

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Professor M.D. Lamawansa

It is a great honor and privilege to share a message on the occasion of the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference (PeMSARC) 2024. This esteemed gathering highlights the remarkable dedication and innovation in health sciences and stands as a testament to our collective commitment to advancing research at the University of Peradeniya. The meticulous efforts of the Dean of the Faculty, alongside the diligent staff deserve our deepest appreciation.

The University of Peradeniya has a rich tradition of excellence in health sciences research, a legacy built by the tireless efforts of our faculty and students over generations. However, we recognize that our potential is far from fully realized. Unlocking this potential is crucial for our university's development as a postgraduate research university, a key part of our centenary development project.

The establishment of a multidisciplinary research laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine and the strong international collaborations being forged with institutions such as the University of Illinois and the Chinese Academy of Sciences will be pivotal in achieving the university's research goal. The newly launched initiatives to promote PhD student scholarships, multidisciplinary research grants, and research endowments will undoubtedly support the Faculty of Medicine in its pursuit of research excellence.

Historically, alumni and well-wishers have primarily supported student activities and welfare rather than research. I hope the Faculty of Medicine alumni will expand its focus beyond welfare, and to assist their faculty to excel in research. Consideration can be given to establish research endowments, either for students or staff.

I wish all participants a fruitful conference, filled with insightful discussions and collaborative opportunities. May this event inspire us all to reach new heights in our research endeavors. Thank you

Prof MD Lamawansa
(MS, FRCS (Edin), PhD)
Chair Professor of Surgery
Vice Chancellor
University of Peradeniya



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Professor Vasanthi Pinto

I am pleased to send this message to the 3rd Research Conference of the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Congress. This event has a distinguished record of stimulating and invigorating scholarship amongst its erudite community and has become a much sought-after event in the faculty calendar.

Student research is given prominence in our faculty and has attained the status of curriculum recognition. Hence, students often engage in this beneficial dimension of pursuing their research interests. I'm glad that this event fills this void and acts as a catalytic focal point that brings together all interested parties in this arena on one common platform to exhibit their findings to a discerning audience.



Currently, for the third consecutive year, students have been bestowed the opportunity to showcase their research to the entire faculty with the added advantage of their articles appearing in the Book of Proceedings, whilst the Best Research Papers will be selected for awards. This stimulus that keeps positively generating better outcomes each consecutive year provides students with the extra dimension to develop a pioneering interest in research and engage in this pursuit whilst being engaged in their academic endeavours that will give direction and purpose to their future career goals by being independent research-oriented individuals who have the thirst and desire to indulge in discoveries and knowledge that would be of dividends to society.

We are privileged to have Prof. Kemal Dean as the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker. He is a pioneering researcher whose papers have appeared in prestigious international magazines. We welcome his presence, which will enliven this event and inspire even more forays into this exciting domain.

I'm very happy to welcome Prof. Neelakanthi Ratnatunga as the Guest of Honor at our research sessions this year. She is an alumnus of our faculty and a well-respected and admired professor. Her eminence in the sphere of pathology and the academic stature she has attained will definitely add shine to this event.

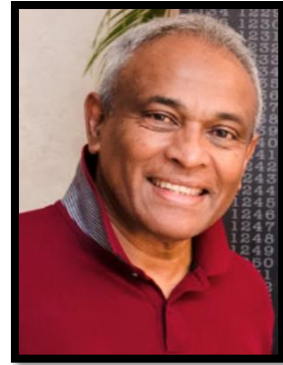
Also, it is a great pleasure to have our Vice Chancellor, Prof. MD Lamawansa, grace this occasion. His excellent track record as an able administrator, eminent clinician, and renowned scholar with an actively abiding interest in research will no doubt inspire students to scale the upper echelons of research.

I look forward to a productive conference of productive research that will translate to the success of our faculty as an interactive research forum. I wish the sessions all success! Thank you!

Prof Vasanthi Pinto
(MD, FRCA, FCARCSI)
Dean
Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Faculty of Medicine
University of Peradeniya

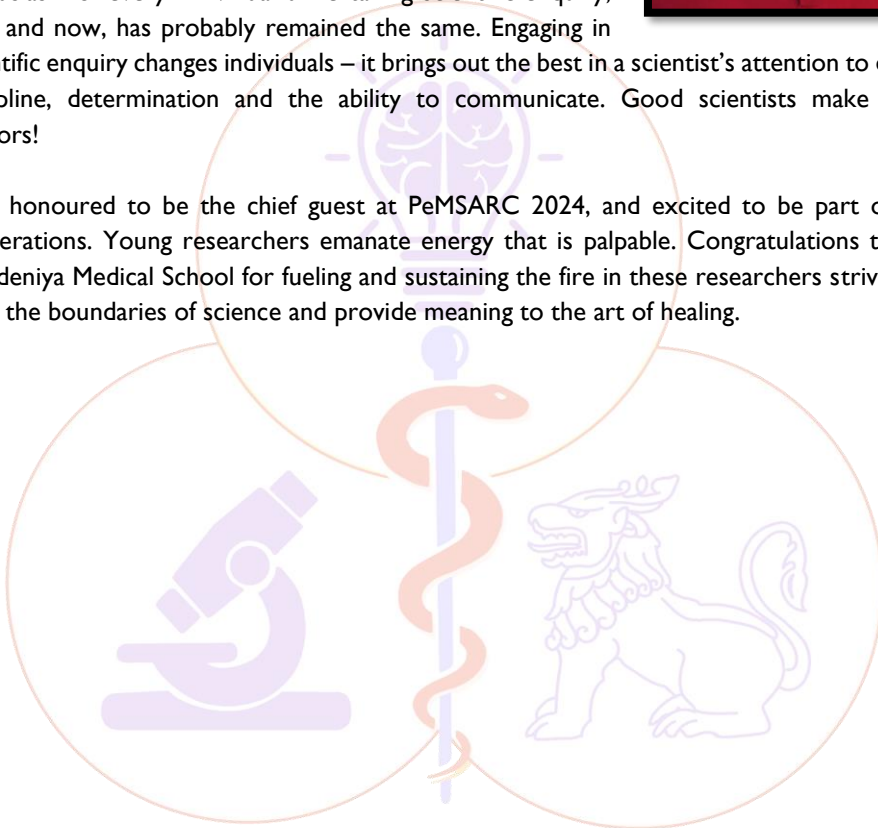
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

Professor Rohan Jayasekara



Today, the heights and standards that have been achieved in western medicine are a result of painstaking and arduous medical research founded on the principles established by the ancient Greek and Arab physicians dating back 3000 years. Of course, the methods, ethics and systems of evaluation in scientific research have changed over the years but the enthusiasm of every individual undertaking scientific enquiry, then and now, has probably remained the same. Engaging in scientific enquiry changes individuals – it brings out the best in a scientist's attention to detail, discipline, determination and the ability to communicate. Good scientists make good doctors!

I am honoured to be the chief guest at PeMSARC 2024, and excited to be part of the deliberations. Young researchers emanate energy that is palpable. Congratulations to the Peradeniya Medical School for fueling and sustaining the fire in these researchers striving to push the boundaries of science and provide meaning to the art of healing.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

Professor Rohan Jayasekara

Research projects have been a significant component of the undergraduate medical curriculum at Peradeniya for many decades. But in the past, only a selected few of these projects were officially presented or documented.

However, in 2022, the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference, “PEMSARC”, was initiated by the faculty, to enable all the students to share their research findings with a discerning audience. This is a great gift to the medical students at Peradeniya as the work of every one of them, will be heard, appreciated, and documented.

Initially, a medical student-centered event for Peradeniya medical students, PEMSARC is now more inclusive enabling the participation of scientists from all levels of academia.

I congratulate the pioneers of this event and those who strive to sustain it. I extend my best wishes to the organizers and participants of the PEMSARC 24.

Professor Neelakanthi Ratnatunga. MD, PhD
Professor Emeritus
University of Peradeniya



MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Doctor Samidi Navaratne



The Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference (PeMSARC) is of utmost importance to our faculty and is being held for the third successive year in 2024. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate students, academics, and the wider medical community a platform to showcase research, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations. Notably, PeMSARC is special because it is collaboratively planned and executed by academic staff and medical students, providing students with invaluable experience in organizing a medical conference while nurturing closer ties with faculty members.

Medical science consistently shows that with adequate resources, groundbreaking advancements in treatment and disease prevention are possible. Undergraduate research, in particular, is vital to this progress, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of scientific inquiry in our students. Early engagement in research allows students to explore various facets of medicine, cultivate a passion for discovery, and contribute significantly to medical knowledge. This year, we have 42 undergraduate research presentations, and I have no doubt that the total experience of planning, implementing, and disseminating their research, as well as planning this conference, will not only inspire students to pursue research, think beyond conventional boundaries, and enhance their academic journey but also will prepare them for future roles as medical professionals, researchers, and innovators.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all authors, reviewers, and contributors for their scholarly work and to the Dean, organizing committee, and sponsors for their unwavering support. Your dedication ensures the sustainability of PeMSARC 24, making it a premier platform for research and innovation.

Thank you for being a part of PeMSARC' 24. I hope you find this conference inspiring and enriching.

Dr. Samidi Navaratna
MBBS, DCH, MSc, MD
Consultant Community Physician
Senior Lecturer
Conference Chair, PeMSARC 24

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Doctor Manjula Peiris

Although the statement that 'research depends on the availability of time and money' is a gross oversimplification, there is some truth within its deeper meaning. Without adequate funding and the availability of infrastructure, many great ideas and innovations never get off the ground, and in a fast-paced world where human endeavour has diversified, time has become ever more precious.



Within the stipulated time frame of the medical curriculum, with severe limitations of resources and financial constraints, if we were to promote research, we need to look for a different incentive altogether. We need to inculcate within us an attitudinal drive, a self-motivation and a sense of perseverance towards research. It is through events like the PeMSARC where students interact with each other towards achieving a common goal, planning out innovative research, inspired by their teachers and working within a stipulated time frame, that research becomes a self-rewarding experience.

It has been said that researchers are born rather than made, and the talent in innovation lies with a few. But events such as the PeMSARC will no doubt provide a multitude of new opportunities where hidden talents will be brought into the limelight. Some will excel as organisers and presenters. Some in art and dance. All, I hope will develop a positive attitude towards research and development.

I convey my best wishes to all those involved.

Dr. Manjula Peiris
MBBS, MD, MRCS, FMAS
Consultant Surgeon
Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Peradeniya

MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT CHAIR

Mr. Nadarasa Ganashiam

It is a privilege and honour to share a few thoughts as the Student Chairperson of PeMSARC'24. Since its inception in 2022, PeMSARC has grown into a faculty phenomenon, with a prime focus on "empowering the next generation of researchers."



Reflecting on my personal experience with the past two conferences, I am constantly reminded of Sir Isaac Newton's famous statement: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." The remarkable work done in previous years sets the stage for us to showcase PeMSARC's potential yet again.

PeMSARC's uniqueness lies in the collective effort of all its members from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. Organising an event of this scale would be impossible without the unwavering support and dedication of our entire community. Although our faculty has withstood the test of time, we continue to face challenges. Yet, as the adage goes, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going," despite the difficulties, we have persevered and are proud to present to you the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference for the year 2024.

Looking ahead, I wish for PeMSARC to thrive as a beacon of innovation and collaboration, inspiring future researchers to push the boundaries of medical science and uphold our commitment to excellence and growth, ensuring that PeMSARC remains a cornerstone of our faculty's legacy.

सर्वस्य लोचनं शास्त्रम् (*sarvasya lochanaM shAstram*)
Science is the Eye Unto All

Mr. Nadarasa Ganashiam
President of PeMURC 2023/24
PeMSARC'24 Student Chairperson