

The Veterinarian

Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

October - December 2021

ISSN: 2279-2082

MESSAGE FROM THE 74TH PRESIDENT DR. M.A.S. MALLAWA ARACHCHI



I am humbled and indeed much privileged because of the title that I have been offered in this most prestige professional association, and I am honoured because of the calibre of the professionals I am representing in this association as the 74th president of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA). *Cont. 2*

NNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS 2021

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The 73rd Annual Scientific Sessions of the SLVA was held under the theme "Responsibilities and Emerging Challenges of Veterinarians" at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel, Kandy, on 22nd and 23rd October 2021. *Cont.* 6



73rd Convention: Arrival of Guests

The 73rd AGM and the Annual Convention was held on 4th December 2021, at Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo.

The less rigid Covid-19 related health-guidelines prevailed at the time permitted this event to be held as a full-physical event.



IN THIS ISSUE	Page No.
Message: New President	1,2,3
Ex-Co members	4
Message: 73 rd President	5
Annual Scientific Sessions	1,6-8
AGM & Annual Convention	1,9-14
Cattle slaughter ban	15

The SLVA, as we all know, represents the entire veterinary professionals graduated in Sri Lanka, as well as those Sri Lankans who graduated from overseas and registered in Sri Lanka as Veterinarians. Such are our members, and they perform such important and highly admirable tasks for the profession, mostly silent, but significant contributors to Sri Lankan GDP when compared with most of the other professionals in the country: we are dedicated to the animal production, animal health, public health, animal welfare, university education and for various public and private sectors in the country that have such an essential role in the pursuit of one health approach in the country; that is truly what makes this honour so much meaningful to me.

I proudly stand here as the 74th President today because of the great contribution and dedication of all the past presidents and respective members of executive committees and all the active members of this association who have shed their sweat, tears and spent their much valuable time, energy and commitment during last 82 years in the history of SLVA to bring this association to such a prestigious level today.

Furthermore, I assure you all to be transparent in all the activities during my tenure and essentially to abide by the provisions of the constitution of the association at all times, while welcoming positive changes to the constitution in the future in order to further strengthen our association.

In prder to achieve the common objectives of SLVA with the newly appointed executive committee, I carefully selected a theme for 74th session in the year 2021-2022, that is "RESURGENCE, LEARN, PRACTISE AND COLLABORATE TO GO BEYOND THE CONVENTIONAL BOUNDARIES".

In line with aligning all the activities of SLVA to the above theme during my tenure, I am inviting all the related subject specialists within and outside the profession to contribute their professional knowledge, experience and expert opinions.

In addition to the contribution of public sector veterinarians, the contribution of the private sector veterinarians representing many diversified sectors in the country is significantly high, commendable and most of them already have gone beyond the conventional professional boundaries to explore new opportunities and to accept many challenges to introduce novel technologies in the areas of animal disease investigation, diagnose of animal diseases and to improve animal origin food quality standards such as milk, eggs, chicken and various by products and also in various other industries such as shrimp, prawns, ornamental fish and ornamental birds, pet animals and veterinary pharmaceutical industry too.

Moreover, I will always work in collaboration, mainly with the Department of Animal Production and Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences and also with all the sister associations of SLVA such as Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, State Veterinary Surgeons Association, Society of Companion Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka,

Wild Life Veterinary Association, Sri Lanka Association of Laboratory Animals,

Sri Lanka Association of Animal Science, Veterinary Alumni Association and also, with all the like-minded professional associations in the country such as World Poultry Science Association where I also serve as the President Elect, Organization of Professional Associations Sri Lanka, and further with all the 51-member professional associations of OPA.

Not only with the professional associations but also to work with the line ministry, other government and non-government organizations and with all the related industry associations such as Veterinary Pharmaceutical Importers and Manufacturers Association (VIMA), All Island Poultry Association(AIPA), Poultry forum and poultry Processors Association, All Island Dairy Association(AIDA) and all the other associations in dairy, poultry, swine, aquaculture sectors and most importantly to go beyond the local boundaries to collaborate with international Veterinary Associations such as OIE(World Organization of Animal Health) WVA, FAVA, IVA, AVA etc.

Further, I will encourage and welcome new members and specially student members of SLVA to actively participate in the activities of the association because they are the future leaders who should take SLVA to the next level.

This year I am going to introduce new events to the SLVA event calendar, in addition to the common annual events, in order to interact and to develop close and strong relationship among all the members across the country and across various sectors, such as, SLVA will play a mediator role to link professional researches with the related and interested other industry organizations to collaborate and to identify suitable commercially important researches and fund scientists to continue meaningful researches to implement in order to get a return on investment and to contribute to the economy at large.

I will also develop a strong platform to share the knowledge and experience with the members of likeminded local and international professional associations through technical seminars, workshops and to arrange scholarships.

Educate and encourage school children and general public to enhance the knowledge and interest on livestock industry, veterinary profession, one health policy and on all the other animal related areas and industries in order to ensure continuous, safe and quality protein supply to the peoples of the country, to enhance knowledge on animal welfare and animal human relationship.

To identify and establish a strong and practical solution to control and eradicate dog rabies in the country and enhance the disease surveillance activities in poultry, cattle, swine and wild animals and to finding practical solution to animal human conflicts.

All in all as the 74th President I am very optimistic and confidant to achieve all the set targets which I have already mentioned above, during my tenure, to highlight the strengths and talents of Sri Lankan Veterinary Professionals and take the name of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association to the world and I am sure that all the members will align to achieve all those common objectives of the association by volunteering and dedicating just few hours and few days from our valuable time to join hands with the executive committee to put out your professional knowledge, experience and individual talent by working in collaboration and by doing so together we can reach our set SMART goals without much difficulties.

Finally, I assure you all to work in a very transparent manner as well as not being biased to any person or organization, but to be biased only to all the provisions of the constitution of the association and to work best of my ability to guide the SLVA to new height as I am well aware that I am responsible for the entire membership of the association at all time.

Wishing you all the very best in days to come and wish very good health as always!

Dr. M.A. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi 74th President - SLVA



THE 74TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The main objective of the AGM 2021 was to elect the next Executive Committee, since the tenure of the 73rd committee has ended. The notable feature here was the election, as there were two nominations for the post of president-elect; Dr. Janaka Amarakoon and Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe.

After a secret ballot, Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe was elected for the post. Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi, who was the president-elect of the 73rd committee was inducted as the 74th president, and the remaining office bearers were elected unanimously. The details of the 74th Ex-Co are as follows.



PresidentDr. M.A. Susantha
Mallawa Arachchi



President Elect Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe



Vice President Dr. K.G.J.S. Disnaka



Vice President Dr. Dhananjaya Karunaratna



Secretary Dr. Chamari Kannangara



Treasurer Dr. K.S. Wanigasundara



Asst. Secretary
Dr. Chandika
Wickramasinghe



Asst. Secretary
Dr. Yushika
Dharmasuriya



Asst. Treasurer Dr. M.D. Najith Premalal



Member Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles



Member Dr. I.D.V.L. Dharmawaedhana



Member Dr. A.G. Liyanagamage



Member Dr. M. Ijas



Member Dr. G.D.R.K. Perera



Member Dr. S.H. Nalin Darshana de Silva



Former President
Dr. Erandika
Gunawaedena



Former Secretary
Dr. Sugath
Pemachandra



Former Treasurer
Dr. Nuwan
Wickramasinghe

MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: DR. P.E. GUNAWARDENA



It is indeed a great honour to pen down this message for the SLVA Newsletter as the out going President. I personally consider the opportunity granted to work with an enthusiastic and highly committed group of members as the 73rd Exco, as a greater blessing. Despite the fact that organizing greater events has always been a challenge under the present pandemic scenario, as an organization we managed to launch several productive projects and ventures during the past year.

Commencing the work from home, the coaching programme that we conducted for the executive committee in liaison with Smart Quest trainers was the foundation stone laid for the development of respectable co-operative environment among the committee members to work with esperit-de-corps.

Further, it's a privilege for me to announce that carrying forward the good work of our past presidents and their committees, our 73rd Executive Committee initiated many projects for the first time in the history.

We started our tenure with keeping the initial foot print for creation of SLVA Strategy and we celebrated World veterinary day in a grand scale and there we launched four major events.

Launch of **Media platform** under the SLVA for dissemination of messages of public importance based on unbiased scientific information; Publishing **Your Veterinarian magazine** to elaborate the voice of veterinarians, which has seen two volumes hitherto; Launching **Veterinary Mobile App** in collaboration with the mobile service provider Dialog under My Doctor digital app, in order to facilitate online consultations by the Vets specially during the covid pandemic, which can become highly popular in the future; The Public communication videos illustrating different roles of veterinarians serving in diversified sectors, in order to enhance the public awareness on our profession will be greater assets for the SLVA Organization.

The highest Number of CPD programmes were recorded during the last year with 22 CPD workshops conducted physically and virtually and the Webinar Series conducted appreciating the challenges enfornced by the COVID pandemic became highly popular among the community of local and global veterinarians. This initiative was even recognized by the president Dr. Patricia Turner, of World Veterinary Association. And we became one of the few Vetrinary associations in the world which continuously functioned during the period of devastating COVID 19 pandemic.

With regard to the Annual Scientific Sessions, the **Easy Chair platform** introduced for the first time in the history will definitely uplift the caliber of our own research reviewing process and delivery of the scientific findings up to international standards.

Further, Involvement of SLVA for declaration of veterinary service as an essential service which was gazetted in the year 2021 and for the deferment of critical Cattle slaughter Ban with continues discussion held with the government, further with media discussions conducted in order to prevent public panicking situations created during the Covid pandemic, have all been greater milestones, I believe which contributed to making our tenure a remarkable endeavor.

Before the conclusion, I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and honour for my colleagues in the 73rd Executive Committee for their fullest cooperation and untiring efforts which made all our successful endeavors upto the unique standard and I warmly congratulate the 74th President of the SLVA and his newly appointed committee for all their successful endeavors in achieving the entrusted goals for the betterment of our Veterinary Profession.

Dr. P.E. Gunawardena 73rd President - SLVA



This was held as a hybrid session due to the Covid-19 health restrictions imposed by the government.

A total of 82 abstracts were accepted, out of which 40 were presented as oral presentations, while 42 were exhibited as poster presentations.

Dr. K.A.C.H.A. Kothalawala, Director General, DAPH was the Guest of Honour, while Dr. N. Samaranayake, Additional Secretary to the State Ministry of Livestock, Farm Promotion, Dairy and Egg Related Industries was the Chief Guest.



Dr. A. Ambagala, a renowned Sri Lankan veterinarian from Canada delivered the Keynote Speech on "Transboundary Animal Diseases and Role of Veterinarians".



The technical sessions were conducted under five streams, of which the details are as follows.

1. ANIMAL HEALTH

Plenary Speech: Procedures adopted by Public Health Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Health in control and eradication of Rabies in Sri Lanka, by Prof. A. Dangolla, University of Peradeniya.

Session Chair: Dr. Suneth Disnaka



2. PUBLIC HEALTH

Plenary Speech: Combatting Antimicrobial Resistance: Responsibilities of the Food Animal Veterinarian, by Prof. S. Kariyawasam, University of Florida, USA.

Session Chair: Dr. M. Ijas



3. CLINICAL

Plenary Speech: Diagnostic approach to lumps and bumps in small animal clinical practice; A Pathologist's perspective, by Dr. N. Horadagoda, University of Sydney, Australia.

Session Chairs: Dr. Dayani Siriwardena and Dr. Suranji Wijekoon



4. ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Plenary Speech: Implementing the Appropriate Reproductive Biotechnologies - The Fast Lane towards Self-Sufficiency in Dairy Products, by Prof. M.D. Wheeler, Illinois, USA.

Session Chair: Dr. Chanaka Rabel



5. WILDLIFE AND AQUACULTURE

Plenary speech: Role and Challenges of a Wildlife Veterinarian, by Dr. Tharaka Prasad, Director-WL Health, Sri Lanka.

Session Chair: Dr. Ganga Wijesinghe



A separate poster presentation session was also held.

Session Chair: Dr. Chandika Wickramasinghe

For the first time in the history of the Sri Lankan veterinary profession, "Easy Chair" platform was used to receive and process the abstracts. Mammoth contributions made by the co-chairs and the members of the SLVA scientific committee, abstract reviewers, judges and also the presenters need to be appreciated.



73RD AGM & ANNUAL CONVENTION

The most notable feature of the 73rd AGM was the election in order to choose President-Elect of the 74th Executive Committee. Dr. Janaka Amarakoon and Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe were the contestants, and after a secret ballot,



Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi, the President-Elect of the 73rd Committee was inducted as the President of the 74th Executive Committee, and the other members were elected unanimously.



The two contestants for the President -Elect

Another key feature was the resolution to create an "SLVA Anthum", proposed by Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi. It was decided to design one, and then to get approval from the membership.

The secretary, Dr. Sugath Pemachandra presented the minutes of the 72nd AGM. He also presented the Secretary's Report, which consisted of all the activities executed by the 73rd Executive Committee.



The treasurer, Dr. Nuwan Wickramasinghe, while delivering Treasurer's Report, presented the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2021.



The Editor-SLVJ, Dr. Oswin Perera presented the Editor's Report. It was mentioned that only the combined Volume 67, No. 1 & 2 (Jan. - Dec. 2020) was published during 2021, due to Covid-19 pandemic.



ANNUAL CONVENTION

Following the AGM, the Annual Convention started. Hon. Prime-Minister, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse was the Chief Guest, while the Keynote speaker was Dr. Nilesh Nayee from the National Dairy Development Board, India.

Hon. State Minister, Mr. D.B. Herath and Mr. Andrew Traveller, the Deputy High Commissioner, New Zealand was also present as invited guests. DG/DAPH, Additional Secretary to the Ministry and Dean/FVMAS also graced the occasion as special invited guests.



INDUCTION OF THE 74TH PRESIDENT

The new president of the 74th Executive Committee of SLVA, Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi was ceremonially introduced to the members during the Annual Convention.



Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi graduated from the FVMAS/University of Peradeniya in 1999. He holds a Diploma in Marketing, UK and also an MBA from the University of Colombo.

He is a life member of the Organization of Professionals Association (OPA), and has served as the Vice President for three consecutive years. He has been an Executive Committee member of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons since 2018, and also holds several positions in

several other professional organizations.

He is also the president-elect of the World Poultry Science Association (WPSA), Sri Lankan branch. He presently works as a director in a public listed conglomerate in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Mallawa Arachchi, after the induction ceremony, addressed the gathering, and expressed his vision for the coming year for the SLVA.

APPRECIATION: 73RD PRESIDENT

The outgoing president, Dr. Erandika Gunawardena received a special memento for his mammoth contribution as the 73^{rd} president. This was presented by the 74^{th} president.



FELICITATION OF TWO SENIOR VETS

Two senior vets, Dr. Horana Pathirage Premasiri and Dr. RMPH Dassanayake, were felicitated by the 73rd Executive Committee at the Annual Convention. This was for their noteworthy contribution over the years to the Sri Lanka

veterinary profession.

Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse graced the occasion.



Dr. R.M.P.H. Dassanayake being felicitated



Dr. H.P. Premasiri being felicitated.

FELICITATION OF PAST PRESIDENTS OF SLVA

The 73rd Ex-Co also felicitated the past presidents of SLVA. This was a timely act, as all the past presidents have

contributed in numerous ways, to the present high status of the Association.



Hon. Prime-Minister, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse was offered a special token by Dr. Erandika Gunawardena, president SLVA. Dr. Nilesh Nayee, the keynote speaker and Mr. Andrew Traveller, the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand were also given tokens of appreciation.



Visit our official website: www.slva.org for updates

AWARDS FOR BEST PRESENTATIONS / ABSTRACTS

Every year, the SLVA recognises the authors of annual scientific sessions by selecting the best presentation of each technical session, including the poster session.

The following abstracts were selected by the judges as the best for the 73rd Annual Scientific Sessions which was held in October 2021.



Category	Title	Author/ Authors
Clinical (Dr. Hector C. Perera Memorial Award)	Management of Fractures in Ruminents in a field setting using External Coaptation	E.M.U. Dissanayake
2. Public Health (Dr. Keerthi Gunasekera Award)	A Review of Laws Related to Animals and Veterinary Profession in Sri Lanka.	H.C. Kannangara
3. Wildlife and Aquaculture (Group Captain Dr. Erandika Gunawardena Award)	High Occurrence of Multi-Drug Ressistance among Gram-Negative Bacterial Pathogens in Freshwater Ornamental Fish.	D.M.P.M. Dhanapala, R.S. Kalupahana, A.W. Kalupahana, D.P.H. Wijesekera, K.S.A. Kottawatta, N.K. Jayasekera, A. Silva- Fletcher and S.S.S. de S. Jagoda.
4. Animal Health (Dr. and Mrs. A.R. Mohamed Award)	Identification of Serotypes involved in Fowl Adeno Virus (FAdV) Infections in Sri Lanka during 2018 - 2020.	N. de Silva, M. Paniago, I. Kiss, K. Wijesundara and A Palkumbura
5. Animal Production (Air Commodore Dr. RMPA Dassanayake Award)	Effects of Fermented Juice of Epiphytic Lactic Acid Bacteria (FJLB) on Fermentation Quality of Maize Silage.	M.W.D.C. Weerathunga, U.W.G.D.N. Udagama, M.P.B. Kumara Mahipala and W.M.P.B. Weerasinghe
6. Poster: Research (Dr. Arunasiri Iddamalgoda Award)	Dairy Cattle Importation Project of Sri Lanka: Eight Recommendations to Avoid Falling into the Same Hole Again.	R.A.C. Rabel, S.P. Gunaratne, M. Hanifa, K.S.U. Jayathissa, R. Mahendra, B.P.A. Jayaweera, W.A.D.V. Weerathilake and D.M.S. Munasinghe

ACADEMIC MEDALS/AWARDS TO UNDERGRADUATES

The following veterinary students received Gold Medals and Awards for academic excellence during the 73rd Annual Convention, held in December 2021.



1. D. Seneviratne Gold Medal	Excellence in Veterinary Public Health	P.K. Danthanarayana
2. Mr. & Mrs. M.P. Seneviratne Gold Medal	Veterinary Parasitology	W.U. Kumudumalee
3. SLVA Award	The Best Performance in Veterinary Surgery	A.B.S. Pabasara

NEWSLETTERS, JOURNALS & EX-CO MEETINGS

The April-June 2021 and July-Sept. 2021 issues of the Newsletter were published by the 73rd Ex-Co and circulated among the members of SLVA during this quarter. They have also been uploaded to the SLVA website.

The editorial committee of the SLVJ had to take extra effort to publish this volume of the journal, due to challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, the year 2020 witnessed a single and combined version of the journal, as volume 67 (1 & 2) Jan-Dec 2020. The volume consisted of five articles, and was published in October 2021, and is available online in the SLVA website. Dr. Oswin Perera functioned as the Editor and Dr. Samanthika Jagoda functioned as the Secretary to the Editorial Committee.

Three Ex-Co meetings were held during the quarter under review. 11th and 12th meetings of the 73rd committee were held as zoom meetings, and the 1st Ex-Co meeting of the 74th committee was held as a physical meeting.

- 11th: 15th October 2021, Zoom
- 12th: 16th November 2021, Zoom
- 1st Ex-Co meeting of the 74th committee: 13th December, OPA, Colombo 07.



INTERVENING IN THE PROPOSED CATTLE SLAUGHTER BAN

 ${f T}$ he 73 $^{
m rd}$ Executive Committee of the SLVA was able to intervene very effectively in this proposed cattle slaughter

It took the lead in making a virtual platform, collaborating with all stake holders in the dairy industry, to create a technical forum for identification of adverse effects of the proposed cattle slaughter ban. This was held on the 7th November, 2021 as the 22nd seminar/webinar of the year, as a zoom discussion.



Resource persons:

- 1. Prof. Sumith Magamage, University of Sabaragamuwa.
- 2. Dr. Chamari Kannangara, SLVA
- 3. Dr. Suneth Disnaka, NLDB
- 4. Mr. Sararh Bandara, General Manager, Ambewela Farms Complex

Prof. Anil Pushpakumara, Dean, FVMAS moderated the session.

The SLVA was also instrumental in conducting higher level meetings with the policy makers and ministers, thus pursuading them to understand the practical manifestations of this ban.



Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07. SLVA Secretariat, OPA Centre, No. 275/75,

If undelivered, please return to:



:01

eterinarian





Veterinary Rapid Diagnostic Tests

- Canine Parvo Ag & Ab
- Canine Distemper Ag & Ab
- Rapid Babesia Ab
- Feline Parvo Ag

and many more...



Answer to the below question and win veterinary diagnostic tests for your laboratory:

> 1st prize : 25,000/= 2ndprize : 10,000/=

> **3**rd prize : **5000**/=

O. When should progesterone levels be checked in dogs and what is the most prominent quantitative method to detect levels of progesterone?

* valid till 2nd of March

Please send answers:



(A) +94 777 221 945 / +94 76 293 8030 (A) Email: rajeev@gshealth.lk

Veterinary Diagnosis

COAGULATION HORMONES

CARDIAC, ACUTE INFLAMMATION PANCREATITIS,

www.gshealth.lk

George Steuart