

**CVCD
EXCELLENCE AWARDS
2016**



**COMMITTEE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS AND DIRECTORS
SRI LANKA**

3rd October, 2016

THE PROGRAMME

- 14.45 hrs. Invitees to take their seats
- 15.00 hrs. Arrival of the Ceremonial Procession
- 15.05 hrs. Traditional Lighting of the Oil Lamp
- 15.10 hrs. The National Anthem
- 15.15 hrs. Puja Dance
- 15.25 hrs. Welcome Address by Prof. Sumithra Jayasekera
Chairman/CVCD
- 15.35 hrs. Address by Prof. Mohan de Siva
Chairman/University Grants Commission
- 15.45 hrs. Address by Hon. Lakshman Kiriella
Minister of Higher Education & Highways
- 15.55 hrs. Presentation of Awards
- 16.25 hrs. Cultural Presentation
- 16.35 hrs. Presentation of Awards
- 17.05 hrs. Address by His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena
The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- 17.25 hrs. Vote of Thanks
- 17.30 hrs. Playing of 'Dewo Wassathukalena'
- 17.40 hrs. Procession leaves the hall
- 17.45 hrs. Refreshments

COMMITTEE OF VICE CHANCELLORS AND DIRECTORS

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) was established in 1979 under Section 124 of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978 as an advisory body to the UGC. Its founder Chairman was Prof. Stanley Wijesundera, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo. At present, the CVCD consists of 19 Vice-Chancellors of State Universities and 4 Rectors of University Campuses.

The primary role of the CVCD is to serve as an Inter-University organization which advises the UGC on policy, and academic and administrative matters of common interest to the Universities. It also represents the Universities of Sri Lanka in international organizations of Universities such as the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). It serves as a bureau of information about the Sri Lankan Universities and facilitates consultation and communication between them. Two former CVCD Chairmen, Prof. Stanley Wijesundera and Professor RALH Gunawardene have served as the Chairman of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in the past.

The CVCD meets monthly in rotation at each University and there is a joint CVCD/UGC meeting on a quarterly basis. CVCD took the lead in establishing the quality assurance mechanism in the University sector. The Quality Assurance Handbook published jointly by the CVCD and UGC still serves as the guide for the peer review process in Universities.

In 2006 the CVCD commenced the CVCD Excellence Awards Scheme. These Awards are presented every other year to recognize and honour outstanding contributions and accomplishments of the staff in the Sri Lankan Universities. The awards cover the spheres of research, innovation and inventions.

Another important programme organized by the CVCD and currently in operation is the biennial conference on Higher Education. The conference aims to address key issues related to Higher Education benefiting all the universities and policy making.

With these programmes and other initiatives, the CVCD makes every attempt to expand the higher education sector in Sri Lanka while improving the management, quality, productivity and efficiency ensuring a rewarding experience for the stakeholders.

MEMBERS OF CVCD-2016



Prof. Sumithra Jayasekera(Chairman)
Vice-Chancellor
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



Ven. Prof. Gallele Sumanasiri Thero
Vice-Chancellor
Buddhist & Pali University of Sri Lanka



Ven. Prof. Kanaththegoda Saddharathana Thero
Acting Vice-Chancellor
Bhiksu University of Sri Lanka



Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake
Vice-Chancellor
University of Colombo



Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake
Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya



Prof. Sampath Amarathunga
Vice-Chancellor
University of Sri Jayewardenepura



Prof. Sunanda Madduma Bandara
Vice-Chancellor
University of Kelaniya



Prof. Ananda Jayawardane
Vice-Chancellor
University of Moratuwa



Prof. (Ms) V. Arasaratnam
Vice-Chancellor
University of Jaffna



Prof. Gamini Senanayake
Vice-Chancellor
University of Ruhuna



Prof. S.A. Ariadurai
Vice-Chancellor
The Open University of Sri Lanka



Prof. T. Jayasingam
Vice-Chancellor
Eastern University of Sri Lanka



Prof. M.M.M. Najim
Vice-Chancellor
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka



Prof. Ranjith Wijayawardane
Vice-Chancellor
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Prof. Chandana P. Udawatta
Vice-Chancellor
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka



Dr. G. Chandrasena
Vice-Chancellor
Uva Wellassa University



Prof. Ariyaratne Kaluarachchi
Vice-Chancellor
University of the Visual and Performing Arts



Rear Admiral J.J. Ranasinghe
Vice-Chancellor
General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University



Dr. T.A. Piyasiri
Vice-Chancellor
University of Vocational Technology



Dr. Ranjan Hettiarachchi
Rector
Sri Palee Campus of University of Colombo



Dr. T. Mangaleswaran
Rector,
Vavuniya Campus of University of Jaffna



Mr. V. Kanagasingam
Rector
Trincomalee Campus of Eastern University of Sri Lanka



Brigadier Aruna Ariyasinghe
Rector
Southern Campus of General Sir John Kotelawala
Defense University



Mr. P.K. Seneviratne
Senior Assistant Registrar - Secretary/CVCD
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

It gives me immense pleasure in sending this message of felicitation on the occasion of CVCD Excellence Awards-2016, dedicated to recognize and appreciate, innovations and inventions in the University sector. This is indeed a highly commendable initiative by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Directors, as it encourages the University staff that enriches the fields of knowledge by way of research, innovations and inventions.

Investing in education of the youth is the best investment that a Government can do to ensure its future success. As Sri Lanka has now reached a considerably higher socio-economic level, it is essential that the higher education sector is further expanded and enriched to meet the challenges of an increasingly sophisticated and complex world. My Government's commitment to unrepresented enhancements in access and quality in the education sector is manifest in the allocation of 6% of GDP to education.

It is timely that excellence in research, innovation and invention of the academia is celebrated and rewarded as it will contribute to address the need to drastically improve the quality of higher education outcomes. In this exercise the University academics have a great responsibility on their shoulders to excel in the uncompromised pursuit of knowledge, while keeping abreast with the developments in their respective fields.

I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to the CVCD for continuing this timely venture and I congratulate the award winners today on their deserving achievements.

His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Recognising and rewarding exceptional service and innovation is a vital component of good governance.

Within the university academic sector, CVCD Awards seeks to recognise and reward innovation, inventions, research and other outstanding contributions that strengthen and consolidate the entire university system. The Awards also add value and enhance the efficiency and performance levels of the academic staff, thereby motivating them to give their very best.

We are justifiably proud of the CVCD Awards that has set a benchmark of appreciation and recognition, spurring the talent and the capability of university academic staff while showcasing their skills and the expertise.

Let me take this opportunity to wish the winners, the organizers and the participants all the very best.

Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe

Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM THE HON. MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION & HIGHWAYS

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to mark the occasion of the fifth CVCD Excellence Awards Ceremony.

The role of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) on advertising the University Grants Commission on matters pertaining to the University System is commendable. It is also remarkable the contribution of CVCD to inspire the academic staff to engage in research and innovation activities by recognizing the outstanding researchers in the Sri Lankan University system every two years.

Our Universities should take up the challenge to become the focal point for research and innovation in Sri Lanka, and act as change agents contributing towards the development process in the country. In this context, I deeply appreciate the initiatives taken by the CVCD since 2006 to inculcate the research culture in the Universities. The Government is planning to support academics to engage in research in their respective disciplines providing them with financial support. I believe that the initiative taken by the CVCD to facilitate this process is a commendable activity in pursuit of excellence in research. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the CVCD for its services rendered for national development.

I congratulate all the award winners for their tremendous achievements in their respective fields of research and innovation. I also wish the Committee of Vice-Chancellors & Directors success in all its future endeavors.

Hon. Lakshman Kiriella

Minister of Higher Education & Highways



MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE STATE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

It is with great pleasure that I send this message on the occasion of the “CVCD Excellence Awards 2016”, to honor the academic individuals who have made important contributions to the University System in fields of research, innovation and invention.

Research and innovation are the keys of success for any nation, for a country. I strongly believe that our universities should have a strong collaboration with local & international industries. This link would ultimately contribute to the development of the country.

Identifying this fact, initiatives were taken by the CVCD since 2006 to evaluate and appreciate research, innovation and inventions carried out by the university academic staff, is commendable. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the CVCD for their services rendered towards national development and wish the Committee all success in their future endeavours.

While congratulating warmly to all award winners for their achievements, I wish this event would be a great success.

Hon. Mohan Lal Grero

Deputy Minister of Higher Education



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & HIGHWAYS

It is with great pleasure that I issue this message to be published in the souvenir to mark the occasion of the “CVCD Excellence Awards 2016” Ceremony.

Around the world, it has been recognized in developing countries that the research works done in Universities are at the top of academic hierarchy and are central to the success of any modern knowledge-based economy. The Higher Education policy of the Ministry of Higher Education & Highways strongly recognizes the necessity to improve research culture in our Universities and also to enhance the quality and standards of research works done in Sri Lanka’s Universities to achieve regional or global rankings, with a goal to make Sri Lanka a knowledge hub in Asia.

In this context, I am pleased to note that the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) has played an active role, since 2006, to recognize, appreciate and honour the outstanding contributions and accomplishments in research, innovation and invention by the staff of the University system biennially. This will definitely motivate research works in Sri Lanka’s Universities. Further, the arrangements made to encourage young researchers should be especially commended.

I wish to thank and commend CVCD for undertaking and organizing this huge task continuously for the benefit of advancement of knowledge of our society.

I congratulate all recipients of awards for their outstanding achievements and remarkable contributions to the national development. Further, I wish all success to CVCD in their future endeavors.

D.C. Dissanayake

Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education & Highways



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

I am pleased to issue this message to mark the CVCD Excellence Awards 2016. I commend this step taken by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) to recognize and honour the academics who have excelled in research.

The University Grants Commission places high priority on strengthening research and innovation and I am happy to note that state Universities too have continued to place significant importance to these aspects over the years. A research culture in academia is the hub which connects the teaching programmes with the demands of the stakeholders. Universities are in the forefront of the new knowledge and technology that are produced to lead humanity into enhanced lifestyles.

The senior researchers who are the recipients of today's awards have come a long and arduous way to reach the present standards and young researchers have volunteered to take the same path and these awards will serve as both gratification and a motivation to the researchers.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the CVCD Excellence Awards and wish them well in their future activities. I also wish to thank the Chairman and members of the CVCD for dedicating their time and efforts to organize this important activity.

Prof. Mohan De Silva
Chairman/ University Grants Commission



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE OF VICE-CHANCELLORS AND DIRECTORS SRI LANKA

I am pleased to write this message to mark the CVCD Excellence Awards 2016, as the Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD).

The CVCD Excellence Awards Ceremony, held once in two years aims to encourage the academic community in the state universities to conduct research and to inculcate a research culture in the university system. Knowledge generation through research and innovations are integral parts of national development. Globally, universities are the key centres of knowledge creation and is a part of life of academics and scholars.

Hence, recognizing and honouring the outstanding research and academic achievements is necessary to ensure that our scientists can look to the future with confidence and carry out their scholarly work with a sense of satisfaction. I believe that the recognition of excellence among researchers by the CVCD Excellence Awards, sets new benchmarks for outstanding academics to reach international standards.

I take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the President, Hon. Maithripala Sirisena and the Minister of Higher Education & Highways, Hon. Lakshman Kiriella for gracing this occasion. I also thank my fellow Vice-Chancellors and all other staff members of the Universities who made their contributions towards this important event.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the winners of the awards of the Most Outstanding Senior Researcher, Most Outstanding Junior Researcher and the Most Outstanding Inventor. I wish them success in their future endeavours.

Prof. Sumithra Jayasekera

Chairman CVCD

Vice-Chancellor, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

CVCD EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The CVCD Excellence Awards are given every other year to recognize and honour outstanding contributions and accomplishments of the staff in the Sri Lankan Universities. The awards cover the spheres such as research, innovation and inventions. Under this scheme following awards are made:

01. Most Outstanding Researcher in six (06) disciplines of study
 - i. Health Sciences including Medicine, Dental Science, Veterinary Science and other Allied Sciences
 - ii. Technology and related Sciences including Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Information Technology
 - iii. Biological Sciences including Agriculture and Allied Sciences
 - iv. Physical Sciences
 - v. Social Sciences including Humanities and Aesthetic
 - vi. Management and Law
02. Most Outstanding Young Researcher (<40 years of age) in the above six disciplines.
03. Most Outstanding Inventor.

LIST OF AWARDEES

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Health Sciences including Medicine, Dental Science, Veterinary Science and other Allied Sciences

Prof. S. Rajapakse
University of Colombo

2. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Technology and related Sciences including Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Information Technology

Prof. (Mrs.) C. Jayasinghe
University of Moratuwa

3. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Biological Sciences including Agriculture and Allied Sciences

Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne
University of Peradeniya

4. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Physical Sciences

Prof. D.U.J. Sonnadara
University of Colombo

5. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Social Sciences including Humanities and Aesthetics

Not Awarded

6. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Management & Law

Not Awarded

7. Most Outstanding Inventor

Not Awarded

8. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Health Sciences including Medicine, Dental Science, Veterinary Science and other Allied Sciences

Dr. K. Maduwage

University of Peradeniya

9. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Technology and related Sciences including Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Information Technology

Dr. R.U. Halwatura

University of Moratuwa

10. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Biological Sciences including Agriculture and Allied Sciences

Dr. D.K.D.D. Jayasena

Uva Wellassa University

11. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Physical Science

Not Awarded

12. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Social Sciences including Humanities and Aesthetics

Not Awarded

13. Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Management & Law

Not Awarded

CVCD EXCELLENCE AWARDS CEREMONY- 2016
PANEL OF JUDGES

Prof. Jayantha Jayawardhane

Prof. S.B. Agampodi

Prof. Malik Ranasinghe

Prof. (Mrs.) Chittra Weddikkara

Prof. K.S. Walgama

Prof. Ranjith Senaratne

Prof. Upali Amarasinghe

Prof. Asoka Nugawela

Prof. O. Illeperuma

Prof. Ranjith Pathirana

Prof. Neloufer De Mel

Prof. Dushanthi Mendis

Dr. Dineli Devendra

Prof. Janaka De Siva

Prof. P.L.A.G. Alwis

Prof. Mangala Fonseka

Prof. Samantha Senaratne

Dr. Roshan Ajwath

Dr. K Kajendra

Award Winners- 2016
Citations

**Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Health Sciences
including Medicine, Dental Science, Veterinary Science and other
Allied Sciences**



Prof. S. Rajapakse
University of Colombo

Professor Senaka Rajapakse graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 1993 with First Class Honours at the 2nd MBBS, 3rd MBBS and Final MBBS examinations, obtaining distinctions in physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, parasitology, pharmacology, forensic medicine, paediatrics and medicine. He came first in the order of merit, winning sixteen medals and awards including the Andrew Caldecott Gold Medal for the final MBBS, the Joseph Nalliah Arumugam Gold Medal for the Final MBBS, the Rajasuriya Prize for Clinical Medicine, and the Dhunjishaw Dadabhoy Gold Medal for Medicine.

He joined the Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Colombo in 1996 as lecturer, and completed his MD in the University of Colombo in 1999, and the MRCP(UK) in 2003. He was Board Certified as a Specialist in General Medicine by the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine in 2001, and is also accredited as a Specialist in General Medicine by the General Medical Council, UK. He was awarded Fellowships by the Ceylon College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and the American College of Physicians. He is an Honorary Consultant Physician in the University Medical Unit, National Hospital, Colombo, and has a special interest in the management of acutely ill patients and those with tropical diseases. He held the post of Head of the Department of Clinical Medicine from 2009-2010, and was promoted to Professor by merit in 2009. While on sabbatical in 2011-2012, he worked as Consultant in Acute Medicine in the United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust, UK. He is currently the Deputy Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine.

Professor Rajapakse has been consistently involved in teaching and assessment of undergraduates and postgraduate trainees in medicine both in Sri Lanka and the UK. He has been an active member of numerous module and stream committees in the Faculty of Medicine, and has held the posts of Chairperson of the Clinical Stream and Director of the Curriculum Implementation Unit. He has played a significant role in the development of e-learning in medicine, and established the Virtual Learning Centre of the Faculty of Medicine in 2005. He is an examiner for the MD Medicine and other postgraduate

examinations, and also examines at the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) examination in the UK.

Professor Rajapakse has held many posts in the University of Colombo. As Director Network Operations Centre he has played a leading role in developing the IT infrastructure and web presence of the University. He has also been involved in corporate planning and quality assurance review of the University. He was Project Director of the Local Technical Secretariat of the World Bank funded IRQUE Project for the University of Colombo from 2007 to 2010, and developed the project proposal for the subsequent HETC grant for the University of Colombo.

Professor Rajapakse has diverse research interests, and his current primary focus is on tropical infectious diseases, in particular the neglected tropical disease leptospirosis. He has over 115 publications in refereed international journals including the Lancet, Heart, Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Clinical Toxicology, Malaria Journal, Stroke, Medical Teacher, Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine, Tropical Doctor, International Health, BMJ, PLoS One, PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases, and many others. His publications have been cited over 1300 times, and he is ranked among the top 10 researchers in Medicine in Sri Lanka on Webometrics. He has published several books and has authored many multimedia publications. He supervises several masters and doctoral research students and has received research grants from the NSF, the NRC, and the University of Colombo. He established a Tropical Medicine Research Unit in the Department of Clinical Medicine, which has collaborative partnerships with the IBMBB (Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology), the Medical Research Institute, the Mahidol-Oxford Research Unit, Thailand, and several hospitals in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. He played an important role in the development of the National Guidelines for Management of Leptospirosis 2016. He is an editor of the International Journal of Critical Illness and Injury Science, and is on the editorial Board of many journals, including the Ceylon Medical Journal, the International Journal of Clinical Practice, and Core Evidence; he is a member of the international editorial board of the popular textbook Kumar & Clark's Clinical Medicine.

He has received numerous awards for research, including Presidential Awards for research in 2001, 2003, and each year from 2009 to 2014, the University Award for Excellence in Research in 2002 & 2012, the Ceylon College of Physicians Young Physicians Award, the E.M. Wijerama Award for Research, and several others for presentations at scientific conferences. He was awarded the University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine Oration in 2013, and the Ceylon College of Physicians E.V. Peiris Memorial Oration in 2014, for his original work on clinical characteristics, diagnostic methods, and prognostic markers of leptospirosis. He continues to engage in high quality research, with several key projects underway.

Considering his significant contribution to the field of health sciences, the presentation of the CVCD Excellence Award is indeed a tribute to this eminent researcher.

Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Technology and related Sciences including Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Information Technology



Prof. (Mrs.) C. Jayasinghe

University of Moratuwa

Prof. (Mrs.) Chintha Jayasinghe obtained her B.Sc. Engineering Honours degree in Civil Engineering in 1990 and Master's degree in Highway and Traffic Engineering in 1996 from University of Moratuwa. She completed her PhD at University of Moratuwa in 1999 based on a project funded by GTZ, Germany on innovative building materials and construction methods. She is a Chartered Engineer and a Corporate Member of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka. She is currently working as a Professor at Department of Civil Engineering and the Director of Postgraduate studies at Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

Prof. (Mrs.) Jayasinghe started her career as a structural design engineer in the Transportation Department of Cambridge in United Kingdom and subsequently worked at Link Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Sri Lanka as an office engineer focusing on project management of large building projects that included Kandalama Hotel.

She started her research career in 1994. Her main research areas are sustainable construction materials, green building, cost effective house construction, indoor air quality, road safety and traffic accident analysis. Under these multi-disciplinary topics, she has supervised many research projects at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and published in many reputed journals and conferences. Prof. Chintha was awarded several research grants by the National Science Foundation, National Research Council, Senate Research Committee of University of Moratuwa and from the industry. All the grants were successfully completed with publications in refereed journals and conferences.

Prof. (Mrs.) Jayasinghe has more than seventy research publications in refereed journals and conferences. She also has over 220 citations in Google Scholar. She has served as a Reviewer for several leading engineering journals, including Construction and Building Materials, Materials and Design, Masonry International, Materials and Structures, Australian Journal of Civil Engineering, etc.

Prof. Chinth Jayasinghe contributed to develop several green building materials, including Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks, cement stabilized rammed earth, precast slab systems, micro concrete roofing tiles, recycled building demolition waste, compressed straw boards and precast building systems. Further, she has carried out extensive research to reduce sick building syndrome with improved indoor air quality and thermal comfort.

She has been conducting lectures and developing subject modules at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Sustainable Design, Building Construction, Construction Technology, Building Materials, Principles of Architecture, Management Skill Development, Research Methods and Communication Skill Development. She has also been the coordinator of final year undergraduate Comprehensive Design Project which has given an opportunity for the students to obtain thorough exposure into mega projects including high rise buildings, long span bridges, road projects and community based projects.

Prof. Mrs. Jayasinghe worked as a visiting research fellow at Queensland University of Technology, Australia and Lund University, Sweden. She has transferred technology on alternative materials and indoor air quality through various Conferences, Symposia and awareness programmes through mass media. She was also an advisory board member of the first international conference on earth building held in Perth Australia.

She has authored two books entitled “Structural Design of Earth Buildings” and “Sustainable Design of Built Environments” which are recommended text for the engineering undergraduates, post-graduates and practicing engineers.

She was a design team member of the US Green Building Council’s first LEED platinum rated new factory in the world, MAS “*Thurulie*” of which she was mainly responsible for the materials and resources used in the construction and to maintain comfort levels in the indoor environment.

She has been working in various government committees and delivered some key outcomes. She drafted the Sri Lanka Standards for Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks consisting of three parts and worked as a member of the working group for Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks at Sri Lanka Standards Institution. She has been a member of the working committee of Engineering and Architecture at National Science Foundation and also a member of the Standing Committee of Post Graduate Studies at University Grants Commission. She is currently working in the government appointed committees on green rating framework for building materials, together with research and development on green technology.

Considering the research excellence and contribution to the national development, she has received awards such as Commendation of Research Awarded by National Science Foundation in July 2013, Appreciation of Outstanding Research Performance at University of Moratuwa for several years, Award for the best research paper published in the journal of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka in 2006, Award given for the best project on sustainable construction by Holcim Lanka Limited in 2006, Presidential scholarship for the university academic category in 2002.

Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Biological Sciences including Agriculture and Allied Sciences



Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne
University of Peradeniya

Professor S.H.P. Parakrama Karunaratne is a Senior Professor of Zoology at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Presently he is also the Director of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS), Hantana, Kandy. Concurrently he functions as a member of a WHO Expert Group to assess the production and the use of DDT for disease vector control. He is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society, UK since 1996 and also a Fellow (Elect) of the National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka since 2006. Prof. Karunaratne has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya for 6 years from 2007.

He obtained B.Sc. Special Degree in Zoology in 1983 and M.Sc. (by research) in 1990, both from the University of Peradeniya. He joined the Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya as a Probationary Assistant Lecturer in 1984 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1990. The output of his M.Sc. research on vectors of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) during the period of JE epidemics in 1980s in Sri Lanka significantly contributed to its eradication from the country. In 1991, he proceeded for postgraduate studies to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London on a Commonwealth Scholarship and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in 1994.

Following return to Sri Lanka in 1994, Prof Karunaratne continued his research in to 'Mosquito control and, the biochemistry and molecular biology of insecticide resistance in insects'. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997 and to Professor of Zoology in 2001 and holds the Chair in Zoology at the University of Peradeniya. He was a Visiting Research Fellow of the School of Biosciences, Cardiff University (1994 – 2001), Wellcome Trust Research Fellow (Oct 2002 – Sept 2004) and a Visiting Research Professor (2002 – 2010) of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK.

Prof. Karunaratne has been the recipient of several prestigious awards, made in recognition of his outstanding scientific research, which included the Vestergaard Frandsen Award (2011) by the National Academy of Vector Borne Diseases, Indian Council of Medical Research; Bernard Soysa Memorial Award (Gold Medal) (2005) by

the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science; Hiran Thilakaratne Award (2001) by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka and Young Scientist Award (1999) by the Third World Academy of Science, Italy & National Science Foundation (Sri Lanka). He has also won the Presidential Research Awards in eight successive years since 1999, the NRC (National Research Council Sri Lanka) Merit Award for Scientific Publication (2012, 2013), the Best Research Award in Science (2000) by the University of Peradeniya, the NSF Merit Award for the Best Scientific Research in Biology (1999), Wilson Peiris Memorial Award (1989) by the Sri Lanka Medical Council.

Prof. Karunaratne has supervised several PhD and MPhil research students, has over 70 research publications to his name in refereed journals of which 45 have been in SCI/ SCI Expanded Journals which included 'Nature' and 'Science', two most prestigious journals. His Research publications have earned 1782 citations (September 2016) and a h-index (Google Scholar) of 22.

Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Physical Sciences



Prof. D.U.J. Sonnadara

University of Colombo

Professor D.U.J. Sonnadara received his primary and junior secondary education at Prince of Wales' College, Moratuwa and senior secondary education at Nalanda Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo.

He entered the University of Colombo in 1982 and graduated with a special degree in Physics, First Class Honours (top of the graduating class), in 1985. He worked as an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Physics until he received a scholarship to pursue his graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh, USA in August 1987. He completed his M.Sc. in Physics in 1990 and Ph.D. in Relativistic Heavy Ion Physics in 1992.

He worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Pittsburgh from 1992-1995 and participated in large collaborative heavy ion physics experiments such as E814 and E877 at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, U.S.A. and carried out simulations for particle physics experiments such as GEM proposed for the Super Conducting Super Collider. In November 1995, he returned to Sri Lanka and joined the Department of Physics, University of Colombo as a Senior Lecturer. In 2003, he was awarded a Research Fellowship from ISP, Sweden and spent his sabbatical leave conducting lightning research at the Institute of High Voltage Research, Uppsala University, Sweden. He was promoted to the post of Professor in 2004 and a Senior Professor in 2012.

At present he holds the Chair of Physics at the University of Colombo. He is the Head of the Department of Physics and the Director of Postgraduate Studies of the Faculty of Science. Prior to this he served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for seven years and contributed to the implementation of the credit based course system in the Faculty of Science. He also contributed towards introducing two new specialized degree programs in Physics, Engineering Physics and Computational Physics, and, the Masters degree program in Applied Electronics.

His current research interests are on multidisciplinary areas that bridge Information Technology, Electronics and Physics together. He has, to his credit over 75 journal

publications (with over 2000 citations), most of which are in indexed journals and over 120 publications in local/international conferences and symposia through collaborative research work. For his research work he was awarded an NSF commendation award twice (2004 and 2009) and Presidential Award for research in number of times. He has produced 3 PhD students, 7 MPhil students and more than 20 MSc students. Currently he is supervising 5 PhD students and 3 MPhil students. He has contributed to seven development publications of World Bank. He is a life member of several professional societies in Sri Lanka including Institute of Physics Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science.

Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Health Sciences including Medicine, Dental Science, Veterinary Science and other Allied Sciences



Dr. K. Maduwage

University of Peradeniya

Dr. Kalana Maduwage is a medical researcher, university academic, inventor and naturalist. He is a senior lecturer at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

Born in Ambalangoda, he obtained his school education at Sri Devananda College, Ambalangoda, becoming head prefect and achieving the school's best GCE advanced-level results in the biosciences in 2000. He then entered the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Peradeniya, becoming the first Sri Devananda past-pupil to be selected to study medicine in Peradeniya.

Dr Maduwage's research career was triggered during childhood by his curiosity about reptiles, especially snakes. His career as an inventor began at the age of eighteen, even before he entered medical school, resulting in his first patent: a novel technique for projecting microscopic slides. This invention won the NSF's award for Young Scientist for the year 2005, followed by the presidential award for Best New Invention later the same year. While continuing his studies as a third-year medical student, he described his first new species of reptile, a previously unknown lizard from Sinharaja rainforest.

He completed his MBBS in 2007 with distinctions in parasitology and pathology, winning also the B. H. Aluvihare prize for surgery. Having passed out from medical school he obtained a further two patents for new inventions and then went on to spend his pre-internship year in the laboratory of Rohan Pethiyagoda, a leading Sri Lankan biodiversity researcher. In this year, which included months of arduous field work across Sri Lanka, he discovered 11 new species of freshwater fish and three new species of snakes. One of the resulting research papers described an endemic freshwater fish species he named "*Puntius kamalika*" in honour of the late Dr Kamalika Abeyaratne, a celebrated paediatrician and AIDS activist. The description of three new Asian freshwater-fish genera was another major taxonomic contribution to biodiversity research during this period. This work honoured the famous evolutionary scientist Richard Dawkins by naming a fish genus, "*Dawkinsia*", in his honour. Dr Maduwage's main research focus, however, was on South Asian hump-nosed pit-vipers. In 2009, he revised the systematics of these medically-

important snakes and stabilized their taxonomic status. The work included the discovery of a potentially new species of hump-nosed pit-viper species from the island.

At the end of his internship Dr Maduwage joined the Medical Faculty of Peradeniya University as an academic, to continue his carrier in medical research and to undertake an MPhil focused on the clinical effects of hump-nosed pit-viper envenomation, including training on snake venom analysis at Monash and Newcastle Universities, Australia. He obtained his MPhil in 2011.

For his PhD Dr Maduwage decided to continue his research on the venoms of Sri Lankan snakes and the efficacy of antivenoms, selecting Newcastle University, Australia, for his doctorate. He was awarded the prestigious Australian Leadership Awards scholarship, which funded his entire PhD candidature. Moreover, this award offered intensive training as a future leader in the field of medical research. During his PhD candidature he published 24 research papers on various aspects of Sri Lankan snake venoms and the effectiveness of antivenoms, and finally obtained his PhD in clinical pharmacology in September 2016. His thesis was composed of 16 scientific publications in indexed journals, including two '*Nature*' publications. The development of a rapid test to diagnose snake envenoming was a landmark discovery in his research carrier, winning awards for best scientific discovery in Newcastle and New South Wales, Australia, by the John Morris Scientific Award for medical research. This research also won him the Australian Society for Medical Research Award for 2014, and the Informa Health Care award for 2014 from the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, USA.

His research publications have won Presidential Awards for scientific publications in 2005, 2008, 2013 and 2014, in addition to three National Research Council merit awards for scientific publication in 2010, 2011 and 2012. His team also won the award for best scientific publications by physicians offered by the Ceylon College of Physicians in 2014.

Dr Maduwage's research findings have transformed understanding the effects of snake venom in the human body, in addition to highlighting the potential and limitations of antivenom treatment. In a recent publication he explored the effect of Indian antivenoms for Sri Lankan snakebite and their lack of effectiveness, highlighting the need for the development of antivenoms specific to Sri Lankan snakes.

He is an active member of many national and international scientific associations, including the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology, the Australian Society for Medical Research, the International Society of Toxinology and the Viper Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Dr Maduwage serves as a reviewer for several toxicology journals including *Toxicon*, *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases* and *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. He has disseminated his scientific findings at over 30 international scientific conferences, including two keynote presentations at the Asia-Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology, Dubai, and the Toxicology and Poisoning Network of Australasia. He is an author of 46 research papers that have won over 400 citations, with an H-index of 12. He continues his research on snake venoms to better understand the exact nature of these toxins, seeking to improve the diagnosis and management of snakebite victims.

Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Technology and related Sciences including Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Information Technology



Dr. R.U. Halwatura

University of Moratuwa

Dr. Rangika Halwatura is a dynamic, energetic, innovative and an enterprising Senior Academic Member of the Construction Engineering and Management Division of Civil Engineering Department, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

He has been awarded his B.Sc. Engineering - First Class Honors with all the divisional awards awarded to the batch in 2004 and PhD in Structural and building services Engineering from University of Moratuwa in 2008. In 2011 he was awarded as a Chartered Engineer by profession in Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Halwatura has a keen interest in carrying out research in the broad aspect of sustainable development especially in the areas of sustainable materials, sustainable design, sustainable construction and thermal comfort. His researches are not mere publications but also extending research for development and application in the real world. His main research areas include among others, green roofs, mud-concrete blocks, mud-concrete panels, mud-paving blocks and natural sound barriers some leading to potential patents for innovative findings as solutions for sustainable construction suitable for tropical climates like Sri Lanka. These have application potential in all parts of Sri Lanka especially in the rural areas and already been used in the reconstruction of housing in war affected North and East of Sri Lanka. He has amply demonstrated his vast contribution to the Engineering Sciences. His innovations are peculiar in the Sri Lankan context with application potential in other developing countries with similar economic setting. At present he has obtained five patents and few others are in the approval process for innovation in the sustainable development.

In addition Dr. Rangika Halwatura is serving as a Board member, Academic affairs committee, National institute of Education and as a Council Member - National Human Resource Development Council (NHRDC) & Society of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka. Apart from above, he also shares his expertise in many other national level committees. He is also the Executive President of federation of University Teachers' Association

(FUTA) and university of Moratuwa Teachers Association (UMTA) and is the youngest president of UMTA to be elected and holds the position for the longest duration.

He is having number of journal publications including some SCI journal articles and more than 40 conference publications during his short research career. He also serves as a reviewer in many international journals as well. He extend his expertise in consultancy service in sustainable design, Architectural Designing, Structural Design, Estimation, Cost Effective Construction Methods and Materials, Project Management, Enterprise resource Management (ERP) and forensic Engineering.

The awards received by Dr. Rangika Halwatura throughout his journey, endure as a testimony to the contribution towards academic and professional development of the country.

Awards

- Energy Globe Award - National Winner Sri Lanka - 2016
- Award for Outstanding Research award with distinction, University of Moratuwa. 2014.
- JCI TOYP (Top outstanding young persons of Sri Lanka) award - Academic Leadership and Accomplishment for the year 2014
- Award for Outstanding Research award with distinction, University of Moratuwa. 2013.
- Award for Outstanding Research performance, University of Moratuwa. 2012.
- Hiran Tillekeratne Research award, University Grant Commission for the research carried out during the period from 2007 to 2009.
- Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science- Postgraduate Research Merit Award – 2009

Impaired will or the great balance, can have apocalyptic effects on the lives of individuals, resulting in great achievements and make another step in the line of civilization. Dr.Rangika Halwatura who is such a surprising human being who was preminent the academia as well as the Sri Lanka in similar manner.

Most Outstanding Young Researcher in the field of Biological Sciences including Agriculture and Allied Sciences



Dr. D.K.D.D. Jayasena
Uva Wellassa University

Dr. D.K.D.D. Jayasena is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Jayasena had his primary education at St. John Bosco Maha Vidyalaya, Kaluaggala, Hanwella and secondary education at Royal College, Colombo. He graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya with a second class upper division honors in 2005. Dr. Jayasena obtained his MSc degree in Dairy and Meat Product Technology from Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya in 2010 and PhD in Meat Science and Technology from the Chungnam National University, South Korea in 2014. Dr. Jayasena started his academic career in 2007 when he first joined the Department of Animal Science, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka as a Lecturer (Probationary), and by 2014 he was promoted to the grade of Senior Lecturer.

During his service of nine years, Dr. Jayasena has held several administrative positions in the Faculty and the University. He is currently serving as the Head, Department of Animal Science and the Director, Uva Wellassa University International Collaboration Center (UWU-ICC) since 2015 and 2016, respectively. In addition, he is the chairman of UWU Research Awards Committee and a member of the Research Committee of Uva Wellassa University and Internal Quality Assurance Unit of the relevant Faculty.

Dr. Jayasena's research areas include Study on carcass and eating quality parameters of meat from farm animals, in particular on flavour chemistry, Quality and safety improvement in animal products using natural antioxidative and antimicrobial agents, Development of novel meat products with functional properties using locally available underutilized materials, and Study on utilization of and value addition to slaughter house by-products.

Dr. Jayasena has to his credit 35 research publications in peer reviewed prestigious international journals, majority of which are indexed in Science Citation Index and Science Citation Index Expanded and also contributed 3 chapters to international books. Furthermore, he has been a recipient of several research awards including President's Awards for Scientific Publications twice in 2015 and 2016 and Vice Chancellor's Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher in 2015.

Dr. Jayasena is currently serving as a member of the Editorial Board in the Korean Journal of Poultry Science and also serves as a reviewer in several esteemed international journals related to Food Science and Animal Science such as Food Chemistry, LWT-Food Science and Technology, Poultry Science, Journal of Food Processing and Preservation, Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Science etc.