in achieving this. Joan has served on many international and national committees focused on the delivery and reform of health practitioner regulation and has extensive experience in professional standards and medical education.

Over her term as Chair of IAMRA, Joan has been pleased to work closely with the WHO, having signed an agreement between IAMRA and the WHO to collaborate together to improve health practitioner regulation, particularly in developing countries. This has included the publication of the WHO guidance on design, reform and implementation of health practitioner regulation.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 01**

**“Global Perspectives on Medical Governance in the Last Century”**

## Global Perspectives on Medical Governance in the Last Century

**Ms. Joan Simeon**

Medical regulation has transformed significantly over the past 100 years – from a system of professional self-regulation to one that is increasingly inclusive, transparent, and publicly accountable. Most importantly, evolution has highlighted the shift towards greater public and consumer participation in regulatory governance and decision-making. Trust – both in the medical profession and in regulators is central to effective regulation, and regulators must foster that trust through fairness, transparency, and engagement.

As health systems face global challenges, medical regulators must remain not only responsive but also proactive, principled, and collaborative. They must work with Governments, policy-makers and the global regulatory community in an unwavering commitment to the public interest.

## **PLENARY SESSION 02**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**"Ensuring Quality and Safety in Healthcare Delivery"**

### **Chair**

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama, Council Member, SLMC

### **Patient Safety and Quality Assurance: Towards a Culture of Zero Harm**

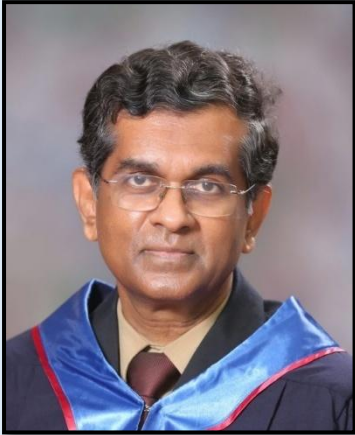
Prof. Priyadharshani Galappatthy, Senior Professor and Chair Professor of  
Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

### **Maintaining Global Standards: Harmonizing Medical Education and Accreditation**

Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, Former Head of Accreditation Unit, SLMC

### **Strategies for Addressing Malpractices in Healthcare Systems**

Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda, Judge of the Supreme Court, Sri Lanka

**Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama***MBBS (Colombo), MD (Colombo), MRCP (UK), FCCP (SL)**Senior Consultant Physician, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Sri Lanka**Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA)**Senior Lecturer in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa*

Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama obtained MBBS (Colombo) in 1991, MD (Colombo) in 1998, and MRCP (UK) in 2000.

Has been working as the Senior Consultant Physician at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Sri Lanka (formerly Infectious Diseases Hospital) since 2002. Established the dengue management unit at NIID in 2011. Had postgraduate training in clinical management of dengue and other emerging infectious diseases. Trainer on clinical management of dengue for doctors and other healthcare workers. Was a member of the editorial board of the guidelines

for Sri Lanka on “Clinical management of dengue fever and DHF” and “Clinical management of dengue in pregnancy”, “Therapeutics and COVID-19 Living Guidelines of WHO” and “A booklet on diagnosis, basic management, and referral at PHC level in Southeast Asia Region” by the WHO. Played a key role in developing guidelines, patient education and the treatment of COVID-19 patients in the country. Was a member of the team sent by the WHO to Bangladesh in 2023 to support clinicians during the dengue outbreak. Involved in many research works with more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals with a h-index of 22 and 2800+ citations. Was awarded President's Awards for Scientific Research 2017, 2018 and 2019 and ProMED award for emerging infectious diseases at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Infectious Diseases (ICID) 2016. Was the president of the Ceylon College of Physicians in 2020, President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association in 2024 and current Chairman of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority. Presently, working as a senior lecturer in Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa.

**CHAIR - PLENARY SESSION 02****"Ensuring Quality and Safety in Healthcare Delivery"**

**Prof. Priyadharshani Galappatthy**

*MBBS (Colombo), MD (Colombo), MRCP (UK), DipMedTox (Cardiff), FCCP, FRCP (Lond)*

*Senior Professor and Chair Professor of Pharmacology,  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*



Prof. Priyadharshani Galappatthy is Senior Professor and Chair Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

She was a World Health Organisation (WHO) Consultant, in the Patient Safety and Quality of Care Unit of the Integrated Health Services Department, WHO Headquarters Geneva, Switzerland from 2022-2024 supporting the implementation of the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030 and publication of the first ever WHO Global Patient Safety Report, 2024, based on the WHO member state survey on patient safety. She was involved in the planning of the WHO third Global Patient Safety Challenge on Medication Without Harm from 2016, launched by the WHO in 2017 and drafted the National Action Plan on medication safety in Sri Lanka, launched in 2021. She supports the Joint Commission International on improving patient safety through their 'Patient Safety Pathways' initiative that was launched recently. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka, contributing to medicines regulation in the country.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 02**

**“Patient Safety and Quality Assurance: Towards a Culture of Zero Harm”**

## Patient Safety and Quality Assurance: Towards a Culture of Zero Harm

**Prof. Priyadharshani Galappatthy**

Patient safety is one of the fundamental principles of medicine, identified from ancient times and is an essential component of quality health care. Despite global efforts, unsafe care still harms many patients, much of it preventable. Low and middle-income countries bear a disproportionate burden, with millions of adverse events each year. Patient safety must be actively integrated into all health care processes as a critical prerequisite for achieving universal health coverage.

A culture of zero harm demands leadership commitment, system-wide learning from errors, and patient engagement. Quality assurance mechanisms support this by setting safety standards, monitoring outcomes, and driving continuous improvement. Without prioritizing safety, efforts to expand health coverage risk eroding public trust and worsening health outcomes. In response, the World Health Organisation adopted a resolution in 2019 and initiated the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030, aiming to eliminate avoidable harm, empower patients, and strengthen health systems. Building safer systems means embedding patient safety principles in policy, practice, professional education and regulation.

Medical councils and regulatory bodies play a pivotal role in this framework by overseeing professional standards, licensing, and accountability. They ensure that health professionals are adequately trained, uphold ethical practice, and adhere to evolving patient safety guidelines. As the Global Action Plan emphasizes, protecting patients from harm is not optional- it is a moral imperative and a foundation for resilient, high-quality health care for all.

## Dr. Palitha Abeykoon

*MBBS (Peradeniya), M.S. (Southern California), M.P.H. (Harvard), DPS (Geneva),  
FCCPSL, FCMASL, FCGP (SL), Fellow of the International Science Council  
Senior Advisor to the WHO Regional Director  
Member, WHO–World Bank Global Pandemic Monitoring Board  
Former Director, Health Systems Development, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and  
WHO Representative to India  
Past President, Sri Lanka Medical Association  
Former Council Member and Former Head of Accreditation Unit, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Dr. Palitha Abeykoon is a distinguished medical professional and global health expert with extensive experience in health systems development and international health governance. He serves as the Senior Advisor to the WHO Regional Director and is a Member of the WHO–World Bank Global Pandemic Monitoring Board.

He has previously served as Director of Health Systems Development at the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and as the WHO Representative to India. Nationally, he has contributed to the advancement of medical standards and regulation as Past President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, a former Member of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, and as Former Head of its Accreditation Unit.

Dr. Abeykoon holds degrees from the University of Peradeniya (MBBS), the University of Southern California (M.S.), Harvard School of Public Health (M.P.H.), and the Graduate Institute in Geneva (DPS). He holds Fellowships of the College of Community Physicians (FCCPSL), the College of Medical Administrators (FCMASL), the College of Medical Educationists and the College of General Practitioners of Sri Lanka (FCGP), and the International Science Council.

### **SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 02**

**“Maintaining Global Standards: Harmonizing Medical Education and Accreditation”**

## **Maintaining Global Standards: Harmonizing Medical Education and Accreditation**

**Dr. Palitha Abeykoon**

Global standards in medical education are basically a global expert consensus on the standards for medical schools and other providers of medical education through the continuum of medical education. Harmonizing medical education and accreditation, in essence, means bringing together a balance and equivalence into the education and evaluation of medical professionals in a quality-assured system. The object would be to ensure comparable standards in medical education programs across different institutions around the world. This presentation will explore how global standards evolved and are being applied to recognize equivalence in curricula and accreditation processes. This has become imperative with the increasing trends of health professional migration and cross-border medical education programs.

Until the second half of the last century, GMC recognition was practically the gold standard and the global passport for medical professionals in the Commonwealth countries. Sri Lanka Medical Council adapted the GMC criteria as the benchmark for recognizing medical schools, and this prevailed until the mid-eighties when the GMC modified recognition of overseas programs.

Until the turn of the century, the W.H.O. maintained the World Directory of Medical Schools, which listed the medical schools recognized by the respective national authorities, without any guarantee of the quality of such programs. Now we have the WHO in partnership with WFME and ECFMG maintaining the International Medical Education Directory (IMED), launched in April 2024.

Next transformative milestone was the decision by ECFMG that “...effective in 2023, doctors applying for ECFMG Certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited”. The ECFMG decision was consequential to us and alerted us to what we already knew – that medical education is indeed globalized.

The SLMC created an independent Accreditation Unit and charged it with the twin functions of obtaining recognition by the WFME and duly accrediting all established national medical schools. WFME recognition gave external validation of our meeting with Global standards.

The presentation will conclude with a few suggestions to maintain global standards and harmonize education and accreditation. The SLMC will need to ensure its primary purpose of protecting the patients and the public. Otherwise, what HG Wells said in 1945, “Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative”, might befall the SLMC.

## Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda

*Attorney-at-Law (Sri Lanka), LL.M. (University College London, UK)*

*PGDip. Forensic Medicine and Sciences (Colombo)*

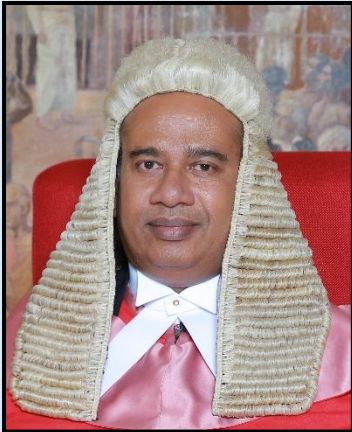
*President's Counsel*

*Judge, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka*

*Former President, Court of Appeal of Sri Lanka*

*Former Additional Solicitor General and Deputy Solicitor General,*

*Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka*



Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda, P.C., is a distinguished member of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, with a legal career spanning over three decades in public service. He received his primary and secondary education at Ananda College, Colombo (1971–1983), and was called to the Bar as an Attorney-at-Law in 1988. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine and Sciences from the University of Colombo (1998) and an LL.M. in Public International Law from University College London (2003).

He joined the Attorney General's Department as a State Counsel in 1989 and rose through the ranks as Senior State Counsel (1999), Deputy Solicitor General (2005) to become Additional Solicitor General in 2015. In the same year, he was appointed as a President's Counsel by the President. His extensive expertise includes prosecuting complex and serious crimes, managing high-level criminal investigations, representing the State in appellate and fundamental rights litigation, and contributing to legal policy development.

Hon. Kodagoda was appointed the President of the Court of Appeal in 2019, where he led judicial administration until he was appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court in February 2020 following a nomination made by His Excellency the President and unanimous approval by the Constitutional Council. He continues to serve in this role to date, contributing significantly to the country's legal and judicial advancement. He is also involved in legal education and the training of legal and judicial professionals, both locally and internationally.

### **SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 02**

**“Strategies for Addressing Malpractices in Healthcare Systems”**

## Strategies for Addressing Malpractices in Healthcare Systems

**Hon. Yasantha Kodagoda**

It is a privilege to address the centenary of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, a body that has served with distinction in regulating medical education and professional ethics for a century. This occasion, while celebratory, also calls for introspection. As guardians of public trust, the SLMC must reflect on whether its current processes for investigating allegations of malpractices and conducting inquiries are effective, timely, and impartial in the eyes of the public and the profession.

The heart of the address urges the SLMC to reform its quasi-judicial functions of investigation and inquiry with humility and foresight. Eight foundational duties of medical ethics and legality have been reaffirmed, highlighting that breaches not only harm patients but also corrode societal trust in healthcare. While public perceptions suggest the SLMC's procedures can be opaque or sluggish, practitioners themselves may feel the process is unduly harsh. The path forward, therefore, lies in evidence-based reform, anchored in empirical research, transparency, fairness, and due process.

Ten proposals grouped under four strategic themes are being presented: enhancing procedural integrity, strengthening neutrality, ensuring timeliness, and modernizing sanctions. These include the establishment of independent investigative units, legally informed disciplinary panels, procedural safeguards for both complainants and professionals, digital case management, and diversified sanctions to foster accountability and rehabilitation. Reform, as emphasized, is not an indictment but a reaffirmation of ethical leadership. By embracing it, the SLMC can continue as a pillar of trust and excellence in its next century.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**"Medical Ethics, Professionalism, and Regulatory Challenges"**

### **Moderator**

Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan, Council Member, SLMC

### **Navigating Ethical Complexities in Modern Medicine**

Prof. Anoja Fernando, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, University of Ruhuna

### **Building Trust Between Regulators, Clinicians, and the Public**

Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen, Chair of Council, General Medical Council, UK

### **Regulating Technology in Healthcare**

Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne, Senior Attorney-at-Law,  
Sri Lanka

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

Dr. Suresh Shanmuganathan is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He works as a Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in the Government and Private sector. Dr Suresh Shanmuganathan obtained his Master of Surgery (Oral Surgery) from the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo and was Board Certified as a Specialist in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in November 1999. He obtained the Fellowship of Dental Surgery (FDSRCS) of the Royal College of Surgeons of England & Edinburgh and the Membership of Surgical Dentistry (MSurgDentRCS - Edinburgh) of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He had his Overseas postgraduate training at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK. He is a Fellow of the International Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons and a member of the Asian Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons.

He has attended numerous workshops/courses and delivered lectures at learned societies/ colleges/associations. He has given many guest lectures, both locally and internationally, and contributed as a resource person to Symposia and workshops. He serves as the Secretary Board of Study (Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery) and a member of the Board of Study (Dental Surgery) of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo and is an examiner/ trainer at Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo. He is a Past President of the College of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Dental Association, College of Dentistry & Stomatology of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Academy of Aesthetic & Cosmetic Dentistry and Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science – Section A. He is a Past President of the Commonwealth Dental Association and the Asia Pacific Dental Federation. He is the Country Councillor for the International Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (IAOMS) and Asian Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). He was an international ambassador for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and a Member Advanced Credentialing Commission of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI). He is also a council member of the Sri Lanka Medical Council and the Private Health Services Regulatory Council, and a Member Medical Devices Committee of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority.

**MODERATOR – PANEL DISCUSSION****"Medical Ethics, Professionalism, and Regulatory Challenges"**

## Prof. Anoja Fernando

*MBBS (Colombo), MRCP (UK), FRCP (London), BA (Humanities, Open University, UK),*

*Dip in French (Alliance Française, Paris)*

*Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna*

*Former Dean and Acting Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna*

*Former Member of the Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Prof. Anoja Indrakanthi Fernando is a distinguished academic, medical educator, and internationally recognized expert in medical ethics. With over four decades of service to medicine, education, and bioethics, she has made pioneering contributions both in Sri Lanka and internationally.

She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, in 1969 and initially served in the Ministry of Health. While working in the UK's National Health Service, she obtained the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians and a BA degree in Humanities from the Open University, UK. She later awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and also holds a Diploma in French Language from the Alliance Française in Paris.

Prof. Fernando was the Founder Professor of Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, where she served for 30 years, also taking on roles as Dean and Acting Vice-Chancellor. A passionate advocate for ethical and humanistic medical practice, she introduced Sri Lanka's first course in Medical Humanities in 2005 and has taught medical ethics extensively. Her research spans Pharmacology and Medical Education to Medical and Research Ethics, Medical Humanities and History of Medicine. She has been awarded several fellowships and Scholarships by WHO, UNESCO, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, including a Commonwealth Medical Fellowship spent in Oxford, UK.

She has held numerous national positions, including President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (2001) and Chair of its Ethics Review Committee for 17 years. She also chaired the National Bioethics Committee at the National Science Foundation. Recognized by UNESCO as an expert in ethics, she has contributed to ethics training and evaluation across the Asia-Pacific for over 25 years. In 2010, she became the first woman and first medical professional to serve as President of the Asian Bioethics Association. She was appointed to the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee in 2016, serving until 2024.

### **SPEAKER – PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“Navigating Ethical Complexities in Modern Medicine”**

## Navigating Ethical Complexities in Modern Medicine

### Prof. Anoja Fernando

The scientific and technological advances in modern medicine, together with several significant historical events that took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, led to ethical challenges that transformed Medical Ethics into the newer Bioethics. Ethical principles and values that existed for hundreds of years were challenged by issues such as dramatic improvements in intensive care, legalization of abortion, organ transplantation, assisted reproductive technologies and widespread engagement in research on humans. To navigate these ethical challenges, new concepts such as autonomy and justice were added to the much older principles of beneficence, non-maleficence and confidentiality. National and international ethics guidelines were developed in these areas. Ethics committees were established at the institutional and national levels to provide guidance and oversight.

In the first quarter of the new millennium, modern medicine became even more complex and technology-oriented, bringing new ethical challenges. Data banks and bio-banks, the digitization of medicine and the use of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and other neurotechnologies, genomic technologies and expanding multinational collaborative research led to a Global Bioethics, which necessitated the development of newer ethical principles, policies and guidelines. The COVID-19 pandemic was the latest global challenge that made us recognize the importance of public health ethics including fair and equitable allocation of resources, and other bioethical principles enunciated in the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2006), such as protection of vulnerable populations, non-discrimination and non-stigmatization, respect for cultural diversity and pluralism, solidarity and cooperation, social responsibility, sharing of benefits and transparent decision-making.

Navigating ethical complexities in modern medicine requires constant vigilance, identifying unethical practices, revision existing guidelines and developing new guidelines when needed. When enacting regulations and policies for new technologies, Governments should always take ethical principles into consideration. Ethics education of all health professionals, especially members of Ethics Committees, is crucial. Education of the public is also essential in order to empower the people to recognize their rights and exercise their autonomy when faced with the complex choices available in modern medicine and healthcare.

**Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen***DBE, FRSE, LLD, MD, FRCOphth, FRCS**Consultant Ophthalmologist**Chair, General Medical Council, UK*

Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen is Chair of the GMC, appointed in May 2022. She has been a member of the Council since January 2021 and served as Acting Chair from August 2021 to May 2022.

Carrie is a Consultant Ophthalmologist for NHS Tayside and Honorary Professor at the University of Dundee. She served as Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges until 2020 and is Past-President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

She was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to Ophthalmology and Healthcare Leadership during the Covid-19 Response in the Queen’s birthday honours list, June 2021.

Carrie has served on several committees and worked to support and develop education, training and assessment of healthcare professionals in the UK and abroad, including having acted as external examiner for ophthalmology in Sri Lanka in 2012.

She is committed to quality improvement and chaired the Trustee Board of the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (2020-2023) and has served on a number of NHS committees regarding service and medical workforce re-design. Carrie was a specialty ophthalmology advisor to the Scottish Chief Medical Officer for over a decade and led the Scottish Eyecare Workstream, ceasing this role in June 2022. She was the clinical co-lead for the English ophthalmology ‘Getting It Right First Time’ programme and the Eye Care Recovery and Transformation Programme. She was also chair of the multiprofessional subcommittee of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, developing an ophthalmology training framework for all eyecare professionals. She was Associate Dean for Less than Full Time Training for doctors in East Scotland between 2007 and 2022.

Carrie has published more than 170 peer-reviewed papers and contributions to medical textbooks, and has delivered several eponymous lectures. She is a trustee of the Moorfield’s Eye Charity, and she was a member of the council of the University of Exeter.

**SPEAKER – PANEL DISCUSSION****“Building Trust Between Regulators, Clinicians, and the Public”**

## Building Trust Between Regulators, Clinicians, and the Public

### Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen

The central purpose of the GMC is to support good, safe patient care across the UK.

It is our responsibility to make sure everyone on the medical register has the necessary skills and experience to be there. That is critical for patient safety and for the public's confidence in the professionals who treat them.

But we know that the environments in which doctors work affect the care they're able to provide. That's why we do not believe it is a binary choice between supporting doctors or protecting patients. Rather, we believe that using our influence to improve doctors' experiences and working environments is a core part of our duty to protect patients.

This conviction is at the heart of the regulator we're striving to be. But it is not as well understood as we would like, and the impression of the GMC as punitive can be hard to shift, particularly when it comes to fear around our fitness to practice processes.

High standards, and the need to take action when they are not met, remain as crucial now as they always have been – but our aim is that registrants can be fully confident that we will always act fairly, swiftly and respectfully.

In this session, Prof. Dame Carrie MacEwen will talk about compassionate regulation and how we're changing the way we regulate to try to minimize fear and increase trust.

**Dr. Sunil D.B. Abeyaratne***PhD (Colombo), LL.M (Queen Mary, University of London), MBA (IGNOU)**Dip in Forensic Medicine, Science & Toxicology (Colombo)**Attorney-at-Law, International Commercial Arbitrator**Former Secretary of BASL, Chairman of ICT Law Committee of LAWASIA*

Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne's multidisciplinary career spans over 39 years in courtroom advocacy, combined with groundbreaking academic contributions to ICT and commercial law within the Asia-Pacific region. He is a QMUL CCLS-trained commercial arbitrator with international case experience and a pioneer in digital law, having authored *Introduction to ICT Law* and *Lawyers' Handbook on ICT Law*, both seminal textbooks in the field. His litigation practice extends across civil, commercial, and criminal jurisdictions, reflecting his versatility and depth in legal expertise. Academically, Dr. Abeyaratne holds a PhD in Law from the University of Colombo, an LL.M in Commercial

Law from Queen Mary University of London, and an MBA in Human Resource Management from the Indira Gandhi National Open University of India. He also holds a Diploma in Forensic Medicine, Science and Toxicology from the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo. He serves as a Visiting Lecturer at Sri Lanka Law College, the Universities of Colombo and Peradeniya, the Arbitration Centre of Kandy, and the National Police Academy. He is also the Chief Editor of *The Business Lawyer Law & Management Journal*. Dr. Abeyaratne has presented over 100 conference papers at major international forums, including LAWASIA, the International Bar Association (IBA), and the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary. He has served as Chair of the LAWASIA Communication Data Protection & Technology Committee and was nominated for research by the China Law Society in 2015.

He chairs the Data Protection, Communication and Technology Committee of LAWASIA and the Institute of Legal and Management Studies in Sri Lanka. He is a former member of the Incorporated Council of Legal Education in Sri Lanka and the Board of Governors of the Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre. He has contributed as a member of the Advisory Committee to Review the E-Commerce Law in Sri Lanka and formerly chaired the ICT Law Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. He is also the Chairman of the ICT Lawyers' Guild of Sri Lanka. Dr. Abeyaratne is a member of the Board of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, a Bar Council member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and a Forum Member of the Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka. His past leadership roles include Vice President, Executive Committee Member, and Alternate Country Councillor of LAWASIA, as well as Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (2006–2008).

**SPEAKER – PANEL DISCUSSION****“Regulating Technology in Healthcare”**

## Regulating Technology in Healthcare

### Dr. Sunil D.B. Abeyaratne

Technology integration in healthcare has revolutionized patient care, medical research, and operational efficiencies. From electronic health records (EHRs) to telemedicine and artificial intelligence (AI) diagnostics, clinical software plays a critical role in modern healthcare. However, this rapid advancement also brings challenges related to regulation, safety, privacy, and ethical considerations. Effective regulation is essential to ensure that technology enhances healthcare delivery without compromising patient safety or privacy.

Regulating technology in healthcare is an intricate yet vital endeavor that necessitates a collaborative approach among regulators, healthcare providers, technology developers, and patients. As innovations such as artificial intelligence, telemedicine, and wearable health devices become increasingly integrated into medical practice, effective regulation must strike a delicate balance: fostering innovation while upholding patient safety, privacy, and ethical standards.

The rapid evolution of technology presents both opportunities and challenges, requiring regulatory frameworks that are flexible and forward-thinking. Regulators must proactively anticipate and address emerging issues, such as data security risks, algorithmic bias, and the ethical implications of automated decision-making in patient care. By establishing clear guidelines and standards, regulators can create an environment that encourages technological advancements while instilling confidence among patients and healthcare professionals.

The goal of regulating healthcare technology is to cultivate a healthcare ecosystem that leverages innovation to improve patient outcomes, enhance access to care, and maintain public trust. By prioritizing safety and ethical considerations, we can create a future where technology empowers patients and providers alike, transforming the healthcare landscape for the better.

## **PLENARY SESSION 03**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

**"The Future of Medical Education: Aligning with Global Standards"**

### **Chair**

Dr. Chandika Epitakaduwa, Vice President, SLMC

### **Integrating Technology into Medical Curricula**

Prof. Dujeepa D. Samarasekara, Head of the Centre for Medical Education (CenMED), Yong LOO Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS)

### **Addressing Gaps in Healthcare Workforce Training**

Prof. Madawa Chandratilake, Council Member, SLMC

### **Should We Revisit Entry Criteria for Medical Education?**

Prof. Gominda Ponnampereuma, Head of Accreditation, SLMC

## Dr. Chandika Epitakaduwa

*MBBS (Colombo), Diploma in Pathology (Colombo), MD (Histopathology)*

*Consultant Histopathologist*

*Vice President, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Dr. Chandika Epitakaduwa is a Consultant Histopathologist currently serving at Base Hospital, Karawanella. In addition, he extends his expertise to histopathology services at the Colombo East Base Hospital (CEBH), the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

He obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from the University of Colombo in 2000.

Dr. Epitakaduwa completed his postgraduate training at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo, earning a Diploma in Pathology in 2008, with concentrations in histopathology, haematology, chemical pathology, and microbiology. He subsequently obtained his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Histopathology in 2013, specializing in anatomical pathology, histopathology, and cytopathology.

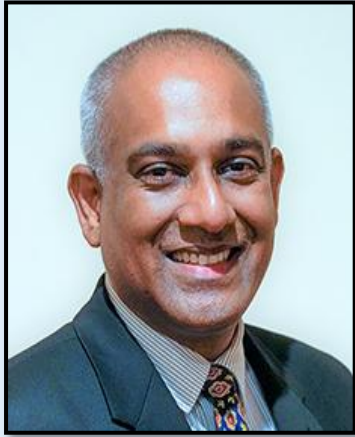
His professional training encompassed several key appointments. He initially served as a Medical Officer in Pathology at the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and the Colombo South Teaching Hospital (2005–2008). He then served as a Registrar in Histopathology at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (2008–2013), followed by his role as Senior Registrar in Histopathology at the North Colombo Teaching Hospital, affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya (2014–2015).

Dr. Epitakaduwa has been actively engaged in medical education. During 2016, he served as an External Lecturer in Pathology at the Faculty of Healthcare Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. He also held the position of External Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, University of Rajarata, from 2015 to 2016.

He currently holds the position of Vice President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

### CHAIR - PLENARY SESSION 03

**"The Future of Medical Education: Aligning with Global Standards"**

**Prof. Dujeepa D. Samarasekera***MBBS, MHPE, FAMB, FAMS, FRCP (Edin)**Head of the Centre for Medical Education (CenMED) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS)**Professor of Medical Education, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University, Australia*

Dujeepa Samarasekera is the Head of the Centre for Medical Education (CenMED) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS), and an Adjunct Professor of Medical Education at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University, Australia. With over two decades of experience, he is renowned for his transformative contributions to health professions education, particularly through innovative faculty development programmes and impactful initiatives. Dujeepa currently serves as the Academic Lead for Quality Improvement and the Exam Audit Lead across undergraduate, postgraduate, and residency programmes in medicine and nursing. He is a member of the Singapore Medical School Review Committee at the Ministry of Health, playing a key role in accrediting medical programmes. His expertise is also sought after as a quality assurance reviewer by numerous international organizations and universities. Additionally, he is appointed as an External Examiner for assessments at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong.

As a scholar, Dujeepa is the Editor-in-Chief of The Asia Pacific Medical Education Journal and has an extensive publication record in health professions education. He was honoured as an inaugural Fellow of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) and is the founding President of the College of Clinician Educators at the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. From 2018 to 2023, he led the Western Pacific Association of Medical Education as President. Dujeepa uniquely stands as the first and only Medical Educationalist admitted to both the Academies of Medicine in Singapore and Malaysia. In 2023, his exceptional contributions to Medical Education were recognised with the Public Administration Medal, awarded by the President of Singapore at the National Day Awards Ceremony. His leadership extends to serving on the AMEE Board of Governors, the Asia Pacific Medical Education Network, Academic Advisor, Nee Anne Poly School of Health Sciences, Singapore, International Academic Advisory Panel of Taylors University Malaysia, and the Board of Trustees of the American University of the Caribbean. Dujeepa holds honorary professorships at several international universities and contributes to the editorial advisory boards of multiple academic journals.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 03****“Integrating Technology into Medical Curricula”**

## Integrating Technology into Medical Curricula

**Prof. Dujeepa D. Samarasekera**

The rapid evolution of technology, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), simulation, telemedicine, and data-driven healthcare, is reshaping medical education globally. Some countries, such as Singapore, with its strong policy frameworks, robust academic institutions, and forward-thinking healthcare strategy, have been at the forefront of integrating these technologies into its medical curricula. This talk will take the Singapore medical education setting as an example to explore, in particular, the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLLSoM), National University of Singapore (NUS), has pioneered the thoughtful and systematic integration of educational technologies from undergraduate medical education through to specialist residency training.

The need to integrate technology is guided by a pedagogy-driven approach that ensures innovations serve clearly defined educational outcomes. The YLLSoM, NUS curriculum has been transformed by the use of blended learning platforms, flipped classrooms, and digital anatomy tools, supported by learning analytics to personalize education. A notable initiative is the Centre for Innovation in Healthcare Education at NUS, which champions immersive simulation-based learning, virtual reality (VR), and mental rehearsal techniques to teach clinical skills in a safe and scalable manner. These innovations have not only enhanced student engagement and competence but also allowed for standardized, reproducible teaching experiences across cohorts. Residency programmes in Singapore, under the Ministry of Health's Residency Framework, have similarly embraced technology. E-learning modules, simulation-based assessments, and AI-assisted diagnostic tools are integrated into training pathways to promote competence, patient safety, and lifelong learning. The National University Health System (NUHS) has been instrumental in aligning technology-enhanced learning with competency-based medical education, ensuring residents are well prepared to function in an increasingly digital healthcare environment. These programmes also encourage the development of digital professionalism and the critical evaluation of health technology.

Despite these strengths, challenges remain. Faculty resistance, varying levels of digital literacy among educators, concerns around the reliability and scalability of new technologies, and balancing innovation with accreditation requirements are recurrent issues. Moreover, there are ethical, legal, and pedagogical concerns when introducing AI or data-driven tools into student and patient interactions. In Singapore, these challenges are addressed through a multi-pronged strategy: robust faculty development programmes, early stakeholder engagement, and strong institutional support from both academic leadership and the Ministry of Health. The formation of interprofessional curriculum committees and dedicated technology integration teams ensure alignment with national healthcare goals and professional standards. Importantly, Singapore's unique ecosystem with close collaboration between universities, healthcare

clusters, regulatory bodies, and technology partners allows for iterative, feedback-driven improvement of educational strategies. Policies and frameworks, such as the National AI Strategy and the Health IT Master Plan, provide a supportive macro-environment for innovation in education and training.

The presentation will showcase specific case examples from YLLSoM and NUHS Residency Programmes, offering attendees practical insights into the technological transformation of medical education. It will highlight how Singapore's model can serve as a blueprint for other institutions seeking to integrate technology in a sustainable, pedagogically sound, and culturally sensitive manner. By drawing on Singapore's successes and lessons learnt, this presentation aims to inspire and guide educators, administrators, and policy-makers navigating the dynamic intersection of technology and medical education.

**Prof. Madawa Chandratilake**

*MBBS (Colombo), Masters in Medical Education (Dundee, UK), PhD (Dundee, UK)*

*Chair Professor of Medical Education*

*Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya*

*Member, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Prof. Madawa Chandratilake is the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, and Chair Professor of Medical Education. He obtained his MBBS from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and is a postgraduate Master's and PhD from the University of Dundee, UK.

He is both nationally and internationally recognised for his contributions to curriculum development, assessment, and professionalism in health professions education. He has published extensively, including in leading indexed journals, and served as co-chair of the NIHR Global Health Research Capacity Building Steering Committee. As a member of the Accreditation Unit of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, he plays a key role in shaping national standards in medical education. Professor Chandratilake has also undertaken educational consultancies for universities and ministries in many countries. With a career spanning over two decades, his work has consistently focused on aligning healthcare training with evolving global standards and local healthcare needs.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 03**

**“Addressing Gaps in Healthcare Workforce Training”**

## Addressing Gaps in Healthcare Workforce Training

### Prof. Madawa Chandratilake

As Sri Lanka's health system undergoes a transformation to better serve its evolving demographics and the challenges of global health, the educational components of the health workforce also have to be addressed. The traditional approach to health professional education, primarily based on universities providing training and provincial health sector services, must deepen its relevance. The content and format of current curricula need to delineate more clearly the distinct delivery of primary care, interprofessional education and practice, digital health approaches, and emerging content areas such as mental health, geriatric care, and climate-responsive care. Teaching in most health professions is still largely facilitated through lectures with limited active, skill-based and local engagement in practice situations.

Internationally, the shift to competency-based, collaborative and technology-enabled training models prevails. Countries such as Singapore, Thailand, Rwanda, and Australia draw on examples of how enhanced collaboration between Ministries of Health, universities, and regulatory bodies can make health education more responsive to a country's health priorities. In the Sri Lankan context, a similar approach involving the UGC, the Ministry of Health, and the SLMC has real potential to modernize health professional education, enhancing its relevance and responsiveness.

In this plenary, the key areas for reform and a number of strategic proposals, including curriculum renewal, interprofessional education, education of clinicians as educators and a collaborative public-private partnership, are suggested. As we mark a century of regulatory excellence, this is a timely opportunity to reimagine healthcare training for a resilient and future-ready workforce.

### **Prof. Gominda Ponnampereuma**

*MBBS (Colombo), Dip. Psychology (Colombo), MMed (Dundee, UK), PhD (Dundee, UK)  
Professor, Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo  
Head, Accreditation Unit, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Prof. Gominda Ponnampereuma has served as an invited speaker cum resource person in many international symposia and conferences. Author of several journal articles and books, he sits on the editorial boards of four international medical education journals. He is a postgraduate tutor, examiner, and resource material developer for national and international medical education courses in countries such as UK, Japan, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

He has served as an advisor, visiting professor, consultant and fellow in several academic institutes and educational projects. He is a founding co-chair of the Asia Pacific Medical Education Network (APME-Net). His research interests are in assessment (including selection for training) and curriculum development and evaluation.

#### **SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 03**

**“Should We Revisit Entry Criteria for Medical Education?”**

## Should We Revisit Entry Criteria for Medical Education?

**Prof. Gominda Ponnamparuma**

From its inception, medical education has attracted the most capable students. These students have been selected through rigorous assessments. Over the years, selection tests have evolved from purely academic tests to those that assess both cognitive and non-cognitive abilities. This has been triggered by societal and professional expectations dictating that cognitive skills alone do not make a good doctor. Thus, rather than viewing the selection process as an entity external to the medical curriculum, the modern approach is to view selection tests as the first assessment that a medical student takes in the medical curriculum. In this sense, a selection test should assess the potential to master the same competencies that the medical curriculum expects the students to achieve. This means a selection test should not only address all cognitive and non-cognitive competencies (or their surrogates) in a medical curriculum, but also should be assessed using non-technical assessment material. As most traditional selection tests place a high price on cognitive abilities, it is a paradigm shift for many selection agencies to address this dual burden of testing cognitive and non-cognitive competencies in the right proportion while also assessing an applicant's potential using non-technical test material.

## **PLENARY SESSION 04**

**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**"Integrating Innovative Technologies and Research"**

**Chair**

Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe, Council Member, SLMC

**Digital Health, Telemedicine, and Data Privacy: Transforming Patient Care**

Prof. Pandula Siribaddana, Professor in Medical Education at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), University of Colombo and a specialist in Digital Health

**Translational Research and Innovation: From Bench to Bedside in Sri Lankan Medicine**

Prof. Anuji Upekshika Gamage, Chairman, National Research Council

## **Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe**

**MBBS, DCH, MD, FACC**

**Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children**

**President, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians**

**Past President, Sri Lanka Heart Association**

**Chairman, Children's Heart Project of Sri Lanka**



Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe (MBBS, DCH, MD, FACC) is the first board-certified Paediatric Cardiologist in the country, currently serving at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children.

As the flag-bearer in Paediatric Cardiology, he has worked with a long-term vision to develop the field.

He was the president of the Sri Lanka Heart Association in 2019 and is the current president of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians. He has been the Chairman of the Children's Heart Project of Sri Lanka since 2012.

The establishment of a heart valve and a tissue bank in liaison with the Oxford Heart Valve Bank and the construction of a 12-storey cardiac and critical care complex through the Little Hearts project were some of his remarkable contributions towards the development of the field in Sri Lanka. He was instrumental in designing and creating a database of electronic medical records, which provides a source of information for research on children with heart disease in Sri Lanka.

### **CHAIR - PLENARY SESSION 04**

**"Integrating Innovative Technologies and Research"**

**Prof. Pandula Siribaddana***MBBS (Colombo), PhD (Oslo), PGDip. (Med. Ed), CTHE, SEDA (UK)**Professor in Medical Education, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo**Member, Accreditation Unit, Sri Lanka Medical Council*

Prof. Pandula Siribaddana is Professor in Medical Education and an expert in Digital Health at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. A Colombo medical graduate, he completed his PhD in Health-Information Systems and Educational Technologies at the University of Oslo, Norway, work that laid much of the groundwork for the globally recognised DHIS2 academy. He has contributed to the establishment of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics and the MD in Health Informatics programmes at the PGIM, and has served as Secretary to the Specialty Board in Biomedical Informatics.

Internationally, Prof. Siribaddana is a consultant to the WHO's Health Data Collaborative within the Division of Data Analytics and Delivery for Impact, a former member of the WHO Roster of Experts in Digital Health, and convenes the Action Committee drafting the Global Reference Framework on Health Data Governance on behalf of the Health Data Collaborative. A recognised innovator, he created the award-winning, AI-enabled "SelfShield" public-health app launched in Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic and has ideated and led the development of patented prototype digital health technologies for multinational R&D entities. He also serves as a member of the Accreditation Unit of the Sri Lanka Medical Council. Combining two decades of clinical, academic and policy experience, Prof. Siribaddana brings a uniquely integrative perspective to digital health, telemedicine, and data privacy.

**SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 04****"Digital Health, Telemedicine, and Data Privacy: Transforming Patient Care"**

## Digital Health, Telemedicine, and Data Privacy: Transforming Patient Care

**Prof. Pandula Siribaddana**

This plenary will,

- 1) Demystify digital health, telemedicine, and data privacy,
- 2) Examine how each underpins Sri Lanka's move toward technology-enabled, patient-centered care, and
- 3) Link these foundations to the theme of the plenary, "Integrating Innovative Technologies and Research."

The session will begin by defining digital health as the strategic use of ICT and analytics across the care continuum, telemedicine as its real-time remote-care subset, and data privacy as the legal-ethical framework that protects patient information and fosters trust. The session will then highlight how emerging research, AI diagnostics, wearables, and cloud platforms can be safely integrated when privacy-by-design, interoperable standards, and robust consent models are embedded from the outset. The session concludes with a roadmap for clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to co-create a secure, evidence-driven digital-health ecosystem that expands access, preserves confidentiality, and transforms patient outcomes.

## Prof. Anuji Upekshika Gamage

*MBBS, MSc., MD (Community Medicine), Grad. Cert. in Economics*

*MSc. (Health Economics and Policy) (Australia)*

*Specialist in Community Medicine*

*Chair of the National Research Council*

*Professor in Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University*



Prof. Anuji Gamage is a Professor in Public Health at the Department of Paraclinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and a visiting lecturer at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. She is the current Chair of the National Research Council (NRC).

She is a Professor in Public Health and a Board-Certified Specialist in Community Medicine. Before entering academia, she served as a Community Medicine Specialist at the Ministry of Health. Specializing in Epidemiology, Health Economics/Healthcare financing, Health Policy, and Applied Epidemiology.

Prof. Anuji Gamage has made valuable contributions to the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the management of their risk factors. Her work in the economic evaluation of health technologies and healthcare financing has been particularly noteworthy. In addition to her research endeavours, she is a committed educator, imparting knowledge in undergraduate and postgraduate courses on epidemiology, health economics, and research methods while mentoring the next generation of health professionals. With an impressive track record of publications and presentations, she plays a vital role in fostering collaboration between research and policy to facilitate meaningful health reforms in Sri Lanka.

### **SPEAKER - PLENARY SESSION 04**

**“Translational Research and Innovation: From Bench to Bedside in Sri Lankan Medicine”**

## Translational Research and Innovation: From Bench to Bedside in Sri Lankan Medicine

**Prof. Anuji Upekshika Gamage**

Research serves as a vital tool for national development by generating evidence-based insights that inform policy, drive innovation and thereby strengthen existing services, leading to improved health outcomes, and thereby support economic growth and a sustainable future. However, currently, optimizing the use of research for evidence-informed decision-making remains an underutilized opportunity in Sri Lanka. Hence, adopting a culture of research-use in policymaking is not only a scientific imperative but also a practical necessity amid constrained fiscal space and competing development priorities.

Despite its potential, health research in Sri Lanka encounters significant barriers. These include limited and inconsistent funding; although government allocations for research and development (R&D) show a positive trend, the overall expenditure as a percentage of GDP remains low compared to other countries worldwide. Additionally, there are gaps in infrastructure and laboratory capacity, as well as a shortage of trained researchers and diversity in research topics. Fragmented collaborations and weak linkages between academia, clinicians, public-health units, and policymakers hinder the effective translation of research into action and lead to duplication of work. Furthermore, ethical and regulatory bottlenecks, such as slow ethics review processes and bureaucratic hurdles, delay research timelines. Research waste, refers to the loss of time, resources, and funding on studies that are poorly designed, irrelevant, unpublished, or not used to inform policy or practice. It represents a significant waste of investment as it fails to generate a meaningful impact, undermines trust in science, and diverts limited resources away from research that could improve health outcomes.

Biomedical and laboratory-based research is currently limited due to infrastructure and funding constraints. In contrast, public health and epidemiological studies are more established. There is significant potential for development in clinical and implementation research, which are essential for translating scientific advances into scalable interventions. Implementation research offers context-specific insights into what works, for whom, and under what conditions, or why something isn't working, especially when scaling up essential services, which is crucial at this moment. Additionally, research focused on health systems and policy, healthcare financing mechanisms, workforce distribution, and equity in service delivery is crucial for informing efforts toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and suggested health sector reforms in Sri Lanka. Emphasis on commercialization of research is a need of the hour, leading to economic growth and societal benefits.

As such, there is growing recognition of the need to foster a research ecosystem that promotes translational research, bridging the gap between discoveries and real-world applications. Establishing multi-institutional platforms for priority setting, research funding, and knowledge sharing can reduce research waste, duplication and maximize synergies. Digital health and data systems improve research by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and scalability. Digitalization makes health research more timely, cost-effective, and responsive to emerging health needs.

Health economics and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) serve as vital policy tools to enhance research efficiency by ensuring that limited resources are directed toward interventions that offer the greatest value for money. They facilitate evidence-informed decision-making by systematically evaluating the economic and equity impact of health technologies and services, aligning research priorities with national health goals, and ensuring that innovation does not compromise equity or financial sustainability.

## **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**2:30 PM – 3:00 PM**

**"The Vision and Future Direction of the SLMC: A New Medical Act for Sri Lanka"**

Vidya Jyothi Prof. H. Janaka De Silva  
Council Member, SLMC

**Vidya Jyothi Prof. H. Janaka De Silva**

*MBBS (Colombo), MD (Colombo), DPhil (Oxon), FRCP (London), FCCP, FNAS (SL), Hon. DSc (Kln), FRACP, FRCP (Thailand), FCGP (SL), FRCP (Glasgow)*  
*Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Kelaniya*  
*Member, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Janaka De Silva is Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya and a specialist physician. De Silva was Chair Professor of Medicine for over 26 years and served for nine years as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. He was also Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, a member of the University Grants Commission, and Chairman of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka.

De Silva holds degrees from the Universities of Colombo and Oxford, and Fellowships of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka, the Royal Colleges of Physicians of London, Glasgow, Australasia, and Thailand, and the Ceylon College of Physicians of which he was President in 2004. He served as an ex-officio member of the SLMC from 1999-2004 and is currently an elected member of the Council.

He has wide research interests, and has co-authored over 320 peer publications in indexed journals with an h-index of 66. De Silva has held several editorial appointments and served on committees in health and research organizations, including the WHO, Wellcome Trust and National Institute of Health Research, UK. He was conferred an honorary DSc by his University; and was awarded the national titular honour Vidya Jyothi – Sri Lanka's highest honour for science.

## The Vision and Future Direction of the SLMC: A New Medical Act for Sri Lanka

**Vidya Jyothi Prof. H. Janaka de Silva**

The Sri Lanka Medical Council has evolved, albeit very gradually. It was only recently categorized legally as a state enterprise. Over the years, much has been achieved, with due processes in place for licensing of medical, dental and allied health practitioners, accreditation, conduct of legal matters, and the administration and audit of its finances. However, adapting to current global trends in medical education and practice, and fulfilling the needs and expectations of a more demanding society have been constrained by our 100-year-old Medical Ordinance, drawn up when we were a part of the British Empire.

Globally, legislation for regulation of the medical profession has become more accommodative of modern societal needs. The same claim cannot be made regarding our own legislation, even with its 32 amendments. The present Council's vision for the future is to rectify these shortcomings by means of drafting a new Medical Act, focused primarily on public safety in healthcare, and one that would improve trust in the regulator. The new draft Medical Act has revised the manner in which the Council would be constituted with, for the first time, inclusion of non-medical members, and having a balance of appointed and elected members. Attempts have been made to rectify shortcomings in the old Ordinance with special attention being paid to matters such as patients' rights, professional ethics and fitness to practice, the regulation of advertising, quality assurance and setting standards in medical, dental and allied health education, dealing with complaints, and interim prohibition orders for dealing with unregistered individuals ("quacks" – a lingering national problem), The draft document, which was approved unanimously by the Council, is now at the stage of obtaining the necessary approvals before it can be formally enacted.

# **CHAIR & MODERATED AUDIENCE DISCUSSION**

**3.00 PM – 3:20 PM**

**“SLMC’s Future”**

Dr. Sunil R. Wijayasinghe  
Council Member, SLMC

## Dr. Sunil Ranjith Wijayasinghe

*MBBS (Colombo), MS (Colombo), FRCS (Edin)*

*Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children*

*Member, Sri Lanka Medical Council*



Sunil Ranjith Wijayasinghe is currently the Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children (Teaching), Colombo 8 in Sri Lanka.

He is also a past President of The Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association and Vice President of The Sri Lanka Spinal Cord Network (SLscon).

For 20 years, Sunil Ranjith Wijayasinghe has worked as an Orthopaedic Surgeon in Sri Lanka. He has served in General Hospital Anuradhapura, Provincial Hospital Ratnapura and District General Hospital Kalutara prior to coming to LRH.

After completing his undergraduate and post-graduate studies at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, he obtained his FRCS at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1999. He was Board Certified as a Specialist in Orthopaedic Surgery by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo in 2000.

He has completed several international fellowships including; Recipient of POSNA – COUR Paediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship, Rady's Children's Hospital, San Diego, USA (April 2014), Fellowship on treatment of clubfoot (Ponseti Method), University of Iowa, USA (2012), Paediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship, CMC, Vellore, India (2012), and, Paediatric Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship, University of Texas, USA (2011).

He has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and delivered several lectures in Paediatric Orthopaedics locally and internationally.

Sunil Ranjith Wijayasinghe also has experience as an Examiner and Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Colombo and Sri Jayewardenepura. In addition, he has been an Examiner in MD Orthopaedics and Trauma, Specialty Board in Orthopaedic Surgery, PGIM at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is also a Member of the Specialty Board in Orthopaedic Surgery, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

He is currently a Council Member of the Sri Lanka Orthopaedic Association and was previously the Secretary of the Association (2007–2010)

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**FROM 3:20 PM**

### **“Summary of the Proceedings”**

Prof. Ranil Fernando,  
Chairperson of Centenary Celebrations Committee, SLMC

### **“Vote of Thanks”**

Dr. H.D.B. Herath, Registrar, SLMC

## Prof. Ranil Fernando

*M.S. (Col), FRCS (Edin), FRCS(Eng), FCPS (Pakistan), FASI (India), FCSSL (Sri Lanka), PhD (Col)*

*Founder Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka*

*Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka*

*Consultant Surgeon*



Prof. Ranil Fernando is an eminent academic surgeon and a pioneer in medical education in Sri Lanka. He currently serves as Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya and Visiting Senior Professor at the University of Moratuwa, where he holds the distinction of being the Founder Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

With a distinguished career in surgery and academia, Prof. Fernando has made substantial contributions to clinical practice, research, and medical leadership. He has delivered five orations and three memorial lectures, both nationally and internationally. A highly sought-after speaker, he has presented 45 invited lectures internationally and 65 locally.

His academic contributions are prolific. He co-authored the book “The Technique of Thyroidectomy and Its Evolution” and has contributed to chapters in nine books, seven internationally and two nationally. His journal publications include 25 international publications (including two reviews), 35 national articles (including two leading articles), and 12 local papers. His PhD thesis on the “Epidemiology of Goitres in Sri Lanka” is archived at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.

Prof. Fernando serves on the editorial boards of the World Journal of Endocrine Surgery and the Ceylon Medical Journal. He has held numerous esteemed positions, including Immediate Past Vice President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, Past President of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka (2013), Past President of the Galle Medical Association (1998–1999), and President of the Association of Endocrine Surgeons of Sri Lanka. He also serves as an international advisor to the Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons.

In recognition of his outstanding service and academic excellence, Prof. Fernando has received six international awards, 15 national and local accolades, and seven faculty awards.

Prof. Ranil Fernando continues to influence the fields of surgery and medical education through his leadership, mentorship, and dedication to academic excellence.

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Centenary Celebrations