



The Veterinarian

The Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

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64th Annual Scientific Session & Convention

The annual scientific session of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association was held on May 11th 2012 at Plant Genetic Resource Center (PGRC), Gannoruwa. The chief guest was Prof. B.S.B. Karunaratna, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya. Prof. N. P. Sunil-Chandra delivered the Keynote Lecture on "Future Trends in Veterinary Public Health & Emerging Viral Diseases". After the inauguration, a common scientific session was organized to cover important areas of veterinary science. The Clinical & Animal Health session and the Animal Production, Biotechnology, & Wildlife session were held in parallel, as well as a poster session.

The annual convention was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo on 15th June 2012 and office bearers for the year 2012/2013 were elected at the Annual General Meeting. The induction ceremony was held in the evening and Dr. A.D.N. Chandrasiri, the new president, presented his vision for the forthcoming year. Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as the chief guest and the guest of honor was Dr. Firdosi Rustom Mehta, Country Representative for the WHO. This was followed by the fellowship dinner.

See p. 2 for more details...



The chief guest, guest of honor and other invitees being conducted to the venue of the induction ceremony. Drs. Chandrasiri, Kendaragama, Sivasothi, Mehta, Ijas and Mr. Cabraal are in the photo.



The new president, Dr. A. D. N. Chandrasiri, delivering his acceptance speech.

SLVA Awards for Excellence in Performance at Examinations – Veterinary Undergraduates



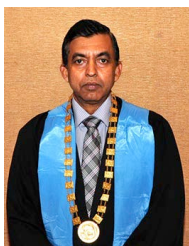
Ms. Gunarathna receiving her award from Mr. Cabraal

M. P. Seneviratna gold medal for excellence in Veterinary Parasitology was awarded to *Ms. H. S. R. Silva* and **D. Senevirathna gold medal for excellence in Veterinary Public Health** to *Ms. W.D.L.S. Gunarathna*

Awards for best performance at the 64th Annual Scientific Sessions

Name of the Award	Title	Authors
Dr. Hector C. Perera Memorial Award for the <i>Best Clinical Communication</i>	AN OUTBREAK OF ACUTE TYPHLOCOLITIS IN GROUP OF THOROUGHbred HORSES IN A SINGLE STABLE	U. C. Gunasekera, J. L.C. S. Perera, C. Dushyanthan, A. M. P. Abeysinghe, G. D.R. K. Perera, A. A. A. W. K. Amarasinghe, P. G. A. Pushpakumara & L. N. A. De Silva
Dr. and Mrs. A.R. Mohamed Award for the <i>Best presentation in the Animal Health Session</i>	IS ANTHELMINTIC RESISTANCE OF BOVINE NEMATODES THE ONLY CAUSE FOR LACK OF RESPONSE TO ANTHELMINTICS?	N. D. Senasinghe, M. B. Navaratne, S. S. Iddamaldeniya, S. K. Abeyratne & K. D. M. N. Kappagoda
Air Commodore Dr. R.M.P.A. Dassanayake Award for the <i>Best presentation in the Animal Production Session</i>	INVESTIGATION OF <i>CAMPYLOBACTER</i> , <i>SALMONELLA</i> , <i>ESCHERICHIA COLI</i> AND <i>STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS</i> IN CHICKEN MEAT AT SMALL SCALE RETAILSHOPS IN KANDY CITY LIMITS	D. S. Thilakarathne, K. S. A. Kottawatta, R. S. Kalupahana & P. Abeynayake
SLVA Award for the <i>Best presentation in the Reproduction and Breeding Session</i>	EFFECT OF EXOGENOUS GONADOTROPHIN RELEASING HORMONE (GnRH) INJECTION AT THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF SOWS	K. K. Sarath, P. A. B. D. Alexander, B. M. A. O. Perera & P. G. A. Pushpakumara
Dr. Arunasiri Iddamalgodan Award for the <i>Best Poster</i>	DETERMINATION OF SERUM CALCIUM (Ca) AND PHOSPHOROUS (P) LEVELS OF DOGS RAISED WITH OR WITHOUT PROVISION OF MINERAL SUPPLEMENTS	A. A. D. T. Chandrasiri, D. A. Satharasinghe, G. A. Prathapasinghe, N. A.Y. Wasantha Kumara & L. J. P. A. P. Jayasooriya

President's Message



It is with great pleasure I send this message as the President of the SLVA. The SLVA, being the largest professional organization of Veterinarians in Sri Lanka, has an important role to play in the national perspective in supporting government development programs in the livestock sector. At present, the main government objective in livestock sector is becoming self sufficient in milk. As far as this objective is concerned, veterinarians have a vast responsibility in assisting the dairy producers by providing technical knowhow to maintain healthy animal populations and in improving the productivity of animals. Technical guidance on proper feeding, good health, improved fertility, efficient management systems and good extension service are the key aspects to be considered by a veterinarian. All these five aspects have to be equally addressed to achieve the final objective.

SLVA is in the process of getting actively involved in the animal production aspect in parallel to the health issues. Significant involvement of the veterinary professionals to increase the livestock contribution in the national GDP is of paramount importance. If we can do it, I am sure that the veterinary profession will be fully recognized in the country. I kindly request all members of the SLVA to join hand in hand to fulfill this task.

Dr. A.D.N. Chandrasiri
President/SLVA 2012/2013

65th Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (2012/2013)

President:	Dr. A.D.N. Chandrasiri	Executive Committee:	Dr. D.D.N. de Silva Dr. A. Dangolla
President Elect:	Dr. W.K. de Silva		Dr. M. Somaratne Dr. P. Wijewantha
Vice Presidents:	Dr. P.G.A. Pushpakumara Dr. K. Kuleshwarakumar		Dr. J.P.K. Jayasekera Dr. R.C. Rajapaksha
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Asst. Secretaries:	Dr. D.M.S. Munasinghe Dr. N.K. Jayasekera	SLVJ Editor:	Prof. R. Sivakanesan
Treasurer:	Dr. T.P. Wijethilake	Web Master	Dr. L.G.S. Lokugalappatti
Asst. Treasurer:	Dr. S. Puvanendiran		

**65th Annual Scientific Sessions and
Convention**
First call for abstracts: January 2013
for details visit www.slva.org

Moving the Profession Forward

Dr. Nalinika Obeyesekere

It is now time for the veterinary profession to reach towards new heights and become part of the global community as a highly valued and respected profession. To achieve this we must first develop a strong knowledge base and be updated on current developments. With open access to a large body of knowledge through the internet, this is now more feasible.

The profession should now be ready to accept the reality of the prominence of companion animals in people's lives and strive to provide the required services to this sector in addition to strengthening the traditional focus on production animals; an unquestionably important area of service required in this developing nation. The government veterinary sector has, for a long time, informally provided some services to companion animals due to the inescapable demand. However, as this was considered a less important part of their professional responsibilities, building of knowledge and high quality service in this area has lagged and this must be redressed.

With the emergence and re-emergence of novel and threatening zoonotic disease, the world has moved towards a One Health concept with the medical and veterinary professions working in cooperation. The veterinarian's role in public health has recently reached a position of demand and prominence. With the renewed drive towards an effective national program for rabies eradication and the recent cabinet paper put forward, the opportunity for the veterinary sector to play its expected role in rabies eradication can now commence. As we all know the only way to eradicate rabies, a very achievable task given an island nation, is to eradicate the disease in the reservoir host, the dog. The health and welfare of man's best friend is now more than ever an important part of the veterinary profession. To make all these achievements a reality and keep the profession on track, maintaining high standards of professionalism and service requires an active, modern and dynamic veterinary council. The council must actively take the lead in providing necessary guidelines in a timely manner while the profession moves rapidly in new directions. The profession is changing and expanding and we all need to develop and strengthen our skills to meet the new demands.

A challenge is ahead of us let's all collectively meet it!

The Society of Companion Animal Practitioners (SCAP) is doing their part this year by providing several excellent continuing education opportunities:

September 2012

Dr Bill Ryan – Surgical Management of Cranial Cruciate Rupture from diagnosis to treatment and post operative care

Dr Peter McCourt – Bovine topics

Dr Geeta Saini – Management of corneal ulcers, the Itchy Dog, Wound management, Pythorax management, anesthetics for canine Caesarians and update on NSAIDs/ gastric ulceration/gut protectants

October 2012

Dr Elaine Cebuliak – Veterinary dentistry and complementary & alternative medicine

Dr Kim Lim – Post operative rehabilitation, CAVM and chiropractic techniques.

All are welcome!

Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Production Restarts at Animal Virus Laboratory, Polgolla

Foot and mouth disease (FMD), an endemic disease in Sri Lanka, causes major economic losses to cattle, buffalo and swine industries. This disease is mainly controlled by prophylactic and strategic vaccination in Sri Lanka. Local production of FMD vaccine started in 1964, with a laboratory facility exclusively for FMD vaccine production established in the early 1980s. This vaccine was produced for more than a decade at the Veterinary Research Institute under the dedicated supervision of late Dr Hilary Fernando. Unfortunately the local production of FMD vaccine ceased in 1994 due to technical problems.

With great dedication of the staff members of the Animal Virus Laboratory, Polgolla, with support from the Department of Animal Production and Health, FMD vaccine production recommenced in 2011. This was possible due to establishment of modern technology at the Animal Virus Laboratory, Polgolla.

In brief, bioreactor technology is used to propagate BHK₂₁ cells which are grown as suspension cells in bulk. A cell-culture- adapted local FMD virus isolate is used as a vaccine strain and cultured to high titer by bottle fermentation technology and added to the bioreactor for replication. It is then inactivated by BEI and Formalin and the inactivated virus is incorporated with aluminum hydroxide gel. Quality Control testing is carried out to ensure the sterility, effectiveness, potency and safety of each batch of the vaccine prior to dispatching to the field for vaccination of susceptible cattle and buffalo.

The first batch of FMD vaccine was successfully produced in March 2012. The production of vaccines will be continued until FMD is eradicated from Sri Lanka.

Events

Elephant Health Clinic for Esala Perahera

The SLVA, in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science and Lions Club of Kandy Hill Capital, conducted the annual Elephant Health Clinic for elephants participating in the Kandy Esala Perahera in July 2012. This event was coordinated by Dr. A. Dangolla of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

Hidden world of elephants by Dr. Nandana Atapattu

Dr. Nandana Atapattu, a senior veterinarian, former committee member of SLVA, and former head at the Health and Management Division of the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka, recently launched a book titled "*Hidden world of elephants*". The book is a scientific account on facts and myths about elephants, and also a fine read on his more than three decades of experience with elephants.

Professor Peter Seneviratna, BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, FRCVS, MACVSc, DSc (Honoris causa)

Prof. Peter Seneviratna, former Professor of Veterinary Science and former Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Science (1966 - 1972) passed away on 16th July 2012 in Melbourne, Australia. An appreciation for the late Prof. Peter Seneviratna was held at ICE, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya on 29th August 2012. The late Prof. Seneviratna's wife, Sakuntala Seneviratna, his son, Gamini Seneviratna and his daughter-in-law, Sandy Seneviratna along with several of Prof. Seneviratna's colleagues were present. The memorial lecture was delivered by Prof. S.S.E. Ranawana. Professor V.K. Gunawardana and Prof. B.M.A.O. Perera also shared their memories of Prof. Seneviratna.

Forthcoming Events

To celebrate the **World Rabies Day**, the SLVA together with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science will hold an anti rabies vaccination programme for the elephants at Pinnawla Elephant Orphanage on 3rd October 2012.

News

Retirements

Dr. A. S. L. Dananjaya Eleperuma, Chief Municipal Veterinary Surgeon of Colombo Municipal Council, retired on 29th August 28, 2012 after 30 years of service to the municipality. Dr. Eleperuma graduated from Peradeniya in 1979 and holds a MSc. in Meat Science from University of Bristol, UK. He was a past president of SLVA (2006/2007).

Obituaries

Dr. Tissa Jayathilaka passed away on 19th May 2012, was a graduate of the University of Ceylon. He started his career as a government veterinary surgeon and worked in both national and international organizations in different capacities. He was a member of the SLVA executive committee, where he served in various capacities.

Dr. W. W. Stanley passed away on 13th July 2012. He graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in 1990 and worked as a government veterinary surgeon in Mahaoya. He became a public health veterinarian attached to the Public Health Division of the Colombo Municipal Council from 1999 where he served until the time of his death.

Professor Chamindrani Mendis-Handagama passed away on July 22nd 2012. She graduated with a BVSc. from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya in 1977. Professor Mendis-Handagama obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Monash, Australia in 1985 and served as a professor in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, U.S.A. from 1991-2012. She was the Guest of Honour at the Annual General Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the SLVA in 2007.

Dr. Upali L.C. Perera passed away in August 2012, obtained his G.V.Sc. in 1955 from Calcutta, India. He served as government veterinary surgeon till he retired in 1985 and then served as a Technical Advisor in private organizations.

SLVA Research Fund

The SLVA has decided to establish a Research Fund to support field-based research, with grants awarded up to a maximum of Rs. 100,000. Your generous contributions to this fund will be welcome. Please contact the Secretary (rnjinadasa@yahoo.com), SLVA regarding contributions. SLVA members* may submit research proposals through e-mail (info@slva.org)

**Academics and research officers can be co workers.*

The New Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH)

The new Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH) of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science commenced functioning from 21st May 2012. The new VTH was constructed with financial assistance of Rs. 84 million from the Sri Lankan government.

The VTH is five times more spacious than the old hospital and consists of an out patients department, a continuous monitoring unit, an intensive care unit, two operating theaters, a surgical recovery unit, an ultrasound scanning unit with echocardiographic and electrocardiographic facilities, a fibre-optic endoscopy unit, an in-house pharmacy and diagnostic laboratory among the expanded facilities. Residential facilities for patients, an isolation unit and caretakers quarters are also located in the same premises. The new facility has boosted the motivation of the undergraduates especially the students in clinical years and also attracted more pet owners within this short period. The hospital staff is striving to provide their best services to the clients in addition to imparting their knowledge, clinical and professional skills together with correct attitudes to the veterinary undergraduates.



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