10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Editor-in-Chief Indian Journal of Medical Ethics

Dear Editor,

This is to confirm that the article entitled "Ethical and legal challenges associated with decisions to forgo life-sustaining treatment at end-of-life: an ethical case deliberation from Sri Lanka" submitted to the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* is original and has been co-authored by the undersigned. All authors have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. All have read and approved the manuscript.

The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

We give consent to Dr GVMC Fernando to act as the author for correspondence.

All details of sponsorship or relevant competing interests, financial or otherwise: NA

We have read the terms and conditions of authorship of IJME and accept them. Yes

We feel the submission is suited to a medical ethics journal because: This article describes a terminal patient with cancer in whose case, many ethical aspects were violated in terms of deciding on life-sustaining treatment. Albeit such occurrences would be minimal in the developed parts of the world, they still exist in the developing healthcare systems such as Sri Lanka. We have discussed the deficiencies in the existing policies and practice that lead to such issues and recommended modifications in light of evidence from well-established ethics-based clinical settings. (in up to 100 words)

Contact details (mailing address, institutional and personal and institutional email ids) and current affiliations of all co-authors:

**GVMC** Fernando (Corresponding author) – (CF)

<sup>1</sup>Family Physician/Lecturer, **Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Medical** 

Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

<sup>2</sup>Palliative Care Lead/ Coordinator, National Centre for Primary Care and Allergy

Research, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Qualifications: MBBS, PgD-FM (SL), DipPallMed (UK), MRCGP [INT], PhD

Candidate (Palliative Care), Lancaster University, UK

Email: <a href="mailto:chemetf@sjp.ac.lk">chemetf@sjp.ac.lk</a>, <a href="mailto:chemetf@gmail.com">chemetf@gmail.com</a>

**Mobile**: +94 76 660 9192

**ORCiD**: <u>https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2689-7306</u>

## Professor Shoba Nair - (SN)

Professor/ Consultant Palliative Physician, Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine

Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi, Kerala, India

Qualifications: MBBS MD MRCP (Edinburgh) MSc (Australia), PhD Candidate

(Palliative Care, Lancaster University, UK)

Email: nair.shoba@gmail.com

**Mobile:** +91 97431 07123

**ORCiD:** https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5516-3267

Names and signatures of all authors:

Dr GVMC Fernando

Prof Shoba Nair