



# The Veterinarian

Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

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## Message from the 75<sup>th</sup> President: Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe



I have been a very proud member of this noble profession for more than 15 years and I am honoured and humbled to stand before you as the 75<sup>th</sup> President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association.

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## AGM and Annual Convention

The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and the Annual Convention of the SLVA was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 at Monarch Imperial, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte, Colombo.



*74<sup>th</sup> AGM: President, Secretary & Treasurer*



*Arrival of Guests*

*Cont. page 7 & 8*

## Annual Scientific Sessions

The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the SLVA was held under the theme "*Harnessing Veterinarians' contribution to ensure food security and to strengthen the one health approach*" at the Amaya Hills Hotel Kandy, on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

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*Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee*



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Further, I deeply appreciate the membership, past Presidents and the past Executive Committees for taking the Association to the current level and keeping the trust in me to hold the office as the 75<sup>th</sup> President of this noble Association. As the professional organization for veterinarians in Sri Lanka for over 75 years, the SLVA's contribution to the professional development of veterinarians in the country is beyond measure. In this context, I am most aware of the enormity of the responsibility of this position and I consider myself to be ever so fortunate to lead this prestigious Association in the forthcoming year.

I follow in the steps of past SLVA presidents who set the highest standards and strong foundation for leadership. I greatly appreciate the 74th Executive committee of SLVA for their contribution to the profession.

The SLVA has long been in our every bone and a place we continue to hold dear even after 75 years of inception. Our Association is all about shared responsibility for preserving and advancing the veterinary profession. Therefore, to continue the legacy, the SLVA intends to embark on many activities in the year 2023 under the theme "Professional Excellence through resilience" and I believe the members should be aware of the key pillars.

1. While I appreciate that the primary objective of the SLVA, which is the professional development of veterinarians, it is important that we understand that professional development includes the implementation of advanced knowledge, ensuring high ethical standards of practice and certifications. We aim to continuously update the knowledge of veterinarians to serve our motherland and world by providing them with learning experiences that are customized, rigorous and modern by a community committed to educational leadership. Extension studies and continuous professional development programmes are crucially important to attaining the objective of lifelong learning for veterinarians. Further, there is a timely need for commencing residencies that provide specific training in an area of specialization to prepare veterinarians to attain an advanced level of competency in a specified discipline. Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, as a member of the SARC regional veterinary association, Federation of Asian Veterinary Association, Commonwealth Veterinary Association and World Veterinary Association intended to take initial steps to pledge the commencement of residency programs with the collaboration of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the university of Peradeniya, Department of Animal Production and Health, other local and international statutory bodies, Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya.

2. The current crisis presents a unique opportunity for the country and as a profession to deliver on much-needed reforms. The veterinarian's contribution to the

economy is multi-faceted. Food safety & security, animal health, nutrition & well-being, management, embarking into export market, governance, policy-making and financing are some of the cross-cutting issues that need to be strengthened in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth through pet, wild and producing animals. Therefore, SLVA will take the initiative to create a platform to work together with all stakeholders, including the Ministry, DAPH, regulatory bodies, higher education institutes, research institutes, private sector and other professional associations including WPSA, SL. This collaborative effort will enable economic empowerment through efficient production, ensuring animal welfare and improving livelihood.

3. International relations and networking are univocally crucial for the internationalization of SLVA. Importantly, we must become global within our existing scale and scope. Grappling with this question will require the engagement of our entire membership and Sri Lankan veterinarians who work abroad and international associations. Veterinarians who have graduated from Sri Lanka are excelling overseas always have the desire to help the motherland. Therefore, creating good relationship with international experts would foster a knowledge-sharing culture to strengthen the capacity of our membership. Forming these relationships can help SLVA to expand its circle of contacts, work with like-minded people, find new opportunities, improve the quality of veterinary practice and stay on top with new knowledge and best practices in respective field. By strengthening the capacity of the membership our Association will become evident and lucrative.

4. One final area that needs our continued attention is our primary role as veterinarians in delivering high-quality, veterinary care for all. We must continue to address the inequities in veterinary care with unwavering advocacy for Veterinary ethics. This may be one of our most difficult challenges because Veterinary ethics rests squarely on our shoulders. We cannot delegate it or relegate it to others. Although we must facilitate discussions among a broad group of stakeholders, the ultimate decision on what our profession stands for is ours alone to make.

Finally, I am looking forward to working in collaboration with aligned and relevant government ministries and state institutions, including the ministry of agriculture, the department of animal production and health, other statutory bodies, United Nations agencies - World animal health organization and World Health Organization and other international organizations, local and international professional colleges and associations, private sector associations and also with the general public. My humbly pledging, that I will be committed to serving you in my fullest capacity as the President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association to take the Association to greater heights with tangible impact.

**Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe**  
75<sup>th</sup> President, SLVA



## The 75<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee

The main objective of the AGM 2022 was to elect the next Executive Committee, since the tenure of the 74<sup>th</sup> committee has ended. Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe, who was the president-elect of the 74<sup>th</sup> committee was inducted as the 75<sup>th</sup> president, and the remaining office bearers were elected unanimously. The details of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ex-Co are as follows.



**President**  
Dr. Dilan  
Satharasinghe



**President Elect**  
Dr. Mohomad  
Ijas



**Vice President**  
Dr. Suneth  
Disnaka



**Vice President**  
Dr. Sugath  
Pemachandra



**Secretary**  
Dr. Kaundika  
Wanigasundara



**Treasurer**  
Dr. Dananjaya  
Karunaratna



**Asst. Secretary**  
Dr. Ganga Wijesinghe



**Asst. Secretary**  
Dr. Yushika Chamodi  
Dharmasuriya



**Asst. Treasurer**  
Dr. Eranda  
Abeywickrama



**Member**  
Prof. Neil Alles



**Member**  
Dr. I.D.V.L.  
Dharmawardhana



**Member**  
Dr. U.I.K.B. Wijesinghe



**Member**  
Dr. W.A.D.C.H.  
Wickramasinghe



**Member**  
Dr. N.T. Hewagamage



**Member**  
Dr. A.M.L. Dhilrukshi



**Immediate Past  
President**  
Dr. M.A. Susantha  
Mallawa Arachchi



**Immediate Past  
Secretary**  
Dr. Chamari  
Kannangara





I am greatly delighted to write this message on the successful completion of my tenure as the President of the 74th Session of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA). Since its establishment in 1940, SLVA has grown much stronger having over 1320 members.

It is a well-known fact that from January to September, Sri Lanka was affected with the COVID-19 Pandemic, followed by serious political and economic crises which severely paralyzed the country. However, I am happy to note that none of those unprecedented challenges were strong enough to paralyze and prevent our energetic Executive Committee from completing the planned activities of the year.

In the perspective of SLVA, all those challenges have indeed presented us with many opportunities to achieve the objectives of the Association and the Executive Committee could align the activities to the theme of the 74th Session of the Association **“Resurgence, Learn, Practice And Collaborate To Go Beyond Conventional Boundaries”**.

The highest achievement this year was the successful establishment of the SAARC Regional Veterinary Association (SRVA) for the first time in history of this region, and the most significant item was that the President of SLVA being elected as the Founder Treasurer of SRVA. Collaborations with other

Veterinary Associations in the region is very important to share knowledge and experiences among veterinarians in each country and also to formulate common policies and guidelines for animal welfare, animal disease control activities in the region and also to achieve the objectives of the 'one health' aspect.

Further, the 74th Executive Committee of SLVA successfully conducted five (05) physical CPD programs, amid various challenges, for our members in different provinces on different topics selected by themselves on their own professional need. We also successfully conducted sixteen (16) international webinars covering all the areas and aspects related to the veterinary professionals in diverse sectors. Enthusiastic members from veterinary associations of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and also from USA and UK actively joined these webinars. President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), Dr. Rafael Laguens, also joined the closing sessions virtually and expressed his sincere gratitude to SLVA for arranging topics in a well-balanced manner for sessions and also for successfully conducting them as an international webinar series enabling veterinarians to share their knowledge amongst many veterinarians in other countries too.

In order to achieve the success in all those activities and areas, contribution and commitment of the Executive Committee of the 74th SLVA, Faculty members, Departments, Ministry, VRI, Private Sector Veterinarians and members living overseas were highly commendable.

I strongly believe that it is our prime responsibility to pave the path for our future veterinarians to update and apply their knowledge while maintaining professional ethics and by setting professional goals towards all the stakeholders and at large to the society.

I take this opportunity to wish the new President and his Executive Committee all the success in the future activities.

**Dr. M.A.S. Mallawa Arachchi,**  
**74<sup>th</sup> President, SLVA**



### CPD Programs: Feed Formulartion And Poultry Disease Diagnosis

This was held as part of the provincial workshops organized by the SLVA for the veterianrians, and this was for the of the North Western Province. Dr. Nimal Priyankarage, Dr. Wijitha Dharmawardena and Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe were the resouce personnel. This is the last of the CPD programs for the year 2022 by the 74<sup>th</sup> Excecutive Committee.



### 21<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA):

Dr Sugath Pemachandra and Dr Pavithra Eshwara represented the SLVA at the FAVA in Japan in November 2022.



### JVMA Scholarships

Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) delegates visited Sri Lanka to select candidate/s to offer scholarships. This is an annual event by the JVMA, benefitting SLVA members. Five short-listed candidates were interviewed in Colombo, in November 2022.



### SLVA Challenge Trophy 2022: Six-a-side Cricket Tournament

The 74<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the SLVA organized the first Inter-Batch, soft-ball, Six-A-Side cricket tournament, "SLVA CHALLENGE TROPHY 2022", which was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November at the Bloomfield Cricket Grounds in Colombo.





This was held as a full-physical event this time, as the Covid-19 pandemic has subsided.



Prof. MD Lamawansa, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya was the Chief Guest and Dr. Sapumal Dhanapala of the World Health Organization was the Keynote speaker.



Prof. Anura Jayasuriya and Dr. Krishanthi Premaratne were the conference Co-Chairs. They were presented with tokens of appreciation by Dr. Susantha Mallawaarachchi, the President of SLVA.



The sessions were held under different themes: Animal Production, Animal health, Clinical, Aquatic and Wildlife Medicine and Public health. The winners of these sectors will be honored at the Annual Convention to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022. Plenary speeches were also delivered for each and every session.



## Animal Production

**Prof. Anil Pushpakumara**

Dean,

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

University of Peradeniya

Sri Lanka



## Animal Health

**Prof. Udeni Balasuriya**

Professor of Virology,

Louisiana State University,

United States of America



## Clinical

**Dr. Dynatra Subasinghe**

Lecturer

University of Surrey

United Kingdom



## Aquatic and Wildlife Medicine

**Prof. Grant D. Stentiford**

IOE & University of Exeter

United Kingdom



## Public Health

**Dr. Gayan Hettiarachchi**

A Food Safety Director

Canada



Moreover, a common poster session was held separately. Mammoth contributions made by the Co-Chairs, Session Chairs, all members of the SLVA scientific committee, abstract reviewers, judges and also the presenters need to be appreciated.

## 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting *Cont. from Page 1*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee was elected unanimously at this event.

**New Membership Fees Effective from  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**Annual Membership Rs. 2000.00**

**Life Membership Rs. 30000.00**

The secretary, Dr. Chamari Kannangara, presented the minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> AGM. She also presented the Secretary's Report, which consisted of all the activities executed by the 74<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee.



The treasurer, Dr. Kaundika Wanigasundara while delivering the Treasurer's Report, presented the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.



The Editor-SLVJ, Dr. D.D.N. de Silva presented the Editor's Report.



## 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention: *Cont. from Page 01*

Following the AGM, the annual convention started at the same venue.



His Excellency Mr. Gopal Baglay, the Indian High Commissioner graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Prof. H. D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker. More than 400 Veterinarians and sponsors, well-wishers attended the event.



The event was made more colorful by several dancing musical events etc.



## Induction of the 75<sup>th</sup> President

The new president of the 75<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of SLVA, Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe was ceremonially introduced to the members during the Annual Convention.





Dr. Dilan obtained his school education from the Ananda College, Colombo. He graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 2006, from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

Soon after graduation, he commenced his career as a Veterinary Surgeon at Fortune GP Farms Ltd, a joint venture of Bairaha Farms PLC, Farm's Pride Pvt Ltd and Cobb Vantress USA and was promoted to the Head of operations in 2008.

In 2009, he joined the Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, the University of Peradeniya. He completed his Master of Veterinary Medicine (MVM) degree from the University of Massey, New Zealand, in 2012. Later, he obtained his doctoral degree in 2016 from the University Putra Malaysia in the field of Immunology. Currently, he is working as a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

On an academic and professional view, he has secured several national and international grants. His research and industrial ties have expanded across national and international universities and research institutes. He has pioneered the establishment of modern disease diagnostic laboratories at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, the University of Peradeniya and the Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. So far, he has published more than 80 peer-reviewed national and international papers. As a result of his outstanding scientific contribution, he won presidential awards.

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

#### Appreciation: 74<sup>th</sup> President

The outgoing president, Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi received a special memento for his mammoth contribution as the 74<sup>th</sup> president. This was presented by the 75<sup>th</sup> president, Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe.



#### Felicitation of two Senior Vets

Two senior vets, Prof. Emeritus (Mrs.) Indira Silva and Dr. H.M.A. Chandrasoma, were felicitated by the 74<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee at the Annual Convention. This

was for their noteworthy contribution over the years to the Sri Lanka veterinary profession.



#### Appreciation: Invited Guests

His Excellency Mr. Gopal Baglay, the Indian High commissioner, the Chief Guest, was offered a special token by Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi, president SLVA. Moreover, Prof. H. D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor-University of Colombo, the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker, was also given a token of appreciation.





## Awards for best Presentations / Abstracts

Every year, the SLVA recognizes 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 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions which was held in October 2022.

### Dr. Hector C. Perera Memorial Award for the Most Outstanding Clinical Communication:

- (1) Total Ear Canal Ablation with Lateral Bulla Osteotomy (TECA-LBO) in Advanced Ear Disease in Dogs, by Dr. D.M. Siriwardane



- (2) Using Joules Solution and Intravenous KCL to Control Critical Acute Conditions in 13 Cats with Refeeding Syndrome (RS), by Dr. J.Y.C. Dharmasuriya\* and Dr. K.A.K.K. Kuruppu



### Dr. Keerthi Gunasekara Award for the Best Presentation in Veterinary Public Health:

Prevalence and the Predominant Phenotypes of Multi Drug Resistant Escherichia coli in Livestock, Wild Animals and Associated Environment at Kosgama, Sri Lanka

B.M.Y.I. Basnayake, G.G.T. Nisansala, P.I.J.B. Wijewickrama, K.W.Y.D. Gunasekara, D.B.N. Pushpakumara, N.K. Jayasekera, A.W. Kalupahana, R.S. Kalupahana, A.Silva- Fletcher and K.S.A. Kottawatta\*



### Group Captain Dr. P. Erandika Gunawardhana Award for Best Presentation in Wildlife & Aquaculture:

Progressive Mortalities in Juvenile Barramundi /Asian Sea Bass (*Lates calcarifer*) after Stocking in Net Cages in Trincomalee Coastal Area

H.A.R. De Zoysa, M.N.M.Fouzi\*, K.L.N. Ananda, R.R.M.K.K. Wijesundera and S.S.S. de S Jagoda



### Dr. and Mrs. A.R. Mohamed Award for the Best Presentation in Animal Health:

Flow Cytometric Analysis of Antigen-specific CD4+ and CD8+ T Cell Responses Induced by an Irradiated *H. contortus* Larval Vaccine in Saanen Goats

P.G.A.S. Palkumbura, R.R.M.K.K. Wijesundera, N.M.T. Anupama\* and R.P.V.J. Rajapakse





**Air Commodore Dr. R.M.P.A. Dassanayake  
Award for the best presentation in  
Animal Production:**

Isolation and Preliminary Characterisation of Aerobic Yeast from Dry Zone Cattle in Sri Lanka as a Potential Feed Additive

M.W.D.C. Weerathunga , D.L. Daluwatta, H.R.N. Jinadasa and W.M.P.B. Weerasinghe\*



**Dr. Arunasiri Iddamalgoda Award for the best  
Poster presentation:**

- (1) Phylogenetic Characterisation of Incidentally Discovered Syngamus trachea from a Backyard Poultry Carcass: A Case Report

S.U.G. Amarasena\*, R.P.V.J. Rajapakse , G.D.R.K. Perera , Y.K. Jayawardana and H.A.R. De Zoysa



- (2) Study on Ornamental Fish Farmer's perception on bio security strategies

P.J. Sembapperuma\* and H.M.N. Hennayake



**ACADEMIC MEDALS/AWARDS  
TO UNDERGRADUATES**

The following veterinary students received Gold Medals and Awards for academic excellence during the 74th Annual Convention, held in December 2022.

**D. Seneviratne Gold Medal for Excellence in  
Veterinary Public Health: Kumudumalee W.U**



**Mr. & Mrs. M.P. Seneviratne Gold Medal for  
Veterinary Parasitology: Keerthisinghe K.V**



**SLVA award for best performance in  
Veterinary Surgery: Dissanayaka D.M.H.H**



**Dr. Vijitha Dharmawardena award for best  
undergraduate research related to poultry  
industry: Kaushalya R.A.U**





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Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07.

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