



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

"CHILD HEALTH: NAVIGATING THROUGH CRISES"



SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS



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This document highlights the activities carried out by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians during the tenure of the present Council headed by the President, Professor Guwani Liyanage under the theme “*Child Health: Navigating through crises*”.

Year 2022-2023 was a challenging tenure with record-high inflation, power shortages, a crippling fuel crisis and economic collapse. Despite all obstacles, the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians has accomplished its vision and mission. It was an unprecedented year for the SLCP.

A broad range of topics, including humanitarian projects, continuous professional development, school education, research and advocacy, were addressed with the focus on improving child health.

Collaborative research on autism was initiated in partnership with the Family Health Bureau, funded by the National Institute of Health & Care Research (NIHR) of the UK, and similar projects were carried out on nutrition in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF. The research skills in Paediatric trainees were fostered through "*Research AID*", a dynamic website that offers free online mentoring and resources. New awards were introduced to felicitate members who engaged in research and delivered remarkable service to the paediatric fraternity.

A subcommittee of SLCP liaised with the Ministry of Health to bring long-term solutions to the Paediatric workforce issue.

Amendments to the constitution were made to strengthen the existing articles and to introduce new long-awaited articles. A College building project was commenced to expand the office space to cater all the needs of our members.

Following the economic crisis, the demand for essential medicines and consumables rose exponentially. Medical donation project was designed to respond to meet the need of the hour. Overall, 120 centres across the island have benefited through these endeavours. This venture will become a permanent philanthropic arm of the College for the foreseeable future.

Addressing undernutrition was a gigantic task. The first move was to conduct webinars on screening, early identification, referrals, and treatment of undernutrition targeted towards first-contact doctors of all nine provinces. A multi-centre cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the effect of the economic crisis on child nutrition. SLCP played a major role in designing "*National Emergency Nutrition Plan*" for the Ministry of Health. A unique "**Feed a Child**" programme was commenced based on the National Emergency Nutrition plan for children under five years with severe and moderate acute malnutrition. This initiative included supplying dry rations for a duration of 6 months to the selected families and parent/family empowerment for sustainable food security.

Teamwork, unity, resilience were the engines that drove the quest towards the provision of holistic care for the children of Sri Lanka. The College gratefully rises to salute and thank every individual who has contributed his or her services and contributions financially and otherwise, towards the variegated activities of our institution in this hour of need.

School education is indispensable to a child's health. The relevant sub-committee was appointed to target all conflicting issues concerning school education. Since last year, the committee was involved in advancing research opportunities, developing educational material, formulating a childhood development course and collaborating with the National Institute of Education and the Ministry of Health to ensure the provision of uninterrupted education.

The annual congress became a challenge in a time of uncertainty. However, the College had put together a comprehensive academic programme covering a wide scope of timely topics, delivered by an esteemed faculty of local and international speakers.

Amidst ongoing calamities, the College thrived to accomplish all these set goals this year. The efforts of the College have succeeded, ensuring the conclusion of a successful and memorable year. Throughout this time, we have not merely seen individual dedication and diligence, but rather a united organization striving to attain one unanimous goal by putting a combined shoulder to the wheel of necessity.

This report outlines most of the achievements of this year. All these were possible due to the tireless efforts of the Council, the membership as well as the Administrative Staff of the College, all of whom are gratefully appreciated.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The Annual General Meeting to appoint the current Council 2022-2023 was held on the 11th of June 2022 physically at the SLCP Auditorium, No.44/1, Gnanartha Pradeepa Mawatha, Colombo-08. This meeting was chaired by the outgoing president, Professor Shaman Rajindrajith.

The following life members attended the AGM: Professor Shaman Rajindrajith, Professor Guwani Liyanage, Professor Vasantha Devasiri, Dr Maxie Fernandopulle, Dr N P S Gunarathne, Professor Narada Warnasuriya, Professor Harendra de Silva, Professor Deepthi Samarage, Dr BJC Perera, Professor Asvini D. Fernando, Dr Kosala Karunaratne, Dr R. Ajanthan, Dr Srilal de Silva, Dr LakKumar Fernando, Dr Duminda Samarasinghe, Dr Surantha Perera, Dr Pyara Ratnayake, Professor Heshan Jayaweera, Professor Sachith Mettananda, Dr Udaya de Silva, Dr LPC Saman Kumara, Professor Randula Ranawaka, Dr S. Krishnapradeep, Dr Chryshanth Dalpatadu, Dr Aruna de Silva, Dr Channa de Silva, Dr Amali C. Dalpatadu, Dr Rukmal Gunathilake, Dr Prasad Chathurangana, Dr Viraj Jayasinghe, Dr Dilini Vipulaguna.

The outgoing President, Professor Shaman Rajindrajith made the welcome address. Then the secretary, Dr Channa De Silva highlighted the key activities and achievements of the College during the previous tenure. Following that, Professor Deepthi Samarage presented the Treasurer's report. On behalf of the election panel, Dr Maxie Fernandopulle announced the names of the newly elected members for the year 2022/2023.

The following Office Bearers and the Council were elected uncontested:

<i>President:</i>	Professor Guwani Liyanage
<i>President-Elect:</i>	Dr Kosala Karunaratne
<i>Vice President:</i>	Dr Duminda Samarasinghe
<i>Immediate Past President:</i>	Professor Shaman Rajindrajith
<i>Secretary:</i>	Dr Amali C Dalpatadu
<i>Assistant Secretary:</i>	Dr Rukmal Gunathilake
<i>Immediate Past Secretary:</i>	Dr Channa de Silva
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Professor Deepthi Samarage
<i>Assistant Treasurer:</i>	Professor Randula Ranawaka
<i>Public Relations Officer</i>	Dr Prasad Chathurangana
<i>National Coordinator of Education & Training</i>	Dr Srilal de Silva
<i>Joint Editors</i>	Dr BJC Perera Dr GN Lucas

Council Members

Professor Sanath P. Lamabadusuriya

Professor Harendra de Silva

Professor Asvini D. Fernando

Dr LakKumar Fernando

Professor Ishani Rodrigo

Dr Surantha Perera

Professor Heshan Jayaweera

Professor Sachith Mettananda

Professor Manori Gamage

Subspecialty Representatives

Dr Pyara Ratnayake

Dr Nalin C. Kitulwatte

Dr LPC Saman Kumara

Dr Meranthi Fernando

Dr Dilini Vipulaguna

Provincial Representatives

Dr Saman Abeywardena

Dr Udaya de Silva

Dr V Thadchanamoorthy

Dr Aruna de Silva

Dr S Krishnapradeep

Web Editors

Dr Asanga Rajapakse

Dr Jagath Ranasinghe

COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS

2022/2023



Seated L/R Dr Amali C Dalpatadu, Prof Sanath P Lamabadusuriya, Prof Harendra de Silva, Dr Duminda Samarasinghe, Dr Kosala Karunaratne, Prof Guwani Liyanage, Prof Shaman Rajindrajith, Dr GN Lucas, Dr BJC Perera, Prof Deepthi Samarage, Dr Rukmal Gunathilake

Standing L/R

Dr Pyara Ratnayake, Dr Prasad Chathurangana, Dr LakKumar Fernando, Prof Ishani Rodrigo
1st Row Prof Asvini D Fernando, Prof Heshan Jayaweera, Dr Srilal de Silva, Dr Surantha Perera,
Prof Sachith Mettananda, Dr Channa de Silva, Prof Manori Gamage, Prof Randula Ranawaka

2nd Row Dr Dilini Vipulaguna, Dr Udaya de Silva, Dr. Asanga Rajapakse, Dr S Krishnapradeep, Dr Aruna de Silva,
Dr LPC Saman Kumara, Dr Nalin Kitulwatte, Dr Saman Abeywardene, Dr V Thadchanamoorthy,
Dr. ORJC Ranasinghe, Dr Meranthi Fernando

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

INDUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The Induction Ceremony of the President, Professor Guwani Liyanage as the 24th President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians took place on the 18th of September 2022 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, with Senior Professor Narada Warnasuriya as the Chief Guest and Dr Asela Gunawardena, Director General of Health Services as the Special Guest. The event was postponed several times due to the prevailing economic constraints and civil disturbances. It was scheduled with the Council's guidance in keeping with the traditions of the College despite the newly elected President's priority on charitable pursuits.

The Outgoing President, Professor Shaman Rajindrajith, highlighted the achievements of the previous Council and introduced and inducted the current President.

As the newly inducted President Professor Guwani Liyanage stated, the SLCP had reached greater heights over the years, with the great commitment of the Past Presidents and all paediatricians and paediatric subspecialists who helped this organisation to do the very best for the children of this country.

SLCP as a team can take this great organisation to even greater heights, accomplish its vision, serve the children in this country with compassion and equity, and lead this world to become a better place, for our children to live in.

She further emphasised that the mission of the College is to facilitate the advancement of paediatric healthcare in the country, influence policy decisions, support and sustain continuous professional development of child healthcare personnel while promoting collaboration amongst the paediatricians.

She presented the following programmes to be implemented, and to be continued during her tenure:

1. **Medical donations:** The need for the College to step out of our main objectives and shoulder wider social responsibilities related to child health was explained. A dedicated website was developed by Dr Duminda Samarasinghe in response to local and overseas donors who came forward for medical donations. The distribution of medicines worth over 150 million Sri Lankan rupees was noteworthy. The need for safe and cost-effective prescribing was reiterated.
2. **The Feed a Child programme:** A state-of-the-art project in collaboration with many governmental and non-governmental organisations, designed to improve food security among vulnerable populations was elaborated. With this effort in Nuwara Eliya, a concept model, with a much-needed sectoral collaboration in public-private partnerships is being implemented to manage children with malnutrition and to

empower their families; a programme that could be adopted and adapted to all other districts.

3. **A scientific basis for cadre allocation:** With the required health workers on board, aiming to achieve the finest care, even at the furthest corner of our island.
 4. **Continue to influence policies:** To ensure that child health remains high on the agenda by targeting the leaders and policymakers with the most power to influence decision-making endeavours.
 5. **School education:** Urging the relevant policymakers to avoid further learning losses. A SLCP subcommittee is working on improving several aspects of school education.
 6. **Research:** Encourage and support multi-centre studies. Introduction of specific research awards to recognize the best research publications in national and international journals which would encourage trainees and college members to publish their original work.
 7. Support ongoing **educational activities** and introduction of new activities.
 8. **Collaboration** with other organizations
-

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met monthly in a hybrid format during the tenure and the attendance at these meetings is outlined below.

	Present	Excused
Professor Guwani Liyanage	12	00
Dr Kosala Karunaratne	12	00
Dr Duminda Samarasinghe	12	00
Professor Shaman Rajindrajith	12	00
Dr Amali C Dalpatadu	11	01
Dr Rukmal Gunathilake	09	03
Dr Channa de Silva	11	01
Professor Deepthi Samarage	12	00
Professor Randula Ranawaka	11	01
Dr PWP Chathurangana	10	02
Dr Srilal de Silva	12	00
Professor Sanath P Lamabadusuriya	09	03
Professor Harendra de Silva	10	02
Professor Asvini D. Fernando	09	03
Dr LakKumar Fernando	11	01
Professor Ishani Rodrigo	12	00
Dr Surantha Perera	12	00
Professor Heshan Jayaweera	11	01
Professor Sachith Mettananda	11	01
Professor Manori Gamage	11	01
Dr BJC Perera	11	01
Dr GN Lucas	09	03
Dr Pyara Ratnayake	12	00
Dr Nalin C. Kitulwatte	12	00
Dr LPC Saman Kumara	10	02
Dr Meranthi Fernando	12	00
Dr Dilini Vipulaguna	11	01
Dr Saman Abeywardena	11	01
Dr Udaya de Silva	12	00
Dr V Thadchanamoorthy	11	01
Dr Aruna de Silva	12	00
Dr S Krishnapradeep	10	02
Dr Asanga Rajapakse	05	07
Dr Jagath Ranasinghe	05	07

SERVICE COMPONENT

1. IMPROVING CHILD WELL-BEING

1.1. Emergency Nutrition Programme – Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians’ response to the national crisis

The year 2022 dawned with an ominous era of economic instability in Sri Lanka with food insecurity and making the vulnerable populations at risk of worsening malnutrition.

This was of seminal significance, as it severely affected the child population of Sri Lanka. That perception tugged hard at the heartstrings of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, and it was therefore incumbent upon the College to try its utmost to try to ease the situation.

A subcommittee appointed on Nutrition by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians took over the challenge with a three-pronged approach.

1.1.1. Feed a Child Programme – Ensuring Food Security

Nuwara Eliya

The College assembled all interested parties and potential donors and decided to start the ‘**Feed a Child**’ programme.

It began as a pilot project in the central hills of Nuwara Eliya, the selection being based on documented evidence of the district as one with a very high prevalence of childhood malnutrition. It is an underprivileged district in Sri Lanka with a population of 697,523 and a rough estimate of 54,380 of the total district population being younger than the age of 5 years. The nutritional status assessment provided abiding evidence of malnutrition. The number of under-5-year-olds with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was around 800 and the number of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) was around 5000 in the same age group.

The ‘*Feed a Child*’ humanitarian project was the brainchild of the incumbent President, to support vulnerable children during a crisis. Blessed by her Council and the Membership of the SLCP, a project was formulated. It was the foundation for a much-needed, larger nationwide project. As funding was initially deemed a dire task, the membership stepped in together with friends and family members of the Council to support the initiative from the outset of the programme. The plan for the provision of essential dry food rations to needy families at fixed regular fortnightly intervals with close observation drew the required limelight onto the programme, attracting several charitable organizations to sponsor the initiative. *Sunshine Group, Roshan Mahanama Trust, Hemas Holdings, Red Cross, SOS villages, Ninewells*

Hospital and Raise Sri Lanka are a few of the noteworthy contributing organizations, both national and international. *Mr. Roshan Mahanama*, renowned cricketer, stepped forward as the brand ambassador of the programme.

The Feed a Child Programme was launched in 2 selected Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas in the Nuwara Eliya District on the **31st of August 2022**. The first distribution commenced in the Nuwara Eliya MOH area and was conducted over 4 weeks to oversee the logistics of the process before initiating the rest. Feed a Child Nutrition Food Packs with dry rations worth 3200 Sri Lankan Rupees were given to carefully selected families with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children in the Nuwara Eliya MOH area every two weeks.

Severe Malnutrition was confirmed with accurate anthropometric measurements. This project was coordinated and conducted under the direct supervision of 4 Consultant Paediatricians of the District of Nuwara Eliya. Then the rest of the MOH areas were recruited with their selected children into the project in a stepwise manner to cover the entire district. All activities were kept recorded. Interim meetings with MOHs, Public Health Midwives, Public Health Nurses, and local Consultant Paediatricians were conducted to assess progress. The SLCP team, though geographically distant, kept constant contact through online meetings.

Simultaneously, all MOHs were instructed to conduct sessions on preparing nutritious food from the provided dry rations. Consultant Paediatricians were present on-site to guide and encourage them, as well as to observe the procedures and provide advice. Nutritious, low-cost recipes were introduced to supplement the nutrition while constant monitoring kept the programme functioning.

In addition, the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians with their official media partner Derana Television and Waters Edge Hotels instigated a project called "**One Pot Sri Lanka**"; an initiative by SLCP to guide mothers and midwives. Consultant Paediatricians from Nuwara Eliya district agreed to visit the distribution/weighing centres for the smooth functioning of the project.

There were **716** children at the inception of the programme.

The current assessment shows that compared to the status at the beginning, the number of children with anthropometrically confirmed malnutrition has reduced. Additionally, this programme has avoided the progression of several children from SAM to a life-threateningly worse state and a significant proportion of children have improved their nutritional state and progressed from SAM to MAM.

After the first 6 months of completion of the Feed a Child Programme in Nuwara Eliya, the programme will officially end. However, this set protocol can be extrapolated to any district or even the entire country, as a model to eliminate SAM related to inadequate nutrition.

Anuradhapura

Anuradhapura District was selected for the second phase of the Feed a Child Programme, due to the documented high malnutrition rates.

On **18th February 2023**, the Feed a Child Anuradhapura Programme was launched at the *Nochchiyagama* Divisional Hospital auditorium. Members from SLCP, Ministry of Health officials, local Paediatricians and medical officers and parents and children selected for the programme, were in attendance. Nutrition food packs were successfully distributed to families who met the Feed a Child Programme criteria. All **23 MOH** areas have been recruited to the programme to date. A total of **508** children were selected for the project, after considering the poverty factor.

In addition, the beneficiaries will receive low-cost nutritious recipes and education on proper nutrition. This programme will be continued for 6 months.

Gampaha

A group of engineers have agreed to fund the Feed a Child programme in the Gampaha District. Under the auspices of SLCP, the Programme was successfully carried out in the Gampaha district for 50 beneficiaries. This project was commenced in **March 2023**.

1.1.2. Family Empowerment Programme

The SLCP realised quite early that the provision of dry rations may not be the total answer to the ongoing crises. The family empowerment programme launched on the **27th of March 2023** will continue to fulfil the daily needs of food while uplifting the financial condition of the families.

Infrastructure development was done to initiate and support poultry and home gardening. SLCP collaborated with all local stakeholders through the Divisional Secretariats of the areas involved.

The Honorary Treasurer of the SLCP was instrumental in providing support for home gardening, mushroom cultivation and poultry for the identified families by collaborating with the local Divisional Secretariat Office, Veterinary Officers, and Agriculture Officers, to provide guidance, high-quality seeds, and chicks. The programme will be monitored and guided right through by the local teams and the SLCP.

The initial discussions took place online and the inauguration was graced by members of the SLCP. Three main projects were recognized for this venture: mushroom cultivation, home gardening, and quail/poultry farming. The empowerment programme is being carried out in full scale ensuring food security.

A few more donors have shown interest in the empowerment programme in the Anuradhapura District in which the logistics are being carried out, by recognizing the needy families and the

projects to ponder. This will lay the foundation for a larger national-level proposal to address food insecurity in affected communities.

1.1.3. Education arm of the Emergency Nutrition Programme

A programme was conducted in all 9 provinces to improve the knowledge of recognition, referral, and management of malnutrition among first-contact doctors and middle-grade paediatric medical officers. The programme was commenced on **21st of September 2022** and was concluded in February 2023.

The programme, titled “**Optimizing Nutrition in Children - Current Challenges and Way Forward**”, targeted 3 provinces at a given time, concluding the workshop with 3 sessions. The following topics were covered at each session.

- *Growth monitoring and promotion services of the preventive health system*
Dr Hiranya Jayawickrama, Head, Nutrition, Family Health Bureau
- *Optimizing childhood nutrition – An interactive discussion*
Prof. Heshan Jayaweera, Professor in Paediatrics, University of Peradeniya
Dr S. Krishnapradeep, Senior lecturer in Paediatrics, University of Peradeniya

1.1.4. Nutrition Surveillance

This was a community-based cross-sectional study of children aged 6-59 months living in Gampaha, Nuwara Eliya, Jaffna and Ratnapura districts. This was conducted from July 2022 to December 2022. Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) and Household Hunger Scale (HHS) were used to assess the level of food insecurity. Results showed that household food insecurity is related to under-5-year malnutrition, and the research paper was presented at the Annual Congress as an oral presentation. The paper won the award for the **best oral platform** presentation of the congress:

“A community-based cross-sectional study on under-5 nutrition and its association with household food insecurity during the economic crisis in Sri Lanka”

D V Vipulaguna, G S H Liyanage, I Rodrigo, G Sathiadas, A Dalpatadu, P W P Chathurangana, J C Ranasinghe, M G U Sampath, D G H De Silva.

1.2. Medical Donation Programme

The economic crisis that has befallen Sri Lanka placed an unprecedented burden on the health system, putting the lives of the children of this country at great risk. Many of our members resorted to seeking help from individual donors known to them personally and professionally. As always, Sri Lankans at home and abroad were ready to rise to the challenges of the occasion and restore the smiles on the faces of our children, provided they were assured that their donations ended up serving those who deserved it. It was at this juncture that the College unanimously decided to step up beyond its advocacy role and took up the onerous task of providing legitimacy to the donations being sought and received.

The college became an institution that walked the talk. To this end, the college expediently organized a task force, comprised of numbers from its members and recruiting affiliated staff, to identify shortages and take all necessary steps to alleviate them. A digital focal point was created, allowing all paediatric units and ICUs to list their urgent medicinal and equipment requirements. A preliminary assessment revealed a dire shortage, far worse than imagined. Demands ranged from simple syringes and dressing material to life-saving intravenous medications, from small peripheral paediatric units to the largest tertiary care centres. With this initial assessment, the task force did a triage of all the requests received, intending to divert available funds to the most pressing needs. The task force also decided that the task force would not handle funds directly, but rather set up our donors with legal suppliers, *further adding to the assurance of integrity and transparency sought by the donors.*

With this system in place, what began as a slow trickle slowly metamorphosed into a steady stream of donations. The donations obtained have been diverted to ensure a bare minimum of supplies such as distilled water for injections, glucose strips, bronchodilator solutions, oral and intravenous antibiotics, anti-epileptic medications, and lifesaving immunosuppressants, to name just a few. Overall, 120 centres spread across the island have benefited through these donations, with the recipient units extending from basic medical units to specialised intensive care units.

The largest proportion of these donations has benefitted the biggest tertiary care paediatric centres in the country, namely the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo and the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialised Children's Hospital in Peradeniya, to cater to their large patient populations. While trying to ensure continuity of care at these institutions, the College has also been ever so conscious of the needs of our peripheral units and has diverted medical supplies to those centres, as deemed necessary, with the Ashraff Memorial Hospital in Kalmunai, District General Hospitals at Chilaw and Vavuniya and Base Hospitals at Wathupitiwala and Nikaweratiya being some of the larger beneficiaries.

Our donors have ranged from office workers drawing a meagre monthly income to wealthy individuals and institutions based locally and across the seas. The system has now been set in place and better still, become a permanent philanthropic arm of the College for the foreseeable future.

In this moment of realisation of our collective spirit and grit, the College rises to salute and thank every individual who has contributed his or her services to this endeavour, financial and otherwise, while continuing to seek renewed support. Medical donation task force of SLCP worked through many sleepless nights and burnt the midnight oil to support this endeavour, there were many others, far too numerous to mention who are the behind-the-scenes heroines and heroes of the SLCP.

ISLANDWIDE HOSPITALS BENEFITED THROUGH MEDICAL DONATIONS PROJECT OF SLCP

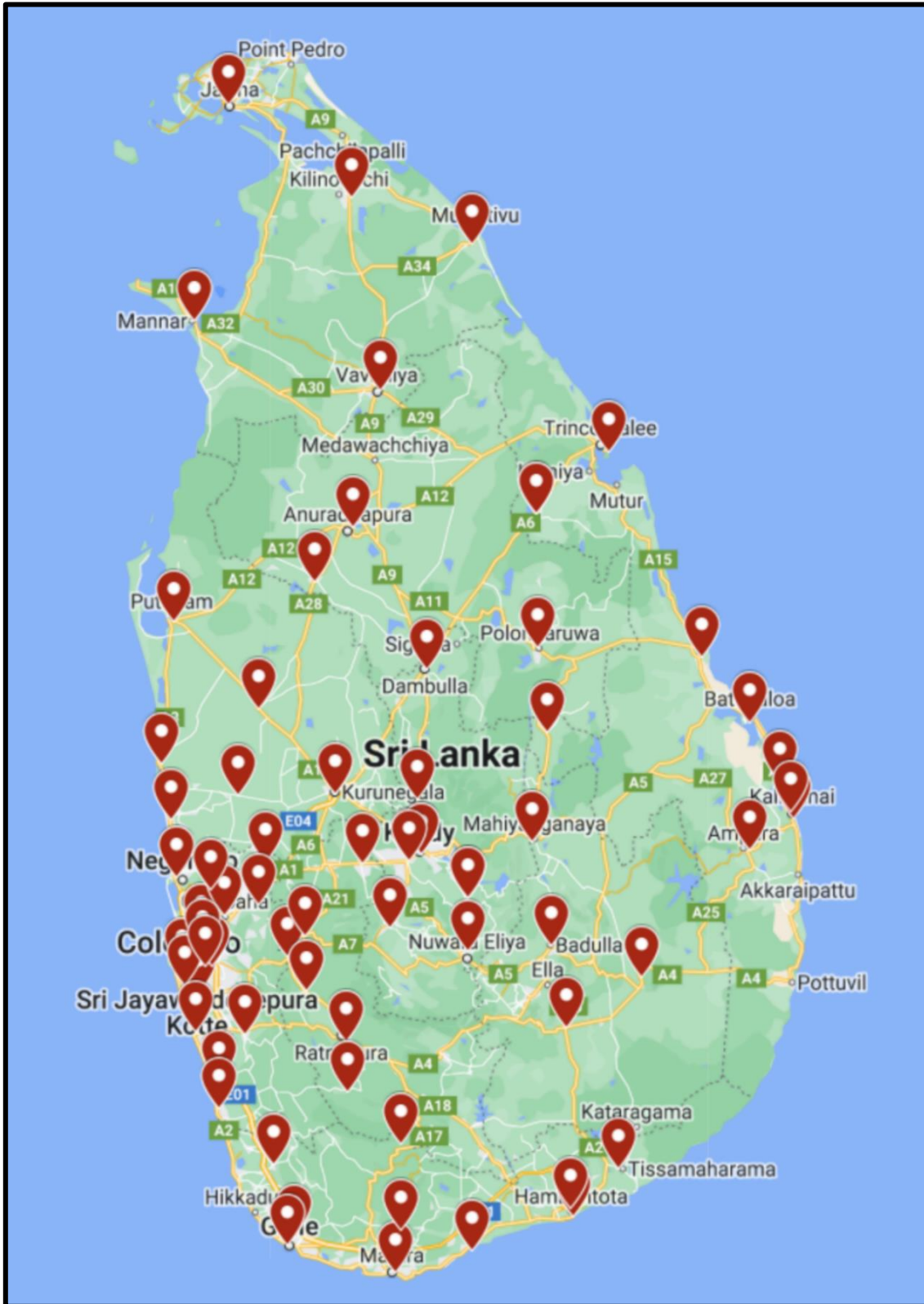


Figure 1: Beneficiary hospitals of medical donations

1.3. Little Hearts Project

The magnificent state-of-the-art building will be opened in 2024. Funding for the infrastructure of the building was a challenge due to the rising parity rate of the dollar, however, the little hearts team was able to overcome the challenge by the opening of a dollar fundraiser to supplement infrastructure development. The government had released a portion of the promised funds. The little hearts project remains in the hearts of the people to date as a lifesaver for children with congenital heart diseases. This project is a dedicated effort by the Little Hearts team, led by Dr Duminda Samarasinghe. Once completed this project will make a revolutionary change to child health care provision in Sri Lanka.

2. ADVOCACY

2.1. School Education

- The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians appointed a subcommittee to investigate school education to improve wellness in the school community. The committee was able to complete the following actions:
- A subcommittee met the Minister of Education on 16th December 2022. This encounter led to a wider spectrum meeting with all officials dealing with education, health, and child rights (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women’s and Children’s Affairs, National Child Protection Authority and the police). This led to the development of a more robust programme to cater for children while ensuring their safety.
- One paediatrician from each province was appointed as a Provincial Coordinator to serve as a link between zonal education officers and the paediatricians in that province. 21 paediatricians participated to discuss future activities of the educational committee, through *Zoom*, which was held on the *21st of December 2022*.
- Research is an important tool both to identify existing problems as well as means of advocacy for school education. A workshop for Post Graduate Trainees on research opportunities in the school sector was held on *19th December 2022*. A Workshop on Education Research, with the participation of all Zonal Directors of Education in the country was held on *23rd and 24th March 2023 at Meepe Teacher Training Institute* in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. A Monthly Lecture started from *26th April* to date was planned for education officers promoting research. This will culminate in a National Education Research Conference scheduled to be held in the last week of *December 2023*.
- A leaflet on wellness has been developed to be distributed amongst parents. The School Education Committee with the collaboration of the Zonal Education Office in Giriulla is developing a pilot project to develop a handbook to improve the engagement of parents in school education. Looking at more student centered learning activities.
- An Early Childhood Development Course to update educational officers, on recognizing and referral of developmental disabilities, was held in *November 2022*.

- The committee-initiated collaboration with the *National Science Foundation* and *National Institute of Education* to build networks to promote its objective.

2.2. Neonatal transport

The Neonatal Transport System was established in 16 centres providing all the necessary infrastructure through a government project. However currently only a few centres like Galle and Kandy are functioning. Even the LRH Retrieval System was not functioning due to equipment failures. A survey was done by SLCP to locate the available equipment in each centre with the support of FHB and the human resources available.

The following measures were taken to retrieve the neonatal transport project:

- Involvement of Paediatric trainees in the retrieval system was discussed with the Board of Study in Paediatrics and agreed upon.
- **6 centres** are recognised to be developed to serve as focal points in the Neonatal Transport System in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau and the Ministry of Health.
- A Technical Advisory Committee to develop the retrieval system is discussed with the Ministry of Health.
- A *trainer trainee workshop* on retrieval was organized at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital

2.3. Respective Bereavement Care

A guideline on respective bereavement care package in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau (FHB) was developed to advocate bereavement care for children and infants. It will be published through the FHB.

The SLCP was represented in the meetings and the contribution to the final draft was handed over to the FHB.

2.4. Development of National Guidelines

- *Dengue guidelines* were last revised in 2012. A revision of the guidelines was done with a dedicated committee appointed to look into the matter and the new edition was published as a National Guideline by the Ministry of Health.
- *Guidelines for the management of CNS infections* were completed. This will be published as a National Guideline by the Ministry of Health.
- A *Guideline on first aid* for the first aid providers were done in collaboration with the other colleges, non-communicable diseases unit of Ministry of health, and non-governmental organizations providing first aid. Additionally, a curriculum on first aid for the first aid providers was formulated in collaboration with the same stakeholders.

- ***Development of a trauma care guideline and a curriculum*** in collaboration with non-communicable disease unit, Ministry of Health (MOH) has been commenced. In addition, a trauma care cluster system is to be developed in collaboration with the MOH.

3. MATTERS RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP.

3.1. Paediatric Research – Support for the Trainees

3.1.1. Research aid

For the first time in SLCP history, a web platform was created to support trainees and allocate mentors for research. The platform contains other necessary support including checking for plagiarism. Lectures on the Basics of Research will be uploaded on completion of the pre-congress session on research. Trainees are expected to complete the learning online. The trainees will be given access to the site to seek support from a preferred mentor till the publication of their scientific work.

3.1.2. Stella de Silva Research grant

It was awarded to two applicants this year.

1. *Community-based cross-sectional study on under-5 nutrition and its association to household food insecurity during the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.*

D V Vipulaguna, G S H Liyanage, I Rodrigo, G Sathiadas, A Dalpatadu, P W P Chathurangana, J C Ranasinghe, M G U Sampath, D G H De Silva.

2. *Identification of the prevalence of DFNB1 (GJB2 and GJB6 mutations) among moderate to profound deaf patients attending LRH, Colombo.*

GN Silva, D de Silva, ADKSN Yasawardene, HP Sandeepani

3.2. Learning management system

For the first time in the SLCP history a dedicated learning management system was selected and kept in place for the trainees, the courses would be uploaded to the system and will be available for online learning. A Neuro-development course was uploaded and the LMS would be used for APLS and other skills development work as well. This would enable the trainees and paediatricians to access current practices and high-quality training courses from their doorstep, and would be a revolutionary change in SLCP courses and educational activities.

3.3. Website Development

The website was re-designed using a new web host enabling frequent updates. Two web editors were appointed, as per the constitution, to supplement the user-friendly web development.

The new website contains tabs for each category in which content would be frequently updated. Different tabs are used for educational, social and advocacy roles of the SLCP. Each tab will enable access to the different components of the website. Each CME activity was included in the page. The details/notices of the Annual congress were included in the website and a portal for online registration was opened which led foreign delegates to register to the congress for the first time in SLCP history.

Contents of the Ethics Review Committee, guidelines and the activities of the subgroups affiliated to the SLCP are all updated in different pages.

The new user-friendly format of the SLCP website allows the member to quickly gather information regarding training, SLCP activities or any other matters related to teaching and training. The public domain contains information on donations and general messages to the public or information regarding the college and the office bearers.

Video recordings of the webinars were uploaded to the college YouTube page linked to the web page. The social media accounts were frequently updated with college activities and news. Facebook, Instagram accounts and college WhatsApp groups for the membership and the trainees were regularly kept posted with the latest updates.

3.4. Constitutional Reforms

Six separate committees were appointed to evaluate sections of the SLCP Constitution, and the constitution was revised, leading to improved transparency, democracy, equity, and autonomy of the members. The final resolutions will be tabled at the AGM for approval. The constitutional reforms were done in terms of self-evaluating the constitution of the college as a gesture towards good governance.

The new resolutions will have limited terms for an individual to remain in the same post and equal opportunities and representation for all ages, specialities, and provinces.

3.5. Associate Membership

Associate membership was made available for the PGIM Trainees with MD [Paediatrics] Part I allowing them to get involved in educational activities. This would open opportunities for the younger generation to get involved with the college.

3.6. Awards

Introduction of the Best Early Career Paediatrician Award

This award was introduced for the ***first time*** in the history of the College of Paediatricians to recognize early career paediatricians who have imparted a significant service to the paediatric scenario and landscape of the country.

The applications were called in for the above award and the entries were short listed based on the write-up each candidate provided for themselves. A guide on the selection and application criteria was compiled. A panel of unbiased judges with no conflicts of interest selected the final

awardee based on an interview, and the award was presented at the inauguration ceremony of the Annual congress by the chief guest.

Introduction of Awards for the Best Publication

The College introduced two awards for the first time recognizing the best publication by a PGIM trainee and an early career Paediatrician. This will encourage publications in high-impact journals by trainees and members. A guide on application criteria was published together with the advertisement on application. The applicants were selected by a panel of unbiased judges with no conflicts of interest. The awards were given to 2 candidates from each category [see awards section]

3.7. Migration of consultants and concerns of the membership

The SLCP realised that though individual concerns were addressed from time to time the overall picture due to the migration of professionals and trainee attrition remained the same.

The issue had resulted in multiple vacated posts leaving single consultants covering up several centres over massive geographical areas some or most of whom are senior registrars or acting consultants.

Hence a member meeting was called online on 9th April 2023 via Zoom with over 80 participants in which the following decisions were made.

- To assist the MoH to develop a National Level Policy when allocating posts to consultants.
- Supporting consultants with a larger drainage area with outreach clinics to cover smaller base hospitals without a consultant.
- To empower the middle grades to face challenges in difficult situations by arranging subspecialty satellite or online advice in dire circumstances.

3.8. Family medicine issue

The council unanimously decided to intervene on the petition sent by the college of physicians and internal medicine on placement of family physicians at teaching hospitals.

3.9. Toronto Neonatal Fellowship

A fully paid fellowship in Neonatology in Toronto, Canada was initiated by the SLCP giving a world class opportunity to the Neonatology trainees for their foreign training. Currently one trainee is selected for this programme and this will be an opportunity for the neonatology trainees in the foreseeable future.

4. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

4.1. Family Health Bureau (FHB)

- The Feed a Child programme was initiated in collaboration with the FHB. The SLCP had been an active stakeholder in the Emergency Nutrition Programme of the FHB and MoH. The BP 100 shortage among vulnerable populations at the outset of the crises was addressed and made available through the FHB.
- *Outreach clinics* were conducted with the backup of UNICEF to support centres vacated due to migration of clinicians.
- Respective Bereavement Care package
- Neonatal transport

4.2. World Health Organization (WHO)

A proposal has been completed and submitted to the WHO for technical support to develop the National Strategic Plan on Birth Defects Surveillance, Prevention and Care.

4.3. World Food Programme (WFP)

A collaborative project with WFP was commenced in **January 2023**. It has two arms, the first being a randomised study to investigate the effects of a specialised intervention on the nutritional level of MAM children. A group of 500 children will be randomised into control and investigation arms. The control group will receive usual support from the MOH, and investigation arm will receive dry rations for a period of 6 months. On completion, the control group will be provided dry rations for a period of 6 months.

The selected total population of 5000 MAM children are receiving the LKR of 3200 worth of dry rations fortnightly for 3 months. The project will run for a period of 12 months with the assistance of a dedicated coordinator employed through the WFP grant, and 3 research assistants working at Nuwara Eliya. The office will be maintained at SLCP with provision of a monthly rental to the college and payment of a percentage of utility bills. This will hopefully set the stage for similar projects in the future with international collaboration.

4.4. NAMASTE Project

A study on autism is being carried out in collaboration with family health bureau, Ministry of Health and NIHR, UK. The grant awarding body from UK is a highly reputed organization which allowed the College of Paediatricians to partner and liaise with more international organizations. The NAMASTE project office is situated outside SLCP premises with a dedicated staff for the project which will run through a 5-year duration.

4.5. UNICEF

UNICEF came forward following the successful feed-a-child programme for SAM children to collaborate and investigate the growth trajectory of children which will enable them to understand the factors affecting growth faltering. The proposal has been completed and is expected to commence shortly. This will be a unique study of a significant calibre.

4.6. Palliative Care

Collaborating with palliative care consultants from UK is being undertaken to develop a palliative care network for the needy children of Sri Lanka.

4.7. Inter Medical Faculty Paediatric Quiz

This is an annual event of the SLCP, which was held physically at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on ***15th October 2022*** with the physical participation of all **9** university groups. Following a close competition between the groups, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya won the battle.

The event was organized physically after the COVID19 pandemic for the first time, as it was done through Zoom due to the safety measures in the past.

ACADEMIC COMPONENT

1. COURSES

1.1. MCQ Course for the MD Paediatrics (Part I):

This virtual course was conducted from 16th of October to 18th of December, 2022. The duration of this course was 10 Sundays with a mock MCQ and OSCE. Over 120 candidates were registered for the course in 2022-2023.

1.2. Data Interpretation & Case History Course for the MD Paediatrics (Part II):

This virtual course was conducted from 17th of September to 5th of November, 2022. Around 120 candidates were registered.

1.3. Paediatrics clinical course for the MD Paediatrics (Part II):

This novel physical course was conducted for the **first time in the history of SLCP** over two days from 18th to 19th of November, 2022. The course was conducted using live patients and observed history taking with the support of experienced retired MD paediatrics part 2 examiners. The course was well received by the trainees and the participants requested this to be an annual event in the SLCP calendar. Around 30 candidates were in attendance this year.

1.4. ERPM Clinical Courses:

Two clinical courses, with around 20 participants in each course, were held to supplement the ERPM exam **for the first time in the SLCP** with significant positive feedback from the attendees in August 2022 and January 2023.

1.5. Liver Module

Half a Day module to enlighten on liver transplantation and pathologies of the hepato-biliary system was held in April 2023.

1.6. Neurodevelopment module

This module is being uploaded to the learning management system, which is being utilized for training purposes of the SLCP.

1.7. APLS, NLS, Pre-intern and post-intern courses

These courses are conducted by the Paediatric Skills development working group of SLCP (Refer PSDWG Activities).

2. CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) ACTIVITIES OF THE COLLEGE

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, conventional physical meetings have been converted to online meetings. The recommencement of physical meetings and hybrid meetings have been a special feature in 2022/2023.

2.1. SLCP Regional Sessions

Nuwara Eliya (Physical meeting)

This regional session, in collaboration with the Hill Country Clinical Society, was held on 31st August & 1st September 2022. The inaugural lecture was done by Professor Heshan Jayaweera, University of Peradeniya followed by a regional session with resource personnel from Colombo, Kandy and Uva. Over 100 participants attended both sessions.

Anuradhapura (Physical meeting)

This regional session, in collaboration with the Anuradhapura Clinical Society, was held on the 18th & 19th of January 2023. The session took place in the professorial unit auditorium with the participation of resource personnel from Colombo and Anuradhapura. The number of participants were around 100.

Ratnapura (Physical meeting)

This regional session, in collaboration with the Rathnapura Clinical Society, was held on the 15th and 16th of February 2023. The inaugural lecture was done by Dr Ajith Amarasekara on the 15th of February and the sessions took place on the 16th of February with resource personnel from Colombo and Sabaragamuwa. The participation exceeded 100 in both events.

Uva / Badulla (Physical meeting)

Over 100 participants and all consultants from the Uva province graced this occasion. The regional sessions were graced by SLCP members from the region as well as from Colombo.

All regional sessions were graced by SLCP members from the region as well as from Colombo. The speakers selected giving priority to local requests and by providing equal opportunities for all members.

2.2. WEBINARS

Webinars were designed to address the current issues and delivering the most updated current knowledge through an online forum. Inclusion of foreign faculty with expertise in the relevant fields bringing the world class knowledge locally was a key feature and is a novel concept which allowed the learning experience to be of an enjoyable nature.

	<i>Interpreting growth charts.</i> Professor Harendra de Silva, Sri Lanka.
<i>14th July 2022</i>	<i>Overview of prevailing nutritional problems in children.</i> Professor Narada Warnasuriya, Sri Lanka.
Nutrition Challenges & Solutions	<i>Management of acute malnutrition in infants and children.</i> Professor Pujitha Wickramasinghe, Sri Lanka.
Moderated by Professor Heshan Jayaweera, Sri Lanka	<i>Impact of economic crises on infant and young child feeding practise.</i> Dr Hiranya Jayawikrama, Sri Lanka
	<i>Burden of micronutrient deficiencies in Sri Lanka</i> Dr Renuka Jayatissa, Sri Lanka
<hr/>	
<i>26th Aug 2022</i>	<i>Asthma guideline</i> Dr Prasad Nagakumar, United Kingdom
Paediatric Respiratory Disorders	<i>Inhalers and nebulizers</i> Professor Thushara Kudagammana, Sri Lanka
Moderated by Dr Amali Dalpatadu, Secretary SLCP	<i>Tuberculosis</i> Dr Channa De Silva, Sri Lanka
	<i>Chest imaging in respiratory diseases</i> Dr Jerad Fernando, Sri Lanka

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>28th Oct 2022</i></p> <p>Master Class in Paediatric Allergic Disorders</p>	<p><i>Food allergy</i> Professor Neelika Malavige, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Moderated by Dr Amali Dalpatadu, Secretary SLCP</p>	<p><i>Pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis: current concepts</i> Professor Jayamini Seneviratne, Sri Lanka</p>
	<p><i>Chronic urticaria: Current practice</i> Dr Rajiva De Silva, Sri Lanka</p>
	<p><i>Allergen immunotherapy in childhood allergic disorders</i> Dr Ajith Amarasinghe, Sri Lanka</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>16th Dec 2022</i></p> <p>Paediatric Neurology Update</p>	<p><i>Evaluation of a child with hypotonia & Recent advances in spinal muscular atrophy</i> Dr Anirban Majumdar, Bristol, United Kingdom</p>
<p>Moderated by Dr Amali Dalpatadu, Secretary SLCP</p>	<p><i>Vignette of unusual neurology cases</i> Dr Chryshanth S Dalpatadu, Sri Lanka</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>23rd Feb 2023</i></p> <p>Update on Thalassaemia</p>	<p><i>Management of haemoglobin E beta thalassaemia</i> Professor Sachith Mettananda, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Moderated by Dr Amali Dalpatadu, Secretary SLCP</p>	<p><i>Nutrition, diet, and lifestyle in thalassaemia</i> Dr Chitra Vamadevan, Sri Lanka</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>7th June 2023</i></p> <p>Management of Dengue Fever and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever: What are new in 2023 guidelines?</p>	<p><i>Diagnosis of dengue and outpatient management</i> Dr Shanthini Ganesan, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Moderated by Dr Prasad Chathurangana, Senior lecturer Faculty of Medicine Colombo</p>	<p><i>Insight from the bedside</i> Dr LakKumar Fernando, Sri Lanka</p>
	<p><i>Managing complicated dengue; the challenges</i> Dr Nalin Kitulwatte, Sri Lanka</p>

2.3. Rare Disease Forum of the SLCP

Rare Disease Day – An academic session was organized to commemorate rare disease day on **3rd of March** at the New Auditorium, LRH. Virtual participation of the Special Guest *Professor Madhulika Kabra*, Division of Genetics, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, India and poster presentations by the trainees were remarkable.

2.4. MONTHLY CLINICAL UPDATES

[Physical meeting at LRH Auditorium]

29th July 2022	Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia: What You Need to Know About Early Diagnosis <i>Dr Mahendra Somathileke</i>
23rd September 2022	Place for Epilepsy Surgery in Drug-Resistant Epilepsy in Children <i>Dr Sanjaya Fernando</i>
14th October 2022	Nutritional Management in Critically Ill Children <i>Dr Manoji Gamage</i>
27th November 2022	Solving the Mystery of Chronic Cough <i>Dr. Hasitha Gajaweera</i>
24th February 2022	Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction in Children <i>Dr Vindya Gunasekera</i>
24th March 2023	Do Febrile Seizures Need Treatment? The Current Evidence <i>Professor Jithangi Wanigasinghe</i>

2.5. YOUNG PAEDIATRICIANS' FORUM

24th July 2022	Evaluation of a Child with “Diabetes” <i>Dr Raihana Hashim</i>
30th October 2022	The Limping Child <i>Dr Maheshaka Wijewardene</i>
03rd March 2023	Childhood Nutrition – A Matter That Needs Urgent Attention <i>Dr Jagath Ranasinghe</i>

2.6. SLCP COLLABORATIVE CME ACTIVITIES

- 6th September, 2022 **Paediatric Update for Nurses** in collaboration with Anuradhapura Clinical Society for the North Central Province – Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura [Physical provincial meeting]
- **Injecting Children - Basics**
Dr Udaya De silva
 - **Paediatric triage**
Dr Michael Janz
 - **Surgery in the younger the dos and the don'ts**
Dr Anuradha Liyanage
 - **Pain Relief**
Dr Shammi Rathnasiri
- 25th September, 2022 **Walk for Gold** was organized during Paediatric Cancer Awareness Month
- 7th February, 2023 **SLMA - Monthly clinical meeting** in collaboration with SLCP
- **SAM Management**
Professor V Pujitha Wickramasinghe
 - **Childhood obesity: An overview**
Professor Ishani Rodrigo
 - **Case discussion**
Dr Amali Dalpatadu
- 1st March, 2023 **Advances in Paediatric Epilepsy**
SLCP in collaboration with ASN (Physical meeting)
Dr Deepak Gill – Australia
-

2.7. PAEDIATRIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

APLS

APLS Courses Conducted at LRH - F2F - in Person

APLS - local	2022.01.12	LRH	16 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.01.24	LRH	16 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.01.25	Kandy	17 Doctors	4 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.02.02	LRH	17 Doctors	1 nursing officer	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.01.24	LRH	10 Doctors	1 nursing officer	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.03.14	LRH	14 Doctors	3 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.03.30	LRH	16 Doctors	2 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.06.16	LRH	16 Doctors	2 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.06.23	LRH	17 Doctors	2 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.08.04	LRH	16 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.08.22	LRH	24 Doctors	1 nursing officer	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.09.05	LRH	18 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.09.24	LRH	18 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.09.27	Kandy	24 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.10.06	LRH	25 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.10.18	LRH	24 Doctors	2 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.10.27	Karapitiya	13 Doctors	2 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.11.17	LRH	17 Doctors	3 nursing officers	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2022.12.19	LRH	24 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2023.01.10	LRH	23 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person

					Person
APLS - local	2023.01.26	Kandy	24 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2023.02.07	LRH	24 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2023.02.23	LRH	22 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2023.03.14	LRH	24 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
APLS - local	2023.03.22	LRH	22 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person

Faculty attendees

Sri lal de Silva	Manori Prasadani
Chanaka Ratnayake	Malith Parakrama
Harendra Cooray	Punyani KP Banduthilaka
Sepali Illagakoon	Samantha Deshapriya
Pratheep Navabalasooriyar	Shymaya P.Basnayake
Sharmila Tissera	Thomas Georgeson
Jithma Fonseka	Vasana Kiridana
Nirodhika Dayaratne	Chamara Berugodaarchchi
Dheera M D T Dewaraje	Michael Jansz
Nilupulee Sumanasekera	Nalaka Jayasinghe
Kamala Theepan	Anula Indrani Fonseka
S.Gajealan	Aruna de Silva
Chryshanth Dalpatadu	Charaka Goonasekera
Duminda Samarasinghe	Dilani Dehigama
Lakmali Igalagamage	Hemamali de Silva
Bimsara Yohan	Nayomi N.C Nishama de Silva
T.D.Kurupu	Pushpika Jayawardana
Bhiruntha Sivakanthan	Rasaiah Mathan
Viraj T Jayasinghe	Sadeepa Weerasinghe
Chulanga Wickramasinghe	Shobhavi Randeny
Indika Hewage	T R Liyanage
Jalith Liyanage	Ishan N Perera
Krishnapradeep S	Jagath Ranasinghe
Dilan Apesinghe	Kanchana Gunasekara
Sandya Doluweera	P.G.C.G.Kaushalya.
Sangeetha Wickramaratne	Kavinda Dayasiri

Thushara Ranasundara
Anuradha Chandrapala
Channa.De Silva
Priyanga Dematawewa
Ridma Jayaratne
Wathsala Hathagoda
M.H.Fathima Nowfeen
W.M.T.Mihiranga. Wijerathna
Anoma Abeygunawardana
Dushantha Goonewardene
I.R.Ragunathan
Nipun Wickramasekara
Ruwanthi Perera
Dilusha.C.Atukorale
M.A.M. Faizal
W.C.D.Chinthaka Botheju
Dulani Siddhisena
Kalani Premachandra
Gemunu Hewawitharana
Nandana Jayathilake
Pathum Dissanayake
Vajira Bandara
Kapilani Vithanarachchi

Lalith Dissanayake
Maheshaka Wijayawardena
Mangala Dissanayaka
Mihindu Indunil
Nayana Liyanaachchi
Parami Gunasekara
Rajeevan
Rashmi Attanayake
Shamini Adikaram
Upeksha Liyanage
Amali Dalpatadu
Asanga S Rajapakshe
Ganaja Samarajiwa
Kaushalya.AS. Gomez
Kenency Hettiarachchi
Maheshaka Wijayawardena
Nimesha Gamhewage
Ranjani Edirisooriya
Shammi Ratnasiri
Sivasampavan Sivasubramaniam
Thushara Kudagammana
Madushan.B.Herath

APLS Online Zoom-based Work Shops

APLS – local	2022.01.10	SLCP	18 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.02.02	SLCP	16 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.03.08	SLCP	-	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.07.05	SLCP	-	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.07.08	SLCP	-	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.08.17	SLCP	18 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.08.31	SLCP	14 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.02.03	SLCP	24 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based
APLS – local	2022.03.09	SLCP	30 Doctors	-	Virtually - Zoom based

Faculty attendees

Srilal de Silva	Maheshaka Wijayawardena
Sharmila Tissera	Nalin Kitulwatte
Udaya de Silva	Shanthini Ganeshan
Cryshantha SA.Dalpatadu	Asanga S Rajapakshe
Bhiruntha Sivakanthan	Dilusha.C.Atukorale
M.A.M. Faizal	

Crisis Resource Management

APLS – local	2023.03.13	LRH	30 Doctors	-	F2F – in Person
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Faculty attendees

Srilal de Silva	Bhiruntha Sivakanthan
Chanaka Ratnayake	Chryshanth Dalpatadu

Neonatal Life Support (NLS)

NLS	2022.02.03	Anuradhapura	25 Doctors	-
NLS	2022.02.23	Kurunegala	06 Doctors	18 nursing officers
NLS	2022.08.02	Ratnapura	30 Doctors	-
NLS	2022.08.30	LRH	24 Doctors	-
NLS	2022.08.30	Anuradhapura	27 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.09.07	LRH	24 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.09.13	RHTC Kadugannawa	132 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.09.27	RHTC Kadugannawa	132 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.10.03	LRH	24 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.10.11	RHTC Kadugannawa	132 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.10.21	LRH	24 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.11.08	RHTC Kadugannawa	132 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.11.24	Embilipitiya	19 Doctors	13 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.11.22	RHTC Kadugannawa	132 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2022.11.22	Anuradhapura	24 Doctors	07 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.11.24	Gampaha	09 Doctors	32 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.11.28	Kalutara	10 Doctors	24 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.12.01	Nuwara Eliya	13 Doctors	18 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.12.02	Karawenella	10 Doctors	24 nursing officers
APLS - local	2022.12.12	LRH	20 Doctors	04 nursing officers
APLS - local	2023.01.24	LRH	24 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2023.02.16	LRH	24 Doctors	-
APLS - local	2023.03.16	LRH	24 Doctors	-

Faculty attendees

Nalika Menike	T.D.A.T.C.Thanthiriarchchi
K.R.C.P. Kekulawela	Wasantha Vithana
Shyama Yapabandara	Sandya Doluweera
Renuka Mirihella	N.M.J.Cooray
Wasantha Thalagune	N.H.Kamburawala
Sangeetha Wickramaratne	M.A.De.Zoysa
Priyanga Dematawa	Shayamali Jayakody
Srilal de Silva	Kanchana Gunasekara

T R Liyanage
 A.A.H.S.Aruppala
 N.S.A.Razick
 W.M.T.Mihiranga. Wijerathna
 R.Rathnajith
 Kenency Hettiarachchi
 Shymaya P.Basnayake
 S.Gajealan
 D.L.S.N.Archachi

Nimesha Gamhewage
 Kumudini Cooray
 W.M.P Weerakoon
 Kalpana Hettiarachchi
 R.Mathan
 Indika Prasad
 Kaushalya.A.S. Gomez
 A.R.V.Gunasinghe
 A.R.D.V.S Ramanayake

Zoom-based Pre-Intern Programme by SLCP in Collaboration with MOH

2022.09.22	1300 Pre – interns
2022.09.23	1300 Pre – interns
2022.09.30	1300 Pre – interns
2022.10.04	1300 Pre – interns

Teaching Skills Course

Teaching Skill Course	2022.12.03	SLCP	15 Doctors	F2F - in Person
Teaching Skill Course	2023.01.02	SLCP	13 Doctors	F2F - in Person
Teaching Skill Course	2023.02.03	SLCP	10 Doctors	Virtually - Zoom Based

REPRESENTING THE COLLEGE AT DIFFERENT FORUMS

1. National Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD)
2. Non-Communicable diseases unit ministry of Health
3. The National Medicine Regulatory Authority
4. Medical Evaluation Committee of the National Medicine Regulatory Authority
5. Technical Evaluation Committees at the National Medicine Regulatory Authority
6. National Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee
7. Medical supplies division -Drug and Therapeutics Committee
8. MCNSC of FHB
9. Technical Advisory Committee on Newborn and Child Health
10. Subcommittee on Maternal and Child Nutrition
11. Ministry of Women and Children's Development, Pre-school and Primary Education
12. School Health Committee of FHB
13. Technical Advisory Committee on Young Persons' Health-FHB
14. Minister of Education and Secretary of Education, ministry of education
15. Technical Advisory Committee on Maternal and Child Health
16. Advisory Committee on TB Control
17. TB Advisory Committee and Technical Support Group
18. Technical Support Group for Tuberculosis
19. Steering committee – Paediatric Tuberculosis
20. Technical Support Group for Prevention and Control of Dengue
21. Dengue Mortality Review Meeting
22. Injury Surveillance Working Group
23. Injury Prevention Committee of the Ministry of Health
24. The National Committee on Family Health
25. SLMA Intercollegiate (SLMC) committee
26. Ceylon College of Physicians
27. Meeting with the Prime Minister
28. Preliminary meeting on locally prepared RUTF.
29. Family health Bureau maternal and newborn care - Birth defects prevention, surveillance
30. Family health Bureau maternal and newborn care -Respective bereavement care
31. National health development committee-Organization development unit
32. Health Information unit – Telemedicine guide
33. Management development and planning unit ministry of Health
34. Accreditation committee of National CPD for health professional
35. Technical Committee - Development of policy on Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and cellular therapy in Sri Lanka

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS OF THE SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS

The 25th Annual scientific congress was held on 13th to 17th May 2023. Having an event of this calibre was a huge challenge at a time when the country was facing one of the worst economic crises. Fund raising became a challenge, and all the costs were skyrocketing, with the event costs doubled. However, the president and the council were able to overcome these challenges in organizing a scientific congress of an international standard. Covid 19 pandemic had introduced the online platforms and the health safety precautions and travelling restrictions made it difficult to host foreign speakers during the past few years.

The 25th Congress foreign faculty which was over 20 hailed from the best of the centres around the world. Speakers were from United Kingdom, Australia, India, Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia. Their academic profiles were selected to suit the local audience and to widen our knowledge. The local faculty was of equal or higher standards.

The congress commenced with three pre-congress sessions with a high demand on registration even after closing the registration, record high participation was seen in all 3 workshops. The inauguration ceremony took place in Galadari hotel with record numbers of participants with both local and foreign distinguished invitees. New awards which were introduced for the first time and the remarkable oration was a key feature.

The congress was again a huge success with record high numbers of participants, even with registrations closed days before, participation of many members of the SLCP from all parts of the country was a key feature.

The speakers of the congress were of a high profile and academia representing all over the world. The 7 plenaries and symposia addressed timely interesting topics which were of importance to all. The quiz competitions both in the pre congress and the main congress kept the enthusiasm high.

The Congress was concluded with a post congress which again was of a significant calibre and with renowned speaker both local and foreign, record high participation was a noteworthy feature

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

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Professor Guwani Liyanage

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Dr Amali C Dalpatadu

Committee to organize Inauguration Ceremony

Professor Manori Gamage

Dr Nimesha Gamhewage

Dr Dilusha Athukorale

Ms Rushdiya Jalill

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Dr B J C Perera (Advisor)

Professor Heshan Jayaweera

Professor Randula Ranawaka

Dr Amali Dalpatadu

Dr Prasad Chathurangana

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Dr S Krishnapradeep

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Dr Channa de silva

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Dr Asanga Rajapakse

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Professor Manori Gamage

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Dr Nalin Kitulwatte

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Professor Jithangi Wanigasinghe

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Dr Viraj Jayasinghe

SLCP Administrative Secretaries

Ms Rushdiya Jalill

Ms Chamila Weerasinghe

JUDGES

Award for High-Impact Research Publication

by an Early Career (Young and Mid-life) Sri Lankan Paediatrician – 2022

&

Award for the Best Pub Med or Scopus Indexed Research Publication

by a Sri Lankan Paediatric Trainee – 2022

Dr B J C Perera

Professor Deepthi Samarage

Professor Gita Sathiadas

Outstanding Early Career Paediatrician Award 2023

Professor Sanath P Lamabadusuriya

Professor Asiri Abeyagunawardene

Dr Kalyani Guruge

Poster Presentation Awards

Dr Viraj Jayasinghe

Dr Rukmal Gunathilake

Professor Randula Ranawaka

Dr Prasad Chathurangana

Oral Presentation Awards

Professor Shamy De Silva

Profesor Wasantha

Karunasekera

Professor Deepthi Samarage

Dr Kumudu Weerasekera

Dr Kosala Karunarathna

Dr Aruna de Silva

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

PRE/POST CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 1: MASTER CLASS IN NEURO-INVESTIGATIONS

This pre-congress workshop, which was held on the 13th of May at Water's Edge Hotel, Battaramulla was a session that was aimed at giving a hands-on training on neurological investigations. Which is perhaps a novelty, this included a workshop on EEG with 2 eminent speakers from the United Kingdom and equally placed academia from the local faculty.

A key feature in this session was that it included 3 foreign faculty members, from the University Hospital Bristol, NHS Foundation Trust, and the University of Oxford along with the top Sri Lankan local faculty in paediatric neurology and neuroradiology.

A record-high 160 plus participants was a key feature even after closing registrations almost a week before. The enthusiasm shown among the trainees and the general feedback was excellent. The session was concluded on time, the level of organization was commended by the foreign faculty as well.

The trainees enjoyed the neuroradiology quiz awarding a memorable Sri Lankan holiday for two in a Cinnamon range hotel. The feedback from the trainees was positive with a special request for similar programmes in the future.

WORKSHOP 2: EARLY INTERVENTION FOR HIGH-RISK CHILDREN AND REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC DISORDERS

This took place following the first pre-congress workshop on the 13th of May at Water's Edge Hotel, Battaramulla. It was marked by the presence of eminent speakers covering all aspects of a child with a chronic disability and focused on multidisciplinary rehabilitation. The presence of foreign and local faculty improved the standards of the session.

Eminent speakers covering cortical visual impairment to pulmonary and renal rehabilitation was probably the first time SLCP conducted a workshop of this calibre. This too did have a record-high 150 plus participation even after closing the registrations a few days prior. The trainees and the participants expressed their positive feedback on having similar sessions in the future.

WORKSHOP 3: DEVELOPING YOUR PROPOSAL FOR PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH

This was held on the 14th of May at Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The workshop was highlighted by the presence of renowned speakers from foreign as well as the local faculty. The interest shown by the trainees were noteworthy. 110 plus participants attended even with closing the registrations prior due to unavailability of space. Exceptional feedback was given commending the nature and the standards of the session.

A variety of key aspects ranging from the selection of a research topic to the ultimate publication of a research study were covered in this workshop.

POST-CONGRESS WORKSHOP: PAEDIATRIC RESPIROLOGY SUPPORT OUTSIDE ICU

The annual congress concluded with this post congress session, which took place at Lady Ridgeway Hospital. Expert on sleep medicine from Great Ormond Street hospital, London, UK who graced congress took a key role with our local pulmonologists.

The LRH auditorium was fully packed with enthusiastic trainees, enthusiastic to gain world class knowledge. The feedback was impressive requesting for similar sessions to be done in the future.

A key feature on all sessions was the expert academia and the set of high benchmark Participation of the foreign faculty and exemplary local faculty. The benchmark of the workshops was in keeping with international standards as commented by foreign faculty.

“BPNA has a challenge to keep up with SLCP standards”

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

The Inauguration Ceremony was held at the Galadari Hotel on 14th May 2023 from 6 pm onwards.

The Chief Guest for the event was Dr Camila Kingdon, President of RCPCH, United Kingdom. There were two special guests, Professor Iqbal Memon, President Asia Pacific Pediatric Association [APPA], and Professor Aloka Pathirana Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura.

The President SLCP welcomed the Chief Guest, and the distinguished invitees. An inspirational video made by Dr Duminda Samarasinghe was displayed portraying all SLCP activities during the year 2022-2023.

The President's theme Navigating through crises was displayed and she presented an address where the resilience, advocacy, teamwork, leadership, and responding to the needs of the membership were all emphasized. The Chief Guest commended the work done by the SLCP, and the Special Guests too agreed with the sentiments expressed.

Three fellowships were awarded to, Professor Gita Sathiadass, Dr S. Sathkumara and Professor Pujitha Wickramasinghe. The citations for the fellowships were read by Dr BJC Perera and the fellowships were awarded by the president.

Four Awards were presented to the best researchers in the trainee and young paediatricians' category. These awards were introduced for the first time in the history of SLCP and were undertaken to improve involvement in research among the early career trainees and consultants. The Award winners are Professor Sachith Mettananda, Dr ORJC Ranasinghe, Dr J Suntharesan and Dr Sharmy Hassan. The awards were presented by Professor Iqbal Memmon and Professor Aloka Pathirana.

A separate Early-Career Best Paediatrician Award was presented to commend the work done by the younger generation of consultants towards child health. The Award was presented to Professor Sachith Mettananda by the chief guest.

The revised dengue guideline completed by the Sri Lanka college of Paediatricians in collaboration the national dengue unit was launched. The first copy was presented to Dr Laxmi Somathunga.

The prestigious Professor C.C. De Silva Memorial Oration was delivered by Dr Navoda Atapattu. The president read the citation to the speaker. The oration on "Childhood diabetes mellitus in Sri Lanka a Kaleidoscopic view" was a remarkable presentation portraying her work as a Paediatric Endocrinologist.

Dr Amali C. Dalpatadu delivered the vote of thanks felicitating all who worked tirelessly for months in making this event a success. This followed by the sensational Piano and Cello performance by Ms Saundarie David, with Dr Harith Wijerathne's voice beautifully blending in. The evening came to an end with fellowship and dinner. The record high participation of over 450 guests and the line-up of events made it a memorable evening for all those present.

Among the distinguished invites were officials from the ministry of health, UN organizations, other colleges, academia, and all special invitees who supported SLCP in the year 2022-2023 to make our country a better place for the children to live in.

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

MAIN CONGRESS

The congress spanned through 2 days at the Galadari Hotel. The Scientific Programme was of a high calibre with 7 symposia and 7 plenaries. The 20 foreign faculty consisting of academia of brilliance from many parts of the world added spice to this event. United Kingdom, Australia, Thailand, India, Pakistan and Indonesia are some of the countries they hailed from.

Topics such as transplantation in which experts from all over the world shared their opinion, and Neurology, Intensive Care, Pulmonology, and Endocrinology are some of the topics that were highlighted.

The local faculty was of a similar exquisite standard and they added a local touch to the programme with their years of experience.

The total number of abstracts submitted was 180 plus with 105 selected as posters and 16 as Oral Platform Presentations.

The Dr Stella De Silva oration was delivered by Dr Ruwangi Dissanayake, and the Dr BJC Perera Research Prize Oration was delivered by Professor V. Pujitha Wickramasinghe. The ballroom was fully packed with over 500 guests eager to listen to these orations portraying years of work done by these two academia.

The conference had a record high attendance rate with over 330 online registrants and with onsite registrants adding up to a total of 450 and exceeding 500 during the orations. The Congress featured two parallel sessions running simultaneously to accommodate the discussion of all outstanding topics.

It was marked by breakfast meetings on both days, which addressed some timely topics. Esteemed academics from all provinces of the country chaired the sessions and stood out to be one of the key features of the event.

The programme was commended by both the local and foreign delegates, stating the event was of an 'international calibre'.

For the first time ever, the registration was done through a QR code, and the participants were issued an online participation certificate. All the issues related to the registration and certificates were handled by a team through a WhatsApp group.

Over 20 Foreign delegates registered through the portal to participate in the congress perhaps the first time in SLCP history. This was a result of the publicity campaign done to advertise the congress in the neighbouring countries.

It also had a special trainer-trainee meeting where participants were able to gather useful tips on how to face an interview. This was followed by a Q & A session as well. This was done as a gesture to support local trainees in job opportunities and to support with working in the western world.

A noteworthy meeting was organized with the President SLCP, chair Board of study in paediatrics and the President RCPCH to discuss the matter on GMC registration. The meeting was concluded with the president RCPCH stating the situation in UK and promising to carry on supporting Sri Lanka, through MTI scheme.

An elegant Congress dinner for the speakers and guests was served at the Lotus Tower. The tickets were sold out days before the event. The event was a social gathering for all the local and foreign delegates who participated while enjoying the view of city of Colombo through the deck of the lotus tower.

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

ORATIONS

Professor CC de Silva Memorial Oration

Childhood Diabetes in Sri Lanka- A Kaleidoscopic View

Dr Navoda Atapattu

MD, DCH, MRCPCH, FRCPCH

Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist

Lady Ridgeway Hospital

Colombo

Dr Stella G. De Silva Memorial Oration

Haematopoietic stem cell transplant- A cure for Sri Lankan children with Transfusion dependent Thalassemia and Aplastic Anaemia

Dr Ruwangi Dissanayake

MBBS(Col), DCH(Col), MD(Paed), MRCPCH(UK), FRCPCH

Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics

University of Colombo

Dr B J C Perera Research Prize Oration

Assessment of Growth and Effect of body composition in Sri Lankan children

Professor V. Pujitha Wickramasinghe

MBBS(Col), DCH(Col), MD(Paed), PhD(Col)

Professor in Paediatrics

University of Colombo

25TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

AWARDS

RESEARCH AWARDS

***Award for High-Impact Research Publication by an Early Career
(Young and Mid-life) Sri Lankan Paediatrician – 2022***

Professor Sachith Mettananda

A randomised double-blind placebo-controlled clinical trial of oral hydroxyurea for transfusion-dependent β -thalassaemia

Yasara N, Wickramarathne N, Mettananda C, Silva I, Hameed N, Attanayaka K, Rodrigo R, Wickramasinghe N, Perera L, Manamperi A, Premawardhena A, Mettananda S.
Sci Rep. 2022 Feb 17;12(1):2752.

Dr J. C. Ranasinghe

Childhood allergic diseases across geographical regions of Kandy and Anuradhapura districts of Sri Lanka; where do the rates stand among other regions: experience from Global asthma network Phase 1 study.

Ranasinghe JC, Karunarathne RR, Munasinghe TS,
Vidanapathirana GU, Kudagammna ST.
Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol. 2022 Aug 28;18(1):79.

***Award for the Best Pub Med or Scopus Indexed Research Publication
by a Sri Lankan Paediatric Trainee – 2022***

Dr Jananie Suntharesan

Acute postprandial gut hormone, leptin, glucose and insulin responses to resistant starch in obese children: a single blind crossover study.

Suntharesan J, Atapattu N, Jasinghe E, Ekanayake S, de Silva DAGH,
Dunseath G, Luzio S, Premawardhana L.
Arch Dis Child. 2023 Jan;108(1):47-52.

Dr Sharmy M. Hassan

Outcome of very low birth weight infants in a tertiary neonatal care centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka: A preliminary study.

Sharmy M Hassan, Mohamed Hassan & Lucas, Marianne
& Wickramasinghe, Kanishka. (2022).
Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health. 51. 277.

Outstanding Early Career Paediatrician Award 2023

Professor Sachith Mettananda

Professor Harendra de Silva Gold Medal for the MD- Paediatrics Examination (Clinical component)

Not Awarded

Gold Medal for the Post Graduate Diploma in Child Health

Not Awarded

ORAL PRESENTATION AWARDS

Best oral platform presentation of the congress

Community-based cross-sectional study on under-5 nutrition and its association to household food insecurity during the economic crisis in Sri Lanka

D V Vipulaguna, G S H Liyanage, I Rodrigo, G Sathiadas, A Dalpatadu , P W P Chathurangana , J C Ranasinghe, M G U Sampath , D G H De Silva

First runner-up for best oral platform presentation

Can bioimpedance spectroscopy be used to assess body composition in 3-24-month-old children in Sri Lanka?

M N Lucas, KDSU Ranatunga, P Lanerolle, U Senarath, A Hills, V Wickramasinghe

***Dr. Gamini Karunaratne Award for the Best Paper from the
Outstations***

Early detection of development disorders among high-risk infants: The
success story of a modified approach from a Sri Lankan setting

G P Hewawitharana, I L A N Darshana, U L A N Madhushani, D P S Chathuranga, D L N
Priyangika, R G Y Madumadhavie, R D S Kumara, D K D Mihiran, K V K Nilukshika, B D R
Hewawitharana, C J Wijesinghe, J Phillips, P W Kodituwakku

Professor Zef Ebrahim Award for the Best paper in Tropical Paediatrics

Not Awarded

Best paper in Paediatric Respiriology

Not Awarded

POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDS

Best Poster of the Congress

*Perceived factors affecting home-based intervention among primary
caregivers for children with autism spectrum disorder attending tertiary
care centres of Western Province*

A I Pathirage , N M Parindya, P A R V Pahanage , D M A Dahanayake ,
P R D Ranawaka

Best Poster Award in Paediatric Respiriology

*Association between type of milk feeding in first six months of infancy and
childhood asthma in a tertiary care paediatric hospital, Sri Lanka*

Pradeep Ruwan Kumara Gamage, Sinha De Silva, Sashiprabha Wijayalath, Ramya Ediriweera

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RMMP Wimalawwardhana	WWS Wijenayake
VSS Weerasinghe	NADSP Wijesinghe
WMTM Wijerathna	WAK Wanasinghe
HTSK Wijesuriya	

COLLEGE FUNDS AND GRANTS

Rainbow Scholarship Fund

Stella de Silva Research Grant

Two research projects were offered the Dr Stella de Silva research granted.

Feed a child

Medical Donations

World Food Programme

NAMASTE Project

UNICEF Research Grant

WHO Grant

Little Hearts Project

JOURNEY TO THE NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING FOR SLCP



In year 2001 our consolidated fund had only Rs 250000/= and SLCP was in a small, rented room at SLMA building. We had the daunting task to be accomplished, which is moving to a premises of our own which has adequate space. We discussed this need at the council and how best we could accomplish this task.

Several other professional colleges were lucky to obtain government land or to receive a property as a donation from a distinguished member. We made several visits to UDA and investigated the possibility of obtaining a government land on long term lease. We were not very keen on a land too far away from the city and such a suitable premises could not be identified and the only option left was for SLCP to purchase a property. All the Presidents then worked hard over the years to build up our consolidated, fund mainly by strengthening educational courses, hosting series of international conferences and optimizing the net profits of our annual sessions.

Identifying our current premises, just hop and a jump from LRH, and how we followed up this property vigilantly and closely over a year while it was in the property market and pursuing on the purchase of this property at the correct price at the correct time reflects the commitment towards this cause.

At the time of purchase there was lot of hesitancy in the council as some of the council members were with the opinion that we should not embark on such a financial commitment if we make this purchase that we will not be able to sustain the running costs of the SLCP. We had to convince the council with figures and get everyone to agree and completed the purchase in year 2015 for a total value of LKR 57 million rupees. The land alone is now worth approximately LKR 140-160 million.

Then we had the responsibility of replenishing our monetary reserves following this property purchase. This was achieved in no time due to the efficient Presidents who were in the office in subsequent years. Once we were comfortable with our reserves we started thinking about a new building as our current office building is a renovated old house with limited space.

Five years back we commenced working on this and drawing up plans for a new building. However, the work was stalled during the pandemic and this year we have re commenced the work on this state-of-the-art new four-story building. Initial detail plans are completed and submitted for approval to CMC with all supporting clearances.

We envisage to commence construction around September this year. Let's work together make this a reality soon.

Professor Deepthi Samarage

Treasurer

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
OF
SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS
FOR THE YEAR
2021/2022**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
OF
SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS
FOR THE YEAR
2022/2023
