

## **Sri Lanka National Chapter OWSD -ExCom 2023 /2025**



**Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera**  
**President (2023-2025)**

Dr Thilina Wanigasekera is currently working as the Director Organization Development in the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. She holds a MBBS degree from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, MSc Clinical Genetics (Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in collaboration with Oslo University, Norway), Post graduate Diploma in Diplomacy & World Affair (University of Colombo), MSc Public Administration (University of Colombo), MSc in Medical Administration (Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo), MBA (Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Certificate in Human Rights (Bandaranaike Center for International Studies) Medical Leadership (Asculap Academy, Germany), Certificate of Public Policy Analysis (London School of Economics, UK) and Certificate of Managing Evaluation from Sri Lanka Evaluation Association.

She is holding positions in number of organizations in different caliber. She is a senior council member of Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) and contributed to many committees including Research and Innovation committee. She is a Forum Member & Editor in Chief of OPA (Organization of Professional Association of Sri Lanka) for 2023, Editor for the OPA Journal,

Chairperson in Publication Committee, member in Education & Human Resource Committee, member in Career Guidance Committee, member in National Issues Committee. She is the President of the Medical Section- A for the year 2023 in the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (SLAAS), President of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization of Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD- 2023- 2025), Visiting Lecturer (Open University of Sri Lanka/ Australian Collage of Business and Technology/ Spectrum Collage/ Nawaloka Collage /International Institute of Health Science / University of Sri Jayewardenepura/ Faculty of Indigenous Medicine/ University of Colombo), Founder Member/ former EXCO of Women In Science & Engineering (WISE /SL), Country representative for the Asia Pasific Network in South Korea, HR Consultant (WHO), Monitoring and Evaluation expert ( NASTEC). She was the former Joint Secretary/ Senior Scientist Forum (NASTEC). Apart from that she is a Member in Sri Lanka Evaluation Association, Team member of the National Traditional Policy drafting committee, President in the Human Genetic Association of Sri Lanka for 2023 /2024, Member in the Population Association of Sri Lanka. In addition, she is the winner of the Women Icon Award for the most Outstanding Women Category (2020). She is an active member for Women in Management and Member in the Women in Logistics and Transport.

Her research interests are in Dysmorphology, Hereditary Genetic Disorders, Climate Change, Traditional Wisdom & sustainable Tourism, Artificial intelligence and automation of the supply chain management.

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**Dr. Hermali Silva**  
**Vice President**

Dr. Hermali Silva is a past pupil of Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo and graduated from Kursk State Medical University, Russia in 2008 with First Class Honours. From 2009 to 2014 she has held several appointments as a Medical Officer attached to government hospitals under the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. Following her passion for teaching, she joined the Department of Parasitology in Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 2014, where she is currently working as a Senior Lecturer and also Higher Education (CTHE, Colombo) with 9 years of experience in teaching including training postgraduate & undergraduate students and medical laboratory technicians.

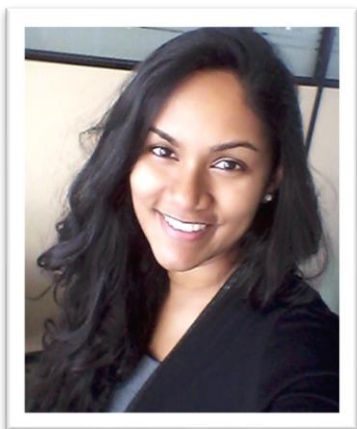
Dr. Silva has obtained her PhD from the University of Colombo in 2021. She has a special interest in emerging poor response to standard drugs used for treatment of leishmaniasis and possible new alternative methods of treatment. She has also contributed to research in to women in science, technology and research in Sri Lanka. She is involved in projects targeted at empowering women scientists and career development of women scientists in Sri Lanka. She is the founder Secretary of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) and currently serving as the Vice-President of the same. Her research interests are in Medical parasitology including clinical and epidemiological aspects of treatment failure in leishmaniasis, molecular parasitology, drug resistance, image processing and clinical trials

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**Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi**  
**Secretary**

She is a Physics lover who tries to show that ‘Life is more beautiful with Physics!’ over a decade through her related academic activities. She completed her BSc. degree in 2009 and MPhil in 2013 from The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). In 2019, she obtained her PhD in Physics from OUSL. Apart from being a lecturer, she plays multiple roles as a researcher, writer, speaker, STEM activist and education consultant with experience of 14 years in Higher Education.

Her research interests are in Solid State Physics, Engineering Physics and Photo Physics. Currently she is engaged in further research work of her PhD on rechargeable bio-batteries where she obtained a patent for OUSL with her supervisor Prof. Susira Perera. She acts as a visiting lecturer in Engineering Physics to Graduate Institute of Science and Management which is affiliated to Massey University, New Zealand.

She is an active member in various professional organizations such as IPSL, SLAAS, YSF and SLAYS. Dr Chathurie Nupearachchi is a Chartered Physicist who is currently working as a Senior Lecturer in Department of Science for Technology in Faculty of Technology of University of Jayewardenepura. She also serves as the advisor for Startup Hub of University of Sri Jayewardenepura which promotes graduate entrepreneurs.

She became the Best Young Presenter in the Symposium on Geology of Sri Lanka by Geological Society of Sri Lanka in 2009 and also in the same year she won Faculty of Natural Science Prize for the Best Performance in Physics from OUSL. She is the English translator of *Advanced Level Physics Prof. SRD Rosa MCQ Review 2000-2010 (Part -1)* (ISBN 978-955-1760-43-4) and

*Advanced Level Physics Prof. SRD Rosa MCQ Review 2011-2020 (Part-2)*(ISBN 978-955-1760-42-7) by SciTech Publishing Corporation Pvt Ltd, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

Her mission is to impart her passion for Physics to anybody in such a way that it contributes to the entire community without any barriers.

OWSD membership number: 12381

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**Dr. Himalee de Silva**  
**Treasurer**

Her career started in 2005 at the National Institute of Sport Science, Ministry of Sports as an assistant lecturer in Sports Physiology where she who holds a BAMS degree with a first-class division. In 2006, she joined as a Medical Officer in charge to the North Central Province, Department of Ayurveda, The Ministry of Indigenous Medicine. Due to keen interest in teaching and learning process, she joined as an academic to the Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka in 2008. Presently, she has been serving as a Senior Lecturer there since 2008. Currently she works for Department of Kayachikitsa (Ayurveda General Medicine) and Desheeyachikitsa (Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine). She even served as the former Head of the Department of Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine. Apart from that, she is a consultant

in National Ayurveda Hospital. She is currently reading her PhD from Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo.

Dr Himalee is actively involved in many professional organizations such as Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science, Institute for Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka, Population Association of Sri Lanka, OWSD – Sri Lankan Chapter and Women In Management.

Her research interest is in Ayurveda Medicine, Mental and Behavioral Disorders, Health and Wellness Tourism, Sustainably and Environment.

She was recognized for the Award “De Abimani” among eight Women in the International Women’s’ Day celebration organized by the Village Lanka on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023. She also became The Best Mentor of the Winspiration 2023 of 4<sup>th</sup> New Generation Awards, which was organized by the Women in Management in collaboration with National Youth Services Council, Ministry of Sports and Youth.

As an inventor to the field of Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine, two inventions are under process for patents and she is involved actively towards the sustainability of wellness tourism industry. While reading for PhD at Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo, she is fully committed to the task of disseminating Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine by empowering women in various dimensions.

OWSD membership number: 12246

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**Prof. Tharanga Thoradeniya**  
**Editor**

Tharanga Thoradeniya is a Professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. She obtained her Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.Sc) degree with distinctions from the University of Peradeniya, and her Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from the University of Colombo. She is a Commonwealth Academic Fellow and undertook her training at the Southampton General Hospital, UK. Prof. Thoradeniya has broad research interests and experience in metabolism and functionality of micronutrients and adipose tissues, nutrition modulation of chronic disease risk, food environment, animal welfare and ethics, alternatives and planetary-health. She is a SEDA (UK) accredited teacher in higher education and has participated at Erasmus+ staff mobility for teaching programme in Riga, Latvia. She has received several competitive research grants from International and national organizations such as National research Council (NRC), National Science Foundation (NSF) and University of Colombo. She is currently the country lead of a 9-country research project on food promotion funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC). She has several supervisions of research projects for MPhil/PhD/MD and MSc candidates.

Prof. Thoradeniya has received many awards and honours for excellence in research including the President's Awards for scientific research, NRC merit awards, National Consultative Award-International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) and has won many competitive awards/scholarships including IUBMB Women in Science award to disseminate her work. She has

a special interest in animal ethics and welfare. She was awarded the prestigious Global Animal Welfare Award in 2020 for her service and dedication in promoting welfare in animals. Prof. Thoradeniya is a vibrant advocate for science; particularly for young scientists and women in science and held/currently holding key positions in professional associations. Her veterinary background, specialty in nutrition and experiences in the medical field, well positions Prof. Thoradeniya to have a multi- and trans-disciplinary approach in her research and teaching.

OWSD membership number: 7066

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**Prof. Thusharie Sugandhika Suresh**  
**Immediate Past President**

Thusharie Sugandhika Suresh is a Professor in Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her B.Sc. Special in Human Biology in Second Class Upper Division Honours with Distinctions in Biochemistry, Food and Nutrition, Parasitology and Pathology from University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 1998. In 2002, she obtained PhD in Biochemistry from the same university. Her research interests are in Biochemistry, nutrition, functional foods, bioactivity-guided fractionation of active compounds, clinical trials, herbal drug commercialization, substance abuse, dysmenorrhoea, migraine, substance abuse, metabolic syndrome, bio-safety, conservation of indigenous medicinal plants, laboratory animal



sciences (introduced LAS to Sri Lankan undergraduate curricula). Prof. Suresh is an academic and researcher with more than 20 years of experience.

She has won several awards from National Science Foundation - Supervisory award (SUSRED) for post graduate supervision – 2015 (Awarded to supervisors whose students complete PhD within 4 years and publish in SCI journals), Institute of Ceylon ( Professor Kandaiah Memorial Award for the best postgraduate thesis – 2002, Professor Sultan Bawa award for best paper at annual conference 2000), SLAAS (Award for best postgraduate research – 2002), National Research Council of Sri Lanka (Merit awards for publication- 2014, 2015), Sri Lanka President's awards for scientific publication (2000, 2001, 2003), University Grants Commission (Award for commercialization of research products – 2022), Sri Lanka Inventors' Commission ( Certificate of Appreciation for 'Fight against COVID-19'Inventions, for *Sudarshana* suspension – 2020).

She is a member of Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences, Canadian Society for Laboratory Animal Science, Nutrition Society, UK Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, National Science Foundation, Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka, Young Scientists' Forum and Institute of Chemistry. She was the Founder Secretary of Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS), Dec-2012 to Jan-2014. In addition, she was the Founder Treasurer in College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka (CBSL) from August 2013 to 2017. She was a Founder Member to Sri Lanka Society for Alternatives to Animal Use. In 2014, she became President-Elect for Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) where she became President in that professional body in 2015/2016. She also served as the President from 2017 to 2019 in College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka. She then worked as the Immediate Past President from 2019 to 2021. She also served the Vice President (from 2017-2021) and President (from 2021-2023) in Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) Sri Lanka National Chapter.

OWSD membership number: 5232

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**Dr. Ureshani Karunarathna**  
**Immediate Past Secretary**

Dr Karunarathna is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her PhD (Natural Products Chemistry and Pharmacognosy), MPhil (Nutrition and Physiology) and BSc (Hons) in Zoology from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She has done a Postgraduate Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science from University of Colombo (2023). Her research interests are in Pharmacognacy, Laboratory Animal Science, Nutrition and Biochemistry.

She has won the first place at the 3MT competition organized by the Sri Lanka Association for the Laboratory Animal Science in 2022. Dr Ureshani was recognized as a Young Scientist by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in 2018. She got the Award of Studentship from Link Natural Products (PVT) Limited, Kapugoda, Dompe, Sri Lanka from 2011-2017.

Currently she is the Chairperson of the Environmental Committee and President (elect) of the Section D, Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science. She was the Secretary in the Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) Sri Lanka National Chapter (2021-2023). She served as the President, Sri Lanka Association for the Laboratory Animal Sciences (SLALAS) for 2020/21.

OWSD membership number: 8329

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**Dr. Kalpani Madhushika Ratnayake**  
**Immediate Past Treasurer**

Dr Kalpani is the Head/Senior Lecturer at the Department of Cosmetic Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, CINEC Campus. She obtained her PhD in Biochemistry and Natural Products and BSc (Hons) special in Human Biology from University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She has done a Postgraduate Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science from University of Colombo. Her research interests are in natural product chemistry and anti-inflammatory action.

She was the Treasurer (from 2021-2023) in Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) Sri Lanka National Chapter. Some of her achievements include, Postgraduate Research Award 2019 by Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)- Section E2, Award for the second place of best oral presentations at 2nd Symposium of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna in 2019, Certificate of Merit at Young Scientists Forum (YSF) in 2017, 2018 and 2019, Dr. Sharmini Jayasekera Award for the Best Oral Communication at the Annual Scientific Sessions, Sri Lanka Association for the Laboratory Animal Sciences (SLALAS) in 2016, 2017 and 2019, Award for Best paper presented at the oral session” at the 1<sup>st</sup> Bi-annual conference, College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka in 2018 and International Award at the 64th Annual Meeting, Japanese Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences (JALAS) in 2017 in Fukushima, Japan. She was also an awardee for Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science/ Korean Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AFLAS/ KALAS) Next Generation Academic Exchange Program in 2019 at Jeju Island, South Korea. She won “Best Oral Presentation” on innovative teaching/ learning and assessment methods- Out of the Box Category in Colombo Conference on Medical

Education in 2019. In addition, she was a semifinalist at the 3 MT competition (3 minutes thesis presentation competition) which was organized by Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) in 2017.

OWSD membership number: **Not Provided**

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**Ms. Indrachapa Ruberu**  
**Assistant Secretary**

Ms. Indrachapa is a Postgraduate Research Assistant at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura since July, 2019. She has obtained a B.Pharm degree from University of Sri Jayewardenapura in 2018 and currently reading her M.Phil. She is a Registered Pharmacist where she has a preliminary Certificate in Marketing (SLIM) as well. Her research interests are in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, Drug Discovery and Development and Nanopharmaceuticals. She was the Second Runner up in the poster presentation titled “Antacid Properties of Acidic and Basic Aqueous Extracts Obtained from Vishnukranthi (*Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L.) Plant” at the 5th Research Symposium of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna on 26th August 2022. She volunteers with Service Civil international, Sri Lanka which is a recognized peace organization since 2016 and participate in organizing peace workcamps. Also, she is interested with People’s Health Movement, and would like to contribute to advocate on public

health, health rights. She had participated in Winter work camp (2017) organized by SCI-Hong Kong. She had done IPHU short course on “Struggle towards equity in Health” (2020) in Kathmandu, Nepal.

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**Dr. Dilushi Wijayaratne**  
**Executive Committee Member**

She is an Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, Lecturer in Department of Clinical Medicine Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She holds a MBBS (Colombo), MD (Medicine), MRCP (UK). She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine Colombo in 2010 with First Class Honors. She completed her MD (Medicine) in 2016 and was board certified as a nephrologist in 2020. She joined the Department of Clinical Medicine as a lecturer in 2020 and serves as an honorary consultant nephrologist at the National hospital of Sri Lanka and the National institute of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplant.

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**Dr Chandrakantha Mahendranathann**  
**Executive Committee Member**

Dr Chandrakantha Mahendranathann is Head and a Senior Lecturer (Gr. I) in the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL). She obtained her PhD from Eastern University, Sri Lanka where the part of the PhD was also completed at the Cranfield University, United Kingdom Cranfield, as a Commonwealth scholar of the United Kingdom in the field of Postharvest Pathology and Technology of fruits and vegetables. Her field of interest in research includes; Ethnobotany, Industrial Microbiology and Environmental Microbiology. She served as the Director for Career Guidance unit, Centre for External Degrees and Extension Courses (CEDEC) and Center for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) of the EUSL.

OWSD membership number: 7309

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**Dr Anusha Jatheesan**  
**Executive Committee Member**

Dr Anusha graduated with B.Sc. Special Degree (Hons) in Human Biology from the University of Jayewardenepura. Then she started her higher studies at Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her PhD degree in Biochemistry during 2019. In 2022, she joined The Open University of Sri Lanka as a Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology and Human Anatomy. Her research interests are in Nutrition and Biochemistry.

She was the awarded UNS Early Career Travel Grant in the International Congress of Nutrition: IUNS-ICN 2022 which was held in Tokyo, Japan during 6th to 11th December. In addition, she was awarded with the National Science Foundation Travel Grant to participate in the 13th Asian Congress of Nutrition 2019 held in Bali, Indonesia.

She got The Professor Zef Ebrahim award for the Best paper in the tropical Paediatrics at 24th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians on April 2022. She was a semi-finalist at the SLAYS 3MT competition in 2018. She got the Merit award at the 7th National Science and Technology Commission, Young Scientists Forum (YSF) symposium which was held on 19th January 2018 at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. She even won the best oral presentation in Nursing & Allied Health Sciences category, National Health Research Symposium, 2017, which was organized by Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. In 2017, she won session's best oral presentation award at 3rd International Conference on Public Health (ICOPH) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 27th – 29th July.

OWSD membership number: 8545

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**Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake**  
**Executive Committee Member**

Sagarika Ekanayake is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her BSc. in Chemistry with a Second Class Upper division in 1992 from University of Peradeniya. In 1999, she completed her MPhil. in Biochemistry from University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In 2005, she obtained her PhD from University of Lund, Sweden in Applied Nutrition and Food Chemistry. She is a Fellow & a Chartered Chemist, Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon. In addition, she is a Fellow in IUPAC (International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry) and a Fellow in National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka. Her research interests are in Biochemistry, Applied Nutrition and Food Chemistry, Natural Products Chemistry, Toxicology and Nanotechnology.

She has got many professional memberships such as Life Member of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Sciences (Chemical, Medical & Biological sections), Elected member of American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS -2005), Founder Member / Member of Coordination committee of Swedish South Asian Network on Fermented Food, IUPAC Member Affiliate in 1997/98, Life Member of Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka, Life Member of Alumni



Association of University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Even she is a Life and Founder member SLALAS, Sri Lanka.

Prof Sagarika is a very experienced academic over 40 years of research. She has won many fellowships including Fellowship by International Foundation for Science, Sweden to participate in the “Leadership course for Asian women in agriculture R & D and extension which was organized by IRRI, Philippines, February 2008, Fellowship to visit the International centre for Chemical Sciences, Karachi university, Pakistan for a study visit/ training programme by the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) Sri Lanka from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and World Bank funded Fellowship through IRQUE/QEF to visit University Sains Malaysia & University Malaya, Malaysia for inspection and familiarization of Problem Based Learning (PBL) curriculum and Information Technology development activities in medical teaching/learning from 12<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006. She received a scholarship by AMBO International to participate in the Training Course on “Innovative Research Strategies for Tomorrow. Cell Adhesion, Recognition, Apoptosis and Oxidative stress”; Analyses of Reactive oxygen and Nitrogen Species, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University, Japan from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

She is cited in Marquis Who is Who in the World 2014 & 2015 (Leading professionals of the world); Who is Who in Science and Engineering 2016-2017; International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England (2014; & 2015- 2000 outstanding intellectuals of the 21st century; Top 100 educators -2014; Top 100 scientists -2014; Woman of the year -2014; Leading professionals of the year -2014; Leading educators of the world - 2014; She gained Cambridge certificates for outstanding Educational Achievement and outstanding Scientific Achievement. She also gained The Da Vinci Diamond for Inspirational Accomplishment.

OWSD membership number: 14761

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**Prof. Usha Hettiaratchi**  
**Executive Committee Member**

Usha Hettiaratchi is a Professor in Biochemistry in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her BSc. in Biochemistry from University of London in 1997 and she obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 2009.

Prof. Usha' s research interests are in Clinical Biochemistry and Nutrition where she has 32 publications and around 100 conference presentations. She has won many awards including, NRC merit award (2014 and 2016), SLAAS Postgraduate Research award in 2011 (Merit category) and Presidential Research award in 2001. In addition, she has 16 awards for presentations at various conferences.

She has held various positions at professional organizations such as College of Biochemists of Sri Lanka (as President-2023/2025, Joint Secretary -2015/2017 & 2017/2019, Founder member ), Young Scientists Forum/ National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC)(as Chairperson -2018/2019, Joint Secretary -2016/2017 & 2017/2018), Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka (as Vice President -2015/2016, Joint Secretary -2014/2015, 2013/2014 & 2012/2013, Council member-2011/2012) and Section A SLAAS (Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science)( as a Committee member of Committee of Popularization of Science (2013 &2012), Council member - Section A -2011).

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**Prof. Swarna Hapuarachchi**  
**Executive Committee Member**

Prof. Swarna is acting as a Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo. She has got PhD, BAMS, MD (Ay) in Drvyaguna Vignana(Ayurveda pharmacology) and MSc in Plant Sciences. Her research interests are in Ayurveda Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Plant Bio technology and Herbo-mineral product development.

As a clinical and an academic researcher, she is determined to strengthen research competence in Ayurveda and Traditional Medical system in Sri Lanka. Her current research and consulting areas are based on the research on cultivation and propagations of medicinal plants; identification and evaluation of the pharmacological activities of medicinal plants; Pharmacognostical identification of controversial drugs in Ayurveda and traditional medical systems in Sri Lanka; Pharmacology and therapeutic activities in Ayurveda and traditional medical systems in Sri Lanka. She is conducting clinical trials and Ethnopharmacology surveys as well.

She is further interested in R &D in Traditional Medicine and Phytomedicine; application of novel learning and teaching methods to improve active participation of students in Ayurvedic medical education system in university; Herbo/ herbo-mineral Products Development and Standardization of Natural or Ayurvedic products. In 2014, she worked as Honorary Consultant in National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Borella where she even won Commonwealth scholarship award on the same year. She received Mahima Ayurvedic Excellence Scientist Award from Mahima

Research Foundation and Social Welfare, India in 2014 too. In 2018, she worked on a project on establishment of nursery for research, cultivation and propagation of medicinal plants.

She has received several research grants in her academic career (Institute of Indigenous Medicine and Micro propagation of *Plumbago rosea* (Rathnitol) - NSF GRANT no: RG/2006/EQ/01; UGC PhD Research Grant no: UGC/ICD/045, 2008; The Ministry of Primary Industry Collaborated with the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka. Grant no: SP/CIN/2016/02 - Co Investigator; IIM Research Grants in 2014; University of Sri Jayewardenepura research grant - Grant no: ASP/01/RE/MED/2019/41- Co Supervisor).

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**Prof. Nadira Karunaweera**  
**Ex-Officio Member**

Nadira Karunaweera is the Chair and Senior Professor of Parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and an honorary Visiting Fellow at the School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA. Trained as a Medical Parasitologist she has extensive teaching and research experience in tropical diseases, with special emphases on vector-borne diseases. She is the President of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) (2022-2024) and is an elected Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and elected Distinguished International Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Nadira spearheaded the establishment of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), was the Founder President of that organization (2018/2021) and former President of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists.

Her research interest areas are Malaria, Leishmaniasis, Immunology and Biology. She has published widely with a Google Scholar h-index of 36; i-10 index of 90 and has authored over 150 peer-reviewed journal articles with nearly 5000 citations, large number of abstracts of presentations made at conferences, several book chapters and shares the ownership of 5 patents.

OWSD membership number: 2536

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**Prof. Kshanika Sannasgala Hirimburegama**  
**Ex-Officio Member**

Kshanika Hirimburegama is a Senior Professor in Plant Science Department, University of Colombo with academic qualifications of D Sc (SUSL), Honorary Doctorate (MSU, Malaysia), PhD (KULeuven, Belgium), Masters in Agricultural Sciences (University Peradeniya, SL), B Sc (Hons) in Botany (University of Colombo, SL).

Her research interests are in Plant biotechnology: Micro propagation, Cell cultures on medicinal plants, Improvement of banana. She is further interested in the research & development of plant biotechnology to the rural sector in Sri Lanka, higher education development in Sri Lanka and uplifting the farmers' education up to Bachelor Technology in Weligatta Institute.

She is a well experienced academic who held a wide range of academic and administrative positions (Ambassador to French Republic, 2021-2022; Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, 2021-2022; Chairperson, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka 2012-2015; Vice-Chancellor - University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2008-2012 Jan; Chairperson, National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC), Sri Lanka, 2020 Jan -2020 Dec; Founder Director / Agro technology & Community Service Center, University of Colombo at Weligatta, Hambantota , 1998- 2008; Coordinator M. Phil/ PhD. Programs -Faculty of Graduate studies, University of Colombo and Founder and Coordinator, M. Sc. in Plant Tissue Culture- University of Colombo).

In addition, she held several positions in professional bodies (President /Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka, 2000; Commission Member/ University Grant Commission, 2005-2007; Chairperson Agriculture/ Fisheries and Thematic energy to the rural sector, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka, 2005; General Secretary/National Academy of Science, Sri Lanka, 2005-2007; General Secretary, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, 1997-1999; Member/ Committee of Technology transfer of the National Science Foundation, Colombo, 2005; Member/ Third World Organization for Women in Science).

She has won numerous awards for her outstanding capabilities. Some of them are listed below.

2014 -A recognition award on world women's day. Bank of Ceylon, Independence square branch.

2013 -4th Asia's Best B-School Awards. Education Leadership Award. CMO Council, India.

2013 -Power Woman Award of the Year 2012/2013. In recognition of the outstanding leadership qualities. Professional & Career Women Awards by UNOPS & Women in Management.

2012 - Award for outstanding achievements of career women contributing to rural sector, for the first 100 women in the world. US Women Organization. United States of America.

2011 - 2nd Asia's Best B-School Awards. Award for outstanding contribution to education. CMO Council, India.

2010 -Presidential Research Awards by His Excellency President of Sri Lanka for the plant biotechnology research carried out in 2003, 2005 & 2006.

2009 - Award of the Association of Commonwealth Universities Award for Rural community projects –received to the Weligatta Center work. Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.

2010 & 2008 - Award for medicinal plant research. Tirupathi University, India.

2007 -Awarded International Visitor Leadership Fellowship on “University Administration” by United States Department of State, February.

2006 - Zonta Award for Most Outstanding Achievement given for Women

2005 - National Award Winner – Ministry of Science & Technology

1994 - Best Agricultural Research Award –International Lions Club.

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**Prof. Sirimali Fernando**  
**Ex-Officio Member**

Prof. Sirimali started her career as a medical graduate in 1982, she shifted to an academic and a research career in 1985. She worked as Research Fellow and Honorary Senior Registrar in Virology at St George’s Hospital Medical School in London, UK, from 1989 – 1993. She took up Science administration with her appointment as the Chairperson of the NSF-Sri Lanka in 2004

where she served till 2013, and was reappointed to that post in June 2015. In 2006 she was also appointed as Science Advisor to the Minister of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka. She played key roles in the National Nanotechnology Initiative that established the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC) in 2008, and in developing the first National Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Sri Lanka in 2010.

She is a founder member of the STI Advisory Board to the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). Sirimali Fernando is a member of the ISC Governing Board and Vice-Chair of the Committee for Finance and Fundraising. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka, and served as the Professor and Chair of Microbiology Department at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

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