

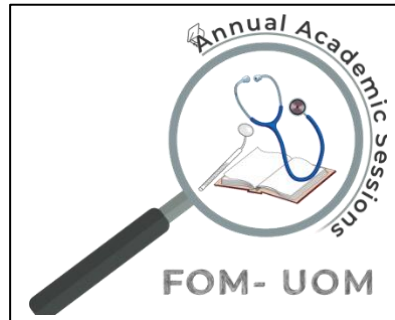


ANNUAL ACADEMIC SESSIONS 2024



**"Fostering Collaborations: Key to Excellence in
Healthcare"**

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & ABSTRACTS



**1st Annual Academic Sessions of the
Faculty of Medicine
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka**

**Conference proceedings and
Abstracts of Oral and Poster Presentations**

Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa proudly presents the
inaugural Annual Academic Sessions and the student research
papers of the first batch (Intake 2020).

Message from the Dean, Faculty of Medicine



The research week is a prestigious event showcasing the research output of the University of Moratuwa (UOM). It is an eagerly awaited event in the academic calendar of UOM.

The faculty of Medicine being the ‘youngest’ faculty at UOM, is truly pleased to host the first Annual Academic Sessions of the Medical faculty of UOM. It is an honour to share a few thoughts, on this landmark occasion.

Research is such an integral part of the life of a university students and academics alike. An event like the research week of UOM of which the Annual Academic sessions is a part, is an ideal opportunity to display the research activity. The annual academic sessions of the Medical Faculty provides the medical students and academics to present their findings. A collection of 10 orals and 30 poster presentation is a good ‘harvest’ for an inaugural academic session. The research output will grow exponentially in the coming years

I wish to congratulate the organizing committee of the conference and the editorial committee for the excellent work they have done, despite many challenges faced by the medical faculty. In keeping with the theme of "Fostering Collaborations: Key to Excellence in Healthcare" there are several presentations submitted by the medical technology stream (MTS) which is unique to the medical faculty UOM, as it is the only medical faculty with MTS stream included in the curriculum. Undoubtedly the future of medicine will inextricably be linked to technology in the future. It is the fervent hope of the medical faculty that many more collaborations which will provide novel solutions to health care problems will emerge.

I am confident that the sessions will provide an excellent forum to exchange ideas and develop new research questions for the future.

I wish the Annual sessions every success.

Prof Ranil Fernando

MS (Col), FRCS(Edin), FRCS(Eng.), FCPS (Pakistan), FAIS (India), FCS (Sri Lanka) PhD (Col)
Emeritus Professor of Surgery University of Kelaniya
Consultant Surgeon
Past President College of Surgeons
Vice President SLMC
Dean Faculty of Medicine Moratuwa

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Programme Overview

8.00 am	Registration
8.45 am	Arrival of the Chief Guest
9.00 am	Ceremonial Procession
9.10 am	Faculty Anthem
9.20 am	Lighting of the traditional oil lamp
9.30 am	Welcome address Professor F. Ranil Fernando Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Kelaniya Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa
9.35 am	Address by the Guest of Honour Vidya Jyothi Professor Vajira H. W. Dissanayake Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
9.40 am	Address by the Chief Guest Vidya Jyothi Professor H. Janaka de Silva Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
9.50 am	Key note speech Professor Kemal Deen Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Kelaniya
10.30 am	Plenary on “Empowering Doctors of the future” Professor F. Ranil Fernando Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Kelaniya Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa
11.00 am	Vote of Thanks
11.10 am	Tea
11.30 am	Symposium on “Doctor for the next decade: are we ready for the challenge?” - Dr. Vinya S. Ariyaratne President, Sarvodaya Shramadama Movement - Dr. P. K. Buddhika Mahesh Consultant Community Physician – Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Colombo - Dr. Pranjeevan Kulasingham Senior Lecturer, Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	Free paper presentation
4.00 pm	Awards ceremony
4.05 pm	National Anthem

Conference Proceedings

Chief Guest



Vidya Jyothi Professor H. Janaka de Silva
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Vidya Jyothi Professor H. Janaka de Silva is a Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya. He was the Chair Professor of Medicine for over 26 years and served for 9 years as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. He was also the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, a member of the University Grants Commission, and the Chairman of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka.

Prof. De Silva holds degrees from the Universities of Colombo (MBBS and MD) and Oxford, (PhD), 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. He was the President of the Ceylon College of Physicians in 2004. He also is currently an elected member of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

He has wide research interests, and has co-authored over 320 publications in indexed journals with an h-index of 65. He has received the inaugural Committee of Vice-Chancellors' and Directors' Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in Medical & Allied Sciences, and his name is listed in the world's top 2% of scientists compiled by Stanford University, USA.

Prof. 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 honor for science.

Guest of Honour



Vidya Jyothi Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake

Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Senior Professor (Chair) of Anatomy, Genetics and Biomedical Informatics

President, Sri Lanka Medical Council

Professor Vajira H. W. Dissanayake [MBBS (Colombo), PhD (Nottingham), FNASSL, FIAHSI, FCMA and FRCP (Lond)] is the Dean of the Faculty and Senior Professor (Chair) of the Department of Anatomy, Genetics, and Biomedical Informatics of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. He has spearheaded numerous pioneering initiatives in the fields of genetics, genomics, biomedical informatics and biotheics in Sri Lanka and globally. With an h-index of 26, i-10 index of 82, and 2937 citations he is the leading researcher in these fields in Sri Lanka. In recognition of his scientific achievements he was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka in 2013 – the youngest fellow of the Academy at that time, a fellow of the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics in 2020 – the first Sri Lankan fellow of the Academy, and conferred the Sri Lankan national titular honour of *Vidya Jyothi* in 2019 on the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

Keynote speaker



Professor Kemal Deen

Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Kelaniya
Consultant Gastrointestinal Surgeon

Professor Kemal Deen is a distinguished Consultant Surgeon and a Professor Emeritus at the University of Kelaniya, with over two decades of exemplary contribution to surgery, research, and medical education. He is a specialist in Gastrointestinal Surgery. Prof. Deen's research has significantly advanced our understanding of anal sphincter structure and function, and improved surgical outcomes for rectal cancer and colitis patients.

After completing his medical training at the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Deen pursued advanced surgical training in the UK and USA, earning his MD from the University of Birmingham and receiving recognition as an outstanding surgical resident at the University of Minnesota. His pioneering work in creating a neo-anal sphincter and ultrasound imaging of anal sphincters has left an indelible mark on the field.

As the Founder Professor of Surgery at the University of Kelaniya, he has published over 130 peer-reviewed papers and 45 book chapters, achieving an h-index of 29. His research on sphincter-preserving colorectal cancer operations and large bowel cancer in young patients continues to be widely cited. Prof. Deen has also made significant contributions to healthcare infrastructure in Sri Lanka, notably establishing the country's first enterostomal therapy nursing program and patient support services.

A past President of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology, Prof. Deen has served as a Visiting Professor at several international universities. His leadership extends beyond medicine, having chaired the Arthur C Clarke Centre and contributed to the development of Sri Lanka's nanosatellite program and the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa.

Plenary



Professor Ranil Fernando

Dean, Faculty of Medicine University of Moratuwa
Emeritus Professor of Surgery, University of Kelaniya
Consultant Surgeon

Professor Ranil Fernando is a distinguished academic, surgeon, and an educator. He currently serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa. He is an Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the University of Kelaniya. He has carved an illustrious path in medicine and surgery, contributing significantly to academia and healthcare both nationally and internationally.

Professor Fernando's academic credentials are unparalleled, with accolades including an MS (Col), and a PhD from the University of Colombo. His ground-breaking PhD research focused on the epidemiology of goitres in Sri Lanka.

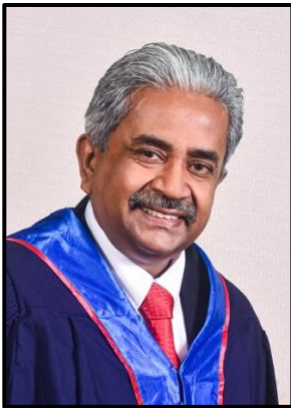
Being a prolific contributor to academic literature, Professor Fernando has authored the seminal book *The Technique of Thyroidectomy and its Evolution* alongside six international and two national book chapters. His research portfolio includes several publications in international and national peer-reviewed journals. He also has delivered over 100 invited lectures globally and locally, alongside five prestigious orations and three memorial lectures.

He is an influential member of the Sri Lanka Medical Council and the Board of Management of the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine. Professor Fernando's leadership extends to editorial roles in esteemed journals like the *World Journal of Endocrine Surgery* and the *Ceylon Medical Journal*. His presidency of organisations such as the College of Surgeons and the Association of Endocrine Surgeons of Sri Lanka and Galle Medical Association underscores his pivotal role in advancing surgical education. He also is an international advisor to the Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons.

Professor Fernando, an awardee of numerous accolades locally and internationally, continues to inspire excellence in surgical practice, research, and medical education worldwide.

Symposium - “Doctor for the next decade: are we ready for the challenge?”

Symposium speakers



Dr. Vinya S. Ariyaratne

President

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

Immediate Past President – Sri Lanka Medical Association

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne is a Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine and is the President of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement. He is the Immediate Past President (2023) of Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA). Dr. Ariyaratne is a Past President and Fellow of the College of Community Physicians of Sri Lanka (CCPSL). As a senior Community Physician, Dr. Ariyaratne possesses extensive experience in public health, community development, disaster management, nutrition, child health, working with war affected communities and internally displaced persons. He has been actively involved in COVID-19 prevention and control work in Sri Lanka and serves as the Co-chair of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team - Health Cluster. Dr. Ariyaratne was also engaged in programmes related to emergency responses to the socio-economic crisis, particularly in food security and nutrition. As the President of the SLMA in 2023, in addition to conducting the routine activities, he conducted extensive advocacy work towards promoting Patients' Rights and better governance in the health sector.



Dr. P. K. Buddhika Mahesh

Consultant Community Physician

Office of the Regional Director of Health Services - Colombo

Dr. P.K. Buddhika Mahesh is a Consultant Community Physician with expertise in health research, biostatistics, and health system development. With an MD and MSc in Community Medicine, he has significantly contributed to the global and local public health landscape through extensive research, teaching, and consultancies. He has a strong academic presence, evidenced by his h-index of 13 and over 500 citations.

Dr. Mahesh has been an active academic editor for PLoS ONE and a reviewer for more than ten international journals, including those focused on neurology, public health, and clinical medicine. His research portfolio includes pioneering studies on verbal autopsy, post-stroke quality of life and public health implications of chronic diseases.

Internationally, Dr. Mahesh has collaborated on training and program development initiatives in countries like Australia, Vietnam, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. His work has been instrumental in advancing civil registration systems and enhancing public health workforce capabilities through training and evaluation.

Dr. Mahesh's dedication to academia and public health has earned him multiple awards, including National Research Council merit recognitions and top honours for research presentations. He has also successfully supervised research projects at esteemed institutions, such as the University of Melbourne.

Committed to innovation in public health, Dr. Mahesh continues to bridge gaps between research, policy, and practice, impacting health systems and improving population health outcomes globally.



Dr. Pranjeevan Kulasingham

Senior Lecturer

Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Dr. Pranjeevan Kulasingham completed his BSc. at the Dept. of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa and his PhD at the University of Maryland, USA. His PhD research was on using MEG to model the neural processing of speech. Later, he worked on EEG for hearing aid applications during his postdoctoral research at the University of Linköping, Sweden. He recently joined the University of Moratuwa and focuses on the Biomedical Engineering degree programme.