

Volume1 Issue 1

September 2021

# SRI LANKAN ASSOCIATION OF COLORECTAL SURGEONS

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## NEWSLETTER

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It gives us great pleasure to pen these first words of the newsletter of the newly established Sri Lankan Association of Colorectal Surgeons (SLACS). This organisation has been a long felt need within the fabric of surgical services in the country and promises to be a broad based yet focused association of professionals involved in the care of patients with disease of lower gastrointestinal tract, as evidenced by its mission statement.

We hope that this newsletter will initiate not only communication with our membership, but also develop as a platform for our members to reach a wider audience with their experience, technical skills, research and ideas. It will also be a valuable forum for discussion, especially with the thrust towards collaborative research, structuring of postgraduate training and introduction of practice standards. We are in the process of shaping the structure, model and role of this publication, and would value your input.

The establishment of SLACS is a landmark step forward for colorectal surgery in Sri Lanka, and it is our fervent hope that the organisation and this publication will grow to reach their potential in the coming years.

***Dr. Kesara Ratnatunga***  
***Dr. Janaka Ekanayake***

Colorectal surgery is one of the most ancient specialties of surgery with documented history dating beyond 3150 BC to Egyptian civilisation in the Nile Valley. The George Ebers papyrus dating back to 1555 BC carries documentary evidence of a 'Physician of the tummy'. The Beatty V medical papyrus carries documented evidence of a specialist in enemas, the 'Shepherd of the anus'.

Colorectal surgery has been an integral part of modern general surgery and has contributed vastly as a frontline specialty to develop surgical care all over the world in research and in development of norms, guidelines, protocols, techniques and equipment. Sri Lanka has been lagging in recognising 'colorectal surgery' as a specialty. After years of deliberation, it is timely to launch the SLACS (Sri Lankan Association of Colorectal Surgeons).

As the founder president of the association, I would first like to congratulate the founder members and the council and thank our patrons for their guidance, encouragement and help in revising the constitution. Special gratitude should be paid to the members of the steering committee who made this a reality.

Our primary objective is to deliver the best and most up to date care for patients through improving the quality of colorectal training, research and introducing standards in colorectal surgical care by collaborating with all relevant specialties, The College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka as the apex body of surgical fraternity and with our closest brother association the 'Association of General Surgeons of Sri Lanka' (AGSSL).

I would like to invite all surgeons who have an interest in colorectal surgery, who practice colorectal surgery and all specialists and professionals in other disciplines who work very closely with us in the management of the patients with colorectal diseases to join with us by obtaining membership of the association.

***Dr. Wasantha Wijenayake***



### Vision

- To strengthen an inclusive and broad knowledge on the global, regional and national levels.
- To influence policy design and implementation of colorectal surgical care on the national and global levels.
- To ensure greater coordination and harmonisation between surgical platforms and networks working on health-related issues
- Encourage adoption of evidence based best practices in colorectal surgery in Sri Lanka to optimise patient outcomes



### Guiding principles

- Mutual Accountability
- Representativeness
- Equity
- Inclusiveness and non-discrimination, with regards to criteria including but not limited to gender
- Prevention of conflicts of interest
- Enforce principles of clinical governance in the practice of colorectal surgery
- Evidence based practice

The inaugural meeting held on 31st July, 2021 at the Sir John Kotalawela Defence University Hospital auditorium, was well attended by 44 participants, both physically and virtually due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Dr. Wasantha Wijenayake welcomed the attendees to the inaugural meeting on behalf of the steering committee and briefed the gathering on the objectives of the association.
- Prof Kemal I Deen and Prof Nandadewa Samarasekara were nominated as patrons of the association.
- The inaugural board of officials and council were nominated and installed.
- Prof. Arjuna Aluwihare and Dr. K.L. Fernando were inducted as senior members in recognition of their yeomen service to the discipline of colorectal surgery in Sri Lanka.





- Dr. Pramodh Chandrasinghe - secretary of the association briefed the membership on the future direction of the association. Training, research and patient care were described as the core focus areas of the association along with six activities, which will receive prominence in the two-year plan.
- The President presented the message from the President of the College of Surgeon of Sri Lanka, Prof. Srinath Chandrasekera.
- The meeting was concluded and the physically present attendees were invited for fellowship and dinner.



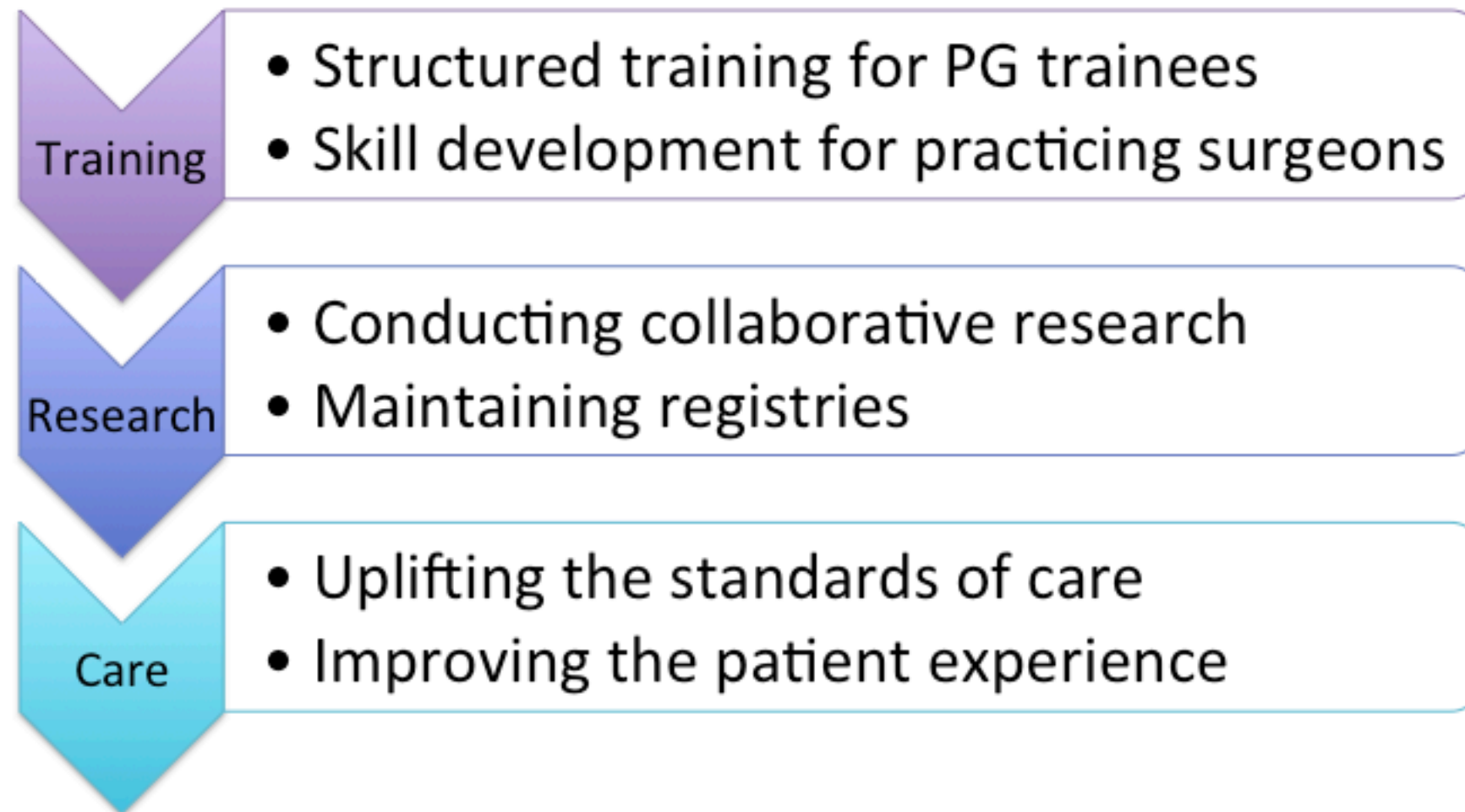
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Trainee representative	Dr. M.A. Chamila Lakmal

**Patrons** Prof. Kemal Deen  
Prof. Nandadeva Samarasekara

**Inducted Senior Members** Prof. Arjuna Aluwihare  
Dr. K.L. Fernando

Dr. Anura Banagala  
Dr. Mahanama Gunasekara  
Dr. Ushanth Dalpatadu  
Prof. Janaki Hewavisenthi  
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