

RADIOLOGY NEWS

The Official Newsletter of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists

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EDITORIAL

Dear Member of SLCR,

Welcome to the latest edition of Radiology News! The editorial board would like to wish membership health, wealth and happiness in upcoming 2025 new year.

This news letter carries highlights of the successful annual academic sessions of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists, held in October 2024

A note by our two senior consultant radiologists on the journey of AAS from the inception to date is an interesting article for all the members

We also included the captures of IDoR celebrations 2024 in the news letter

We believe it is our duty to pay our tribute to late Dr. Mrs.Uditha Wirasinghe, who was a pioneer member or SLCR. A write up by her colleagues is included in the newsletter.

We are glad to share the news of SLCR representations by the Prof. Harsha Dissanayaka and Dr.Mihiri Wettasinghe in international fora.

Don't miss the announcements on upcoming events

We would like to convey our heartfelt thanks to the membership for continuous support

Best wishes

Jeevani Udupihille, Udari Liyanage
Co- Editors/Radiology News



SLCR

23rd Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists

The 23rd Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists was held at Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo from 25th to 27th October.

The theme of the event was “Advances in Medical Imaging in the Digital Era: Opportunities and Challenges”.

The Faculty



Dr Rachel Hyland



Prof S. Sukumar



Dr Anna Sharman



Dr R Velauthan



Dr Rachel Magennis



Dr Calvin Soh



Dr Nishant Omar



Dr Krishan Dissanayake



Dr Deepthi Jayasinghe



Dr S Sooriyabandara



Dr Heshan Panditaratne



Dr Sanjeewa Munasinghe



Dr Richard Whitehouse

Inauguration Ceremony and Dr. SNB Talwate Memorial Oration 23rd Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists

The Inauguration Ceremony and Dr. SNB Talwate Memorial Oration of the 23rd Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists was held at Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo on 25th October 2024.

Dr. Rachel Hyland, Consultant GI Radiologist (Leeds Teaching Hospitals), Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Leeds, Head of Senior Radiology Yorkshire & Hunter was the chief guest of the event.



Sri Lanka College of Radiologists Fellowships were awarded to Dr. Anil De Silva, Dr. Jerard Fernando and Dr. Nayana Samarasinghe in recognition for their excellent service and dedication on uplifting the field of radiology in Sri Lanka



The Dr. A.W Athukorala Gold Medal for MD Radiology Part I examination 2023 was awarded to Dr. M Malika Dhananani Kumari

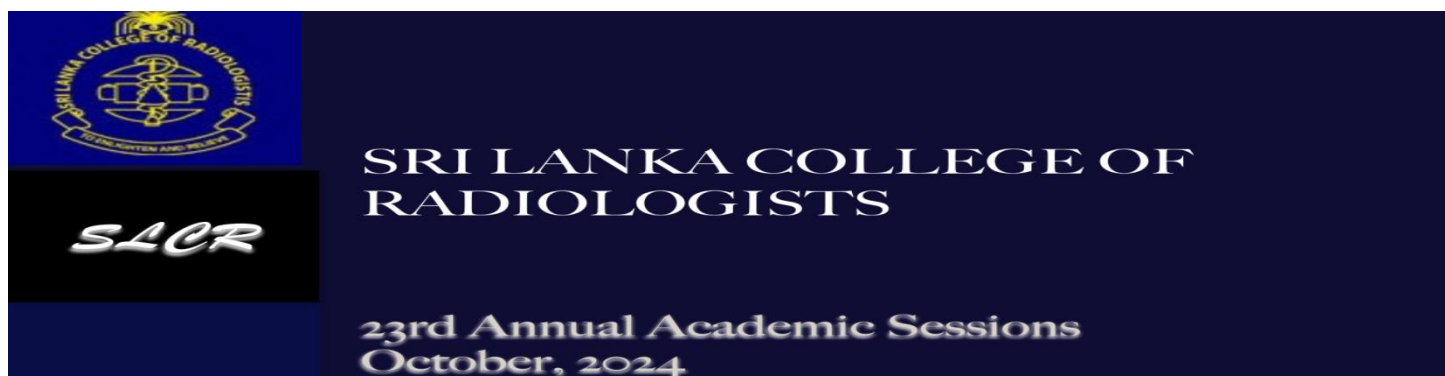


Dr. SNB Talwatte Memorial Oration was delivered by Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy, Consultant Radiologist and Senior Lecturer, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya on “Minimally Invasive Solutions: Image-Guided Liver Cancer Therapies”.



A colourful events of entertainment, followed the inauguration ceremony





The 23rd Annual Academic Sessions were comprised of two and half days of lectures with interaction sessions. The event was a success, with strong participation from both local and international delegates.



Over 75 abstracts were presented across oral and poster presentation categories at the conference



The Congress dinner was held on 8° Degree Floating Restaurant, Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo on 26th October.



Sri Lanka College of Radiologists - Coming of Age

This year the 22nd Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists was held with the participation of a large number of members. The successful event was a great joy and a dream come true to most of us. Before the turn of the century such an event was only wishful thinking.

Roots of the College of Radiology can be traced back to a rudimentary College set up by Radiologist late Dr. M M Jilla in 1960 together with Oncologists. However, with time it died a natural death. In 1980 the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) was established to train medical specialists to meet the requirement of the country. Prior to this, medical officers had to go overseas for specialization in their chosen fields. At this juncture Dr. S N B Talwatte together with his colleagues reestablished the College to train the Radiologists. Activities of the College at this time was confined to hold the Annual General Meeting for the election of office bearers for the college and holding the annual dinner for examiners and Membership at the conclusion of the MD Radiology Examination.

Prior to 1986 the number of radiologists serving the country was few, numbering around five. With time the number grew due to the return of trained radiologists to the country. A significant contribution was made by Dr. Ajith de Silva by training 14 Radiologists in Australia, which went a long way in strengthening the Membership. This led to the widening of activities and programmes of the College. However, we didn't have access to new technologies such as CT scan, MRI scan/ Mammography / Doppler sonography etc. Young radiologists travelled to countries such as Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia etc. Training in new technologies. As it was felt that participation in International

academic events was time consuming and expensive the need to have our own Academic Sessions was felt.

The process was a tedious, challenging one with not even an address to use for sending and receiving mail, and without any financial support. Members were divided and confused on the way forward, and unsure of the strategies to be adopted.

Not discouraged by these challenges, the late Dr. Atulugama managed to find a small cramped up room in the Sri Lanka Medical Association building while late Dr. Uditha Wirasinghe blessed by donating a wall clock. Nevertheless, we started operating from this small, minimally equipped room with a sense of pride and achievement. Organizing the first academic session (AAS) in 2002 was a challenging task for the novice group of radiologists. Inviting guests, speakers and arranging their air fare and accommodation, and holding a cultural show needed much financing. Raising the airfares for foreign guest speakers was another big challenge. Luckily some of them managed to raise their own funding, while the local pharmaceutical companies supported with their accommodation. Even though this was a task we were not used to, all the consultant radiologist at the time rallied round and helped in numerous ways to make the maiden AAS event a success. The sessions were held at the Taj Samudra Hotel in August 2002. The inauguration fell on a Friday preceded by a Work Shop on Doppler imaging. The navy cultural group arranged by Dr Atulugama completed the session with a colourful performance admired by all. The 2nd and 3rd day sessions held on Saturday and Sunday too were well attended and was followed by a dinner for

the speakers and Membership.

A very successful and informative session thus concluded to the satisfaction of the membership. Overseas speakers were much impressed with the conduct of the session and even some promised to attend future events at their own expense. Members were stimulated by the discussions and presentations and this kindled an enthusiasm among the membership to find appropriate platforms to present their research. The Journal of Radiology and the News Letter published by the College provided and opened up more opportunities in this regard.

The college continued for some time with the meagre resources, operating from the same small room at SLMA. Subsequently, through the HSDP Project we were able to purchase a computer and get the services of a permanent clerical staff and subsequently moved to a bigger room in the ground floor of SLMA, where we are housed to date. We sincerely believe we are on the right track now. Looking back, we have grown slowly, but steadily, with joint sessions held with the Asian Muscular Skeletal Society, Society of Pediatric Radiologists and Society of Radiologists of SARC Countries in subsequent years. The College was renamed the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists (SLCR) in the latter part of 2004, in keeping with the requirements of the constitutional changes that took place during that period. The

After the demise of Dr. Talwatte and Dr.

Athukorale awards were made under their name for Part 1 and Part 2 candidates on merit. In subsequent years a memorial oration was added to the AGA programme to honour Dr. Talwatte's contribution to the College.

We should move forward in strengthening existing bonds creating opportunities for our members to engage with global Radiology communities, and bringing international expertise to our local forums while strengthening the research capabilities of our Membership working collaboratively with other colleges, academic institutions, healthcare professionals, and policymakers.

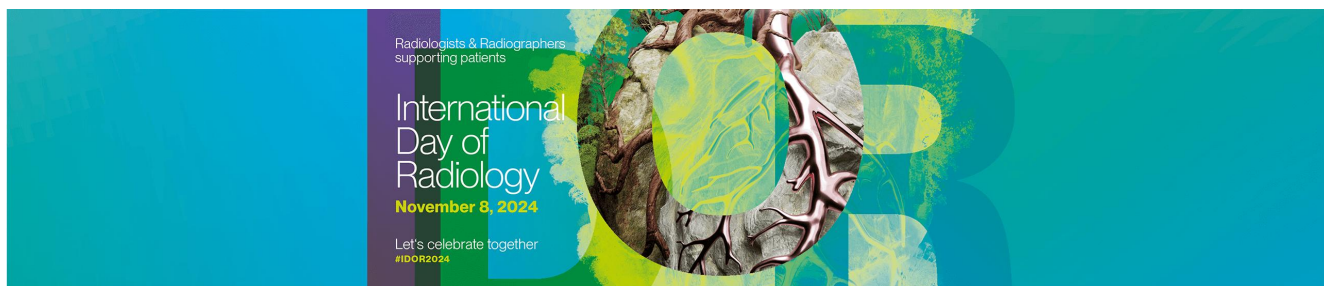
We have achieved much in our goal of broad basing radiological services countrywide thanks to what Dr. Talwatte and his colleagues initiated 24 years ago enabling the clinicians to arrive at a diagnosis and some time, to treat as well.

Vision for the College is rooted in fostering collaboration. From the inception, the SLCR has steadily grown to where we are today. It is our strong belief that we should keep the momentum, work together with a vision, to take our college to greater heights.

Dr. Gulpa Subasinghe

Dr. Kishani Pathirana





***SLCR celebrated the 12th International Day of Radiology (IDoR 2024)
with medical imaging professionals from across the world... .***

The main event was held at the Radiology Department at the National Hospital Sri Lanka, Colombo

The event was held as a hybrid session, allowing members to attend either in person or via the Zoom platform.

International Day Of Radiology

Friday,
8th November

12:30 - 13:30

Reporting room,
Dept of Radiology
NHSL colombo

AGENDA

12:30 - 12:40

Address by the president of SLCR
 Prof. Harsha Dissanayake

12:40 - 13:00

Impact of contrast to the kidney and risk stratification
 Dr. Chulani Weerackoon
Medical Services Manager, Sunshine Medical Devices

13:00 - 13:30

Bridging the Gap: Essential Skills and Emerging Technologies for the Next Generation of Radiologists
 Dr. Shantha Hettiarachchi
Consultant Radiologist

13:30
Lunch

sunshine
medical devices

GE Healthcare



Additionally, Prof. Harsha Dissanayake the president of the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists, and Dr. Nayana Samarasinghe Consultant Radiologist at Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital Colombo, took part in a live television program on Sirasa TV's morning show on November 8th, in celebration of World Radiography Day.



Tribute

IN APPRECIATION OF DR. UDITHA WIRASINGHE: HEALER, TEACHER, COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND. A COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING.



Dr. Uditha Wirasinghe (née Munasinghe), born on 26th October 1945, was a pioneer in Sri Lankan radiology, a compassionate doctor, and an inspiring teacher. As the only daughter in a family of five, she was educated at Mirigama Junior School, Ratnawali Balika Vidyalaya, and Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo. Entering the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ceylon in 1966, she graduated with MBBS in 1971.

Her medical journey began with internships at General Hospital, Kandy, under eminent mentors Prof. W.G. Gomes and Dr. K. Arumugam. Post-intern, she served in Beruwala, Gampaha, and Kandy. Inspired by Dr. Premani Amerasinghe, Dr. Wirasinghe pursued radiology, joining the PGIM program in 1981. After training at King's College, UK, she was board-certified in 1988 and served at Teaching Hospital, Kandy, until retirement in 2005.

Dr. Wirasinghe was instrumental in transforming the radiology department at Teaching Hospital, Kandy. Starting with minimal facilities, she spearheaded the addition of CT, color Doppler sonography, digital fluoroscopy, mammography, DSA, and MRI. Under her

leadership, the cadre of radiologists expanded, and the unit became a PGIM-accredited training center.

She served as President of the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists (SLCR) from 1998–1999. She contributed to the Board of Study in Radiology for eight years as a dedicated postgraduate trainer and examiner, and she was a key figure in establishing Sri Lanka's first postgraduate radiology training center outside Colombo.

Dr. Wirasinghe's academic contributions included presenting on fluorosis at SLAS in 1998 and co-authoring WHO guidelines on imaging pancreatic diseases and neck masses. In recognition of her services, she was conferred the Fellowship of SLCR and honored as an Outstanding Women Medical Professional in 2012.

Married to Mr. Suranimala Wirasinghe, she nurtured two children, both now specialist doctors. Even in retirement, she continued serving the needy and found joy with her grandsons.

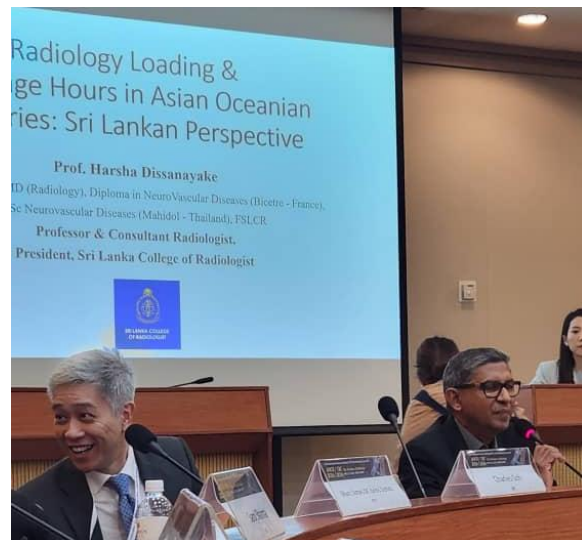
Dr. Wirasinghe passed away in June 2024 in Kandy. Her immense contributions to radiology and dedication to her students and patients leave an indelible legacy.

May she attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

*Dr. Indra Lekamge
Prof. Badra Hewavithana*

Notices

Prof. Harsha Dissanayake represented the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists at the AOCR 2024 held in Taiwan. He also delivered a presentation on "Radiology loading and coverage hours in Asian Oceanian Countries A Sri Lankan Perspective".



Prof. Harsha Dissanayake was invited to participate in the 80th Korean Congress of Radiology (KCR 2024), which was held in Seoul, Korea as a national delegate and did a presentation on "Postgraduate Training in MD Radiology In Sri Lanka".

Dr. Mihiri Wettasinghe represented Sri Lanka College of Radiologists at the AOSOR youth club which was held in Fukuoka Japan



Announcements

- Annual General Meeting of Sri Lanka College of Radiologists will be held at 09.00am on the 05th of January 2025 at Barnes hall, Jetwing Colombo 07 .

- The Annual College Dinner of the Sri Lanka College of Radiologists will be held on the 19th of December 2024 at the Nelum Hall, Waters Edge, Battaramulla, starting at 7:00 pm.

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Sri Lanka Journal of Radiology

Sri Lanka Journal of Radiology which is an important milestone in uplifting the scientific publications of Sri Lankan

Radiologists to the international arena is now online.

The journal and articles can be accessed by <http://sljr.sljol.info/>

This is published in Sri Lanka Journals Online which also hosts most of the leading Sri Lankan Scientific e-Journals in collaboration with INASP and Ubiquity Press in UK. It is also available via Facebook and twitter.

We invite all of our members to contribute their high quality research articles, review articles, case series etc to the SLJR online.

The submission procedure and the guidelines are available on the journal itself. This journal publishes new articles after blind peer review process on a continuous cycle throughout the year. The SLCR hopes all its members make it a point to be a part of this greatest academic endeavour by taking into research and publishing.



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