

Supporting sustainable development of medical and dental education in Sri Lanka



Founded in 1982

SLMDA

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News

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Ruwan reaches out to the young

On assuming the Presidency, Dr. Ruwan De Soysa stated that one of his priorities will be to infuse the SLMDA with young blood. He further said that "we need to get the attention of G2, the second generation".

Below are his views in full:

"This year, we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of the SLMDA. The event on the 30th of April was a Big-Bang. The inaugural SLMDA oration was presented by Emeritus Professor David Warrell. His lecture took us on a historical journey to Sri Lanka. His message was clear; we'll never walk alone!

Those who attended the events will agree that the Liverpool Football Club was a magnificent venue and a unique host. Even the Man United fans, Evertonians and Arsenal's felt at home in Anfield. Services rendered by the LFC staff were exemplary.

But this is just the start; good things are yet to come. So keep a watch on the next event, the Autumn Charity Ball which is scheduled for the 30th of September at the Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa in Cheshire.

This year we are planning to publish a special souvenir to commemorate and archive the past ten years' work. Please send us your memories, anecdotes and articles for this very special publication.

As your President, one of my priorities is to infuse the SLMDA with 'young blood'. Most of all, we need to get the attention of the G2 (the second generation), who are our own sons and daughters. We are the past and the present but they are the future. Please keep sending us your ideas on how to achieve this goal."

STOP PRESS

At the Council meeting held on 04th June 2017, the SLMDA decided to grant £6000.00 to the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Peradeniya to purchase computers for its new Computer Laboratory.

At the same meeting, the Council also took a policy decision not to give book donations to any faculty that receives a substantial grant in the same year. Therefore, the two faculties of Medicine at Jaffna and Rajarata and the Dental Faculty will not be donated text books in 2017. This is because the SLMDA has to maintain its reserves above a certain threshold to enable it to be a financially sound and a viable organisation.

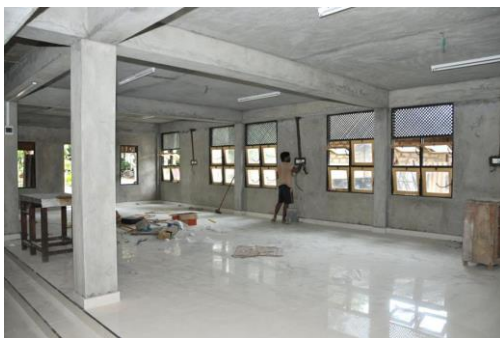
New Investments in Medical Education 2015-2017

Prof. Mahesh Nirmalan, Dr. Melanie Weerasuriya and Dr. Ruwan De Soysa

In the past two years the SLMDA has sponsored some key projects that have had a positive impact on the day-to-day experience of countless medical students in Sri Lanka. We have sponsored two water purification plants that now supply safe drinking water to the medical students at Rajarata University (Saliyapura campus). The project is now complete and the total investment made by the SLMDA was £5000.



The SLMDA also sponsored an extension to the student canteen at the Jaffna Medical Faculty. The current canteen was originally designed for a much smaller cohort of students who were admitted to this campus. However, due to the dramatic increase in student numbers, the current canteen lacked basic facilities and space for all its current intake of students. This situation was highlighted to a visiting SLMDA delegation by the Dean Dr. S Raviraj in 2015. The SLMDA has made a total investment of £5000 (with a further contribution of £4000 from an anonymous SLMDA member, making the total investment by the SLMDA to £9000). This project is also now complete and the new premises will be declared open formally in the very new future.



The SLMDA council has further approved an additional investment of £10,000 for establishing the concept of "Green campuses" in Sri Lanka. This is a new and exciting initiative in the field of higher education in the country and the Council, after careful deliberations, selected the Saliyapura campus of the Rajarata Medical Faculty as the first campus to receive this investment. The SLMDA Council is working with the Dean, Professor Sisira Siribaddane to ensure all future savings made to the current electricity bills, by moving to solar energy, will be reinvested towards achieving a carbon neutral campus in the country.

The SLMDA Council is of the view that these initiatives are some of the successful models for the engagement between professional diaspora organisations and their home countries. There is no doubt that in the wider political and socioeconomic context, the SLMDA has acted as an agent or facilitator of positive change.

Scientific Sessions, Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance

The annual Scientific Sessions of the SLMDA was held at the historic Liverpool FC stadium at Anfield on the 29th of April 2017 under the stewardship of the President- elect Dr. Ruwan de Soysa.

During the scientific Sessions, Emeritus Professor David Warrell delivered the inaugural SLMDA Oration on Snake Bite. He recalled his long association with the Anuradahapura Hospital where he spent time studying the effects of snake venom and the efficacy of anti - venom in the management of snake bite victims. Guest Speakers were Professor Jennifer Perera, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo and Professor I M Dharmadasa, Professor of Electronic Materials at Sheffield Hallam University who delivered a lecture on "Solar Energy Applications for a Healthy Society"

The Scientific sessions were followed by the Annual General Meeting during which the office bearers for 2017 – 18 were elected. In his inaugural address, the new President Dr Soysa thanked the outgoing President Dr. Melanie Weerasuriya for the outstanding leadership provided during her term of office.

The day ended with a dinner dance featuring the band 'Fortunes'. The guests had an informative, stimulating and a most enjoyable day.

The Council 2017 - 2018

President: Dr. Ruwan De Soysa

Vice-President: Mr. Mahadeva Manohar

Secretary: Mr. Supul Hennayake

Treasurer: Dr. Lankanatha Alwis

Immediate Past President: Dr. Melanie Weerasuriya

Members

Dr. Roshan
Amarasena
Dr. Asanga
Fernando
Dr. Roshan Perera
Prof . Devaka
Fernando
Dr. Thusith
Wickrama
Dr. Janaka De Silva

Co-opted Members

Mr. Ajantha Jayatunga
Dr. Andrew Nayagam
Dr. Thushara Rodrigo
Prof. DYD
Samarawickrama

Mr. Alistair Solomonsz
Dr. Champa
Sumanasuriya
Prof. Mahesh Nirmalan
Dr. Udara Kularatne
Dr. Janaka Weeratunga

Advisory Committee

Dr. Sathi Ariyanayagam
Dr. Auffer Asver
Dr. Rasioka Jayatunga

A "Thank You" Note

From a grateful recipient of one of the SLMDA bursaries:

Dear Sir

I would like to thank you for sponsoring me. I passed out from the Faculty of Medicine on 8th May and I am waiting for my Final Examination results.

Your sponsorship was very helpful for my education. I would like to thank you again.

CM

Another "Thank you" Note



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உருருணை பல்கலைக்கழகம்

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

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මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No.

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No.

Dear Sir,

Acknowledgement

This is to acknowledge the receipt of books for 2016 which your Association kindly donated to the Medical Library, University of Ruhuna. Most of the books requested were supplied by the Mediline Books accurately and quickly. Your continuous support is highly appreciated on behalf of our university. The kind donation of such publications to us helps to enhance the medical library collection annually.

Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully

K.T.S.Pushpakumara
Senior Assistant Librarian
Faculty of Medicine
University of Ruhuna
Galle

Dates for Your Diary

- Cricket and Netball encounter with the ASSLUK - 15th July 2017
- Golf tournament with SLGS - 30th August 2017
- Autumn Ball - 30th September 2017 at the Carden Park Hotel, Cheshire

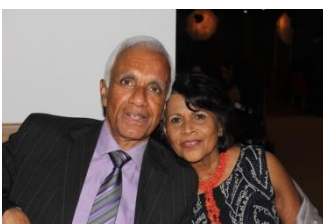
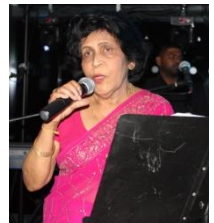


Set within 1000 acres of Cheshire countryside, Carden Park Hotel, Golf Resort and Spa features a modern spa, 2 golf courses and luxury rooms with scenic views.

Picture Gallery

Annual Scientific Meeting, AGM and the Dinner Dance, Chester







Annual Concert at Billericay

The Annual Regional Concert presented by Dr. Thushara Rodrigo on behalf of the SLMDA was staged in February 2017 at the Mayflower High School, Billericay, Essex.

This very popular annual event held to raise funds to support medical and dental education in Sri Lanka was a sell out as usual. The audience was treated to a glittering programme depicting the cultural diversity of Sri Lanka ranging from Bharatha Natyam to Kandyan dancing interspersed with western music. The talented Band 'Matrix' provided music for the dancing that went in to late night.

Obituaries

We record with great sadness that the following ladies have passed away:

**Mrs Ramani Abrew
Mrs Chrissy Aloysius**

**Mrs Amara Jayawardena
Mrs Asokamalie Kodagoda**

May they rest in peace - May they attain nibbana