



SLNC/ OWSD ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

*Contribution of the Women in Science and
Technology to the Technology - Driven Sustainable Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka*

*20th of December 2023
at the Main Auditorium, National Science Foundation*

Program Book



National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka

The National Science Foundation functions under the purview of the Ministry of Education. Its dedicated service to the nation extends over 54 years. The organization was initially established as the National Science Council (NSC) in 1968 (Act No. 09 of 1968). NSC was restructured as the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority (NARESA) in 1982 (Act No. 78 of 1981). After 16 years of service, NARESA was reorganized as the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1998 by the Act No. 11 of 1994.

Vision:

Be the nation's premier driving force in promoting Science, Technology and Innovation for economic and social prosperity of Sri Lanka.

NSF is mandated to function in accordance with the provisions of the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 as follows:

(a) to initiate, facilitate and support basic and applied scientific research by universities, science and technology institutions and scientists, with a view- (i) to strengthening scientific research potential, including research in the social sciences, and science education programs; (ii) to developing the natural resources of Sri Lanka; (iii) to promoting the welfare of the people of Sri Lanka; and (iv) to training research personnel in science and technology.

(b) to foster the interchange of scientific information among scientists in Sri Lanka and foreign countries.

(c) to award scholarships and fellowships for scientific study or scientific work at science and technology institutions.

(d) to maintain a current register of scientific and technical personnel, and in other ways to provide a central clearing house for the collection, interpretation and analysis of data, on the availability of and the current and projected need for, scientific and technical resources in Sri Lanka, and to provide a source of Sri Lanka, and to provide a source of information for policy formulation on science, technology and other fields.

(e) to popularize science amongst the people by funding programs.





**Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in
Science for the Developing World (SLNC/ OWSD)**

Annual Conference 2023

*Contribution of the Women in Science and Technology to the Technology - Driven
Sustainable Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka*

*20th of December 2023
at the Main Auditorium, National Science Foundation*

*Organized by the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women
in Science for the Developing World – SLNC/ OWSD in collaboration with
the National Science Foundation, unesco Organization for the Women in
Science for the Developing World and the National Academy of Sciences of
Sri Lanka*



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Committee of the SLNC/
OWSD

Message of the President of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for the Women in Science for the Developing World. (SLNC/ OWSD)



Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera

Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing world, launched on the 29th of March 2018, under the National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka. Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, was the founder president and Prof. Sugandika Suresh, became the second elected president. I had the privileged to be the 3rd president of this prestigious organization for women scientists, for the term of year 2023 to 2025.

As a country we are experiencing the worst ever economic turbulence of the era, creating many impacts due to the public unrest. Positive economic knock- on effect with more local manufacturing and advancing the supply chain may have the baton to win this crisis. More than the other categories, scientists have a key role in designing the solutions. They need to look for innovative novel moves out of the traditional businesses. I believe the scientists need to identify the trends and should shift towards the national interests. Government of Sri Lanka strongly recommend, the Tourism industry as a potential profit-making venture. But to cater the demand, Sri Lanka tourism industry urgently needs an inclusive recovery aligning with the cost factor. One example is attracting more tourist with convenient prices through customize services rather than the mass systems with higher costs. Similarly, the flexible policies and regulatory frameworks may rationalize the informal economy and the gaps in taxation.

Most of the services need enhancement of the skills of the providers. Training of more intelligent and skilled service providers may increase the tourists stay. Technology also having a key role in the tourism industry, Artificial Intelligence and block chain technologies may offer a more convenient user-friendly services to the tourists. Green and innovative financing options may open more avenues to the investors with lower cost of maintenance.

With the economic crisis women are the most affected and the vulnerable group in any given nation. So, women have to take the leadership in changing the world for better. Considering all the regional and global trends, we created this forum aiming to crystalize the thinking of the scientists on critical developmental issues to support the economy of the country.

I hope the women leaders will create the next level of economic prosperity through the technology – driven industrial revolution.

Message from the Secretary of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for the Women in Science for the Developing World. (SLNC/ OWSD)



Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi

In recent years, Sri Lanka has become a beacon for sustainable tourism, seamlessly blending the rich cultural heritage with its pristine beauty. As we delve into the intricate evolution of this industry, it is imperative to recognize and celebrate the pivotal role that women in Science and Technology play in propelling Sri Lanka's tourism sector into the future. In the current context, we witness the transformative impact that women in STEM bring to the technological landscape where technology serves as the cornerstone for sustainable tourism practices. From data analytics to smart infrastructure, women in Science and Technology contribute to innovative solutions that enhance the visitor experience.

Being the Secretary of SLNC/OWSD, it gives me great pleasure and honor to express my thoughts as this conference marks a significant step forward in our collective feminine pursuit of economic revitalization hand in hand with the technological advancement for tourism industry of our country. In addition, our conference serves as a focal point for many parties like academics, investors, entrepreneurs, industry experts, students, researchers and policy makers where it transcends the boundaries of a conventional conference. The networking forum is aimed at facilitating meaningful interactions with different stakeholders of the tourism industry. By binding them together, we aim to catalyze the transformations leading to impactful applications that drive economic growth. This conference goes beyond the academic discussions by offering the participants a platform to explore the numerous avenues and opportunities. Hence, we envision a lasting positive impact far beyond the event itself.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the collaborators, participants, sponsors and the organizing team who have come together to bring this conference to fruition by showing a keen interest on a topic that is of paramount importance. So, let us pave the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future for this beautiful island nation of Sri Lanka.

May this conference serve as a spark that fosters impactful collaborations, ignites innovative thoughts and extends the stakeholder influence beyond boundaries!

Message from the President of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka / NASSL



Prof. Nadira Karunaweera

It is a pleasure and a privilege to provide this message to the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for the Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC OWSD) as the Founder President of this organization and as the incumbent President of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL). The SLNC OWSD was established in the year 2018, under the aegis of the NASSL to promote female participation in science and technology, in scientific leadership and decision-making processes, both at the national and international levels. The organization acts as a platform for networking of scientists, capacity building through training in leadership, information dissemination on opportunities and to showcase successful women scientists as role models. Its membership is currently around 200 and it is very encouraging and rewarding to see its steady growth since its inception.

The NASSL, a non-governmental scientific body, established in 1976 and incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1988 functions as the parent organization to the SLNC OWSD, supporting its growth and providing the infrastructure and administrative support. The commitment and dedication of members remain the key to the growth of any organization and so are cooperation, collaboration, trust, and respect for each other. The constant focus on the aims and values of the SLNC OWSD by successive Councils and persistent dialogue between council members help in ensuring the alignment of ideas for optimal outputs and outcomes.

Tourism is one of the key industries that is being targeted for rapid growth during the present times by the government of Sri Lanka to generate the much-needed foreign exchange for the country. Female participation in the workforce of this sector, therefore, is considered critical in realizing that goal and so will be the use of modern technology for sustainable growth of the industry. In this context, the theme of the event 'The Contribution of Women in Science and Technology to the Technology-driven Sustainable Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka' is both timely and relevant for many sectors including Science and Technology, financial, public, and private enterprises. I have no doubt this event will provide valuable networking opportunities and will be an enriching experience for all participants.

I wish this event all success.

Message of the Director General of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka



Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe

In the global human population, the percentage of females is almost equal to that of males. Power of women in leading and decision making is immense, which entails a huge economic potential as well. Thus, women should play a leading role in developing a country sustainably. In countries such as Sri Lanka with economic, social and cultural challenges, women at all levels should play a vital and a significant role in overcoming such societal challenges. Generally, women are identified as ‘Smart Entrepreneurs’ and for an industry to grow from the cottage level to large scale, the role played by women will be vital.

Thus, I hope that this workshop on ‘Contribution of Women in Sciences and Technology to the technology-driven sustainable tourism industry in Sri Lanka’ would provide new knowledge and insights ultimately to the ‘Smart Entrepreneurs’ in that sector facilitating Sustainable Development of Sri Lanka. I wish all the success for this event.

The Program

Time	Title of the Activity/Session	Speaker/Presenter	Citation
08.30 - 09.00 am	Registration / Morning Refreshments	Connect with the dignitaries of diverse disciplines of Science, get to know their contribution to the innovations in tourism, promotive agencies & their responsibilities and the market force	
09.00 - 09.15 am	Lighting of the Oil Lamp		
09.15 - 09.30 am	Welcome Speech and Introduction of the Objectives of the Conference	Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera President - SLNC/ OWSD	Welcome the Guests and Keynote & all speakers, introduce the OWSD objectives and the Importance of economic switch to the Medical and Wellness Tourism Industry
09.30 - 10.30 am	Key note Sustainable Tourism as a growing Industry for Economic Gain and areas of interests for Women contribution	Prof Suranga De Silva (Professor in Economics & Tourism), Coordinator, Sustainable Tourism Unit, University of Colombo	Potentials and the strengths of the sustainable tourism and future projections for the involvements of the women in science
10.30 - 11.30 am	Women Empowerment through the Tourism Industry	Dr. Sulochana Sigera (Founder /CEO- WIM)	Women empowerment for sustainable Economic Prosperity through Sustainable Tourism
11.30 - 12.15 am	Value addition in the Tourism Industry through Vocational Education	Prof. Mahesh Edirisinghe Vice Chancellor UNIVOTECH	Address the gaps exist in between the graduates, curriculum designs and the demands from the tourism industry with the dynamic nature and shifted trends
12.15 - 01.15 am	Unique Proposition of Natural/Herbal Products in Nature Centric Wellness Tourism in Sri Lanka, A role of the Scientists in Re-shaping Traditional Health & Wellness Approaches	Dr. Pathmasiri Ranasinghe Principal Scientist ITI	Herbal tourism is a nature-friendly tourism and defined as "provision of sustainable and responsible collection of curatives, aromatic and edible plants for the human use". Manufacturing of herbal products is an opening of number of business avenues for tourist attraction
01.15 - 01.45 am	Lunch and idea generation		
01.45 - 02.45 am	Role of the women in science and technology for the sustainable Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka: Policy reforms for the business startups and technology innovations in the tourism industry	Lunch and idea generation Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe, Director General, NSF	Role of NSF as the guiding agency for scientists for their sustainability in research and contribution in policy developments towards the National Interests.
02.45 - 03.45 am	Potential Market opportunities for the Women Scientists, in the Wellness Tourism & home stay as a Growing Industry.	Dr. Himalee De Silva (Senior Lecturer in the FIM/ Entrepreneur)NSF	Case based experience in Wellness tourism as an industry and need of the professional / scientific women contribution
03.45 - 04.00 am	Concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks	Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi Secretary -SLNC / OWSD	Way forward and important of connectivity for better

Profile of the Keynote Speaker, Professor of Economics and Tourism, STU, UOC



Prof. DAC Suranga Silva

Professor D.A.C. Suranga Silva showcased his interests in Sustainable Tourism, Hospitality and Economics through numerous national and international fora. As the founding coordinator/head, Prof DAC Silva could establish the Sustainable Tourism Unit at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo since Nov 2023. He is a lead trainer at the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). He obtained his basic degree in Bachelor of Arts in Monetary Economics in 1990 from the University of Colombo. He completed a Master of Arts in International Economics in 1993 and M. Phil in Environmental Economics from Maastricht School of Management, University of Maastricht, Netherlands in 1999. He earned his Ph.D. in Tourism Economics from the Vrije University Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2002. Professor Silva is a visiting fellow in the University of New England in Australia, Singapore and Japan. His contribution for the Sri Lankan tourism sector proceeded with academic and administrative positions; visiting professor for many national and international universities/higher education institutes including University of Nicholas Copernicus in Torun, Poland, European University for Tourism (UET) in Italy, Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari, (Haryana) in India and Tianjin Maritime College in China, Management Science University in Malaysia, Naresuan University in Thailand, University of the Ryukyus in Japan.

He introduced “Tourism Economics” as a core subject for university education in Sri Lanka through his founding coordination of Diploma, Executive Diploma, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Tourism Economics and Hotel Management. In addition, he is the founding coordinator for Sustainable Tourism Destination Management Training Programmes conducted by the University of Colombo with strategic partnership of the UNDP and Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC). He was the Consultant/Chairman of the marketing Panel for SEUSL, NSBM, CINEC, SLTC, SLAC, and SLITHM. During his tenure (2011 and 2012) as the Director General, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) Ministry of Economic Development, won the Most Outstanding Tourism Education and Training Effort award. Professor Silva was the Consultant to “Integrated Five Year Sustainable Tourism Development Plan” (2019-2023) for North Central Province. He was an advisory committee member of National Tourism Policy in Sri Lanka and the Chairman of National Sustainable Tourism Certification (NSTC) in 2021 and Research Committee at Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) in August 2023. He was the Director of Staff Development Center at the University of Colombo since 2012-2015, Professor Silva introduced the International Tourism Leaders’ Summit and Sri Lanka Tourism Career Expo and Job Fair in 2021.

He was a member of the Working Committee on Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation (NSF), in October 2023. In August 2023 he became the Principal Resource Person for developing the Sinhala-English Glossary for Tourism Vocabulary, coordinated by the Department of Official Languages, Ministry of Public Administration. He holds the Chairmanship of the Standing Committee for Silk-Road Research and Tourism Development Affairs, Association for Sri Lanka -China Social and Cultural Co-Operation (ASLCSCC), since March 2019.

Prof. Silva was Felicitated by the Association for Sri Lanka–China Social and Cultural Cooperation for Dedication to Promoting Research and Academic Studies on Tourism Relations between Sri Lanka and China in 2017. Since 2014 he was the Secretary General of the Tourism and Hospitality Educators and Researchers Association of Asia (THERAA). Professor Silva has published over eighty publications and was the Chief Editor of the Journal of Tourism Economics and Applied Research (JTEAR), University of Colombo. He delivered the keynote speech in over 20 international conferences and reviewed many National / International research publications.

Profile of the Speaker, Founder CEO/ Women in Management



Dr. Rajini Sulochana Segera

Dr. Sulochana Segera, a unique personality recognized among the Sri Lanka's distinguished social entrepreneurs, seasoned trainers and motivational speakers, since 26-years. As the Founder Chairperson of the Women in Management (WIM), she gifted number of brands; “Top50 Professional Career Woman Awards, New Generation Awards, Top10 Diversity Champions Awards, WIM Free Kitchen, and WIM Single Mother” to the humanity. On the 27th November 2023 at the House of Parliament, United Kingdom she was recognized and awarded for her exceptional Leadership on Gender Equality, Women and Youth Empowerment globally.

This was followed by Dr. Segera delivering a speech at the Parliament on Sri Lankan Women Empowerment and also her own story making it is the first time a Sri Lankan woman speaking on women empowerment at the United Kingdom House of Parliament. Dr. Segera committed to uplift the living standards of the community focused on the education and skill development. In the MSME and SME sector, she played a pivotal role as a mentor, counselor, and goodwill investor. She focused on traversing rural areas, recognizing the talents of voiceless and influenced the decision makers to adopt more inclusive structures at the national level.

She certified as an IFC-LPI Trainer in Performance Monitoring & Assessment (TPMA) and Personality Development Trainer in Asia. Dr. Segera contributed to the World Bank's IFC on 'Sustainable Private Sector Investment' and the global initiative '5 by 20' by Coca Cola, focusing on empowering five million women. She is a trainer in the 'Active Citizen' project designed by the British Council and Dr. Segera was one of the consultants in the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Education, Skill Development, Employment, and Labor Relations.

She chairs the WIM chapters in Sri Lanka, Maldives, Canada, UAE, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom, overseeing the WIM Top50 brand across 23 countries. She made 980 winners globally and 100 scholarships to the children of women-headed households annually. Dr. Segera' appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Global Equality Standard developed by GEA in the United Kingdom. She spearheaded the Sri Lankan project for Her Majesty the Queen's seventy years of service and leadership, collaborating with the British Council to establish a network of 100 young women leaders across South Asia and the UK.

Global Women Empowerment Icon Awards, Manila Philippines the “exceptional Woman of Influence 2022” as the first Sri Lankan to receive this Award, The Global Banking & Finance Awards® UK announced 'Business Woman of the Year Sri Lanka'. 2020 marked as the first Sri Lankan female entrepreneur and listed on the Global Banking & Finance Review website, she included as the ten most Influential People in Sri Lanka 2020 by the LNW website. She received the “Social Entrepreneur of the Year” award in 2019 at the Asia Pacific Awards organized by the Global Entrepreneur Council. She was the recipient of the Global CSR Excellence Award in 2018, Women Super Achievement Award 2017, Leadership Excellence Award 2016 and the “Most Outstanding Professional” award in 2015.

Profile of the Speaker, Vice Chancellor UNIVOTECH



Prof. Mahesh Edirisinghe

Prof. Mahesh Edirisinghe is a specialist in Lightning Climatology, Natural Disaster Management and Mitigation, Lightning & Surge Protection, and Transients Analysis. Prof. Edirisinghe received his B.Sc. (Honors.) Special Degree in Physics from the University of Colombo Sri Lanka in 1997 and the Ph.D. degree in lightning protection under a split research program between the University of Uppsala, Sweden, and the University of Colombo in 2007. He completed his MBA from London Metropolitan University, UK in 2016. Prof. Edirisinghe is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Vocational Technology operative under the purview of the Ministry of Education from May 2023. He also served as the Director General of the Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE), Ministry of Education from September 2022 to April 2023.

He was the Commissioner of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, Ministry of Science, Technology, and Research from 2015 to 2018. Since 2002, Prof. Mahesh Edirisinghe, is a member of the Faculty of University of Colombo as a Professor in Engineering Physics. Prof. Edirisinghe was the President of Section E-1 (Physical Sciences), Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science, Sri Lanka in 2012 and a Joint Secretary of the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka (IPSL) from 2007 to 2010. Prof. Edirisinghe also received the President's Award for Scientific Publication from His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka for the recognition of Scientific Research published and received the National Research Council Merit Award for Scientific Publication. He has shown his innovativeness by contributing to 25 inventions and has secured many recognitions including three Gold Medals and a Grand Award at the international level held in Switzerland, South Korea, and USA.

**Profile of the Speaker, Principal Research Scientist,
Industrial Technology Institute**



Dr. Pathmasiri Ranasinghe

Dr. Pathmasiri Ranasinghe is the principal Research scientist in the Industrial Technology Institute, Malabe. He studied Biochemistry, Agricultural Biotechnology and plant physiology for his basics. He obtained his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular biology from the University of Colombo. He is specialized in the areas of natural product Biochemistry and Biotechnology, bioassays, cell culture and plant tissue culture and technology & innovation commercialization. He has more interests towards the innovation, Technology Commercialization and Research & development. He has over 644 citations in high impact journal publications.

Dr Ranasinghe has more than 20 years of research experience in the fields of Biochemistry and molecular biology of Natural products including global training experience on in vitro bio assays and enzyme assays. He owned over 5 patents for his innovations. He also served as the Senior Deputy Director of Herbal Technology Section of the Industrial Technology Institute, Malabe.

Profile of the Speaker, Director General, National Science Foundation



Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe

Dr. Sudasinghe received her basic degree from Sri Jayewardenepura University in Sri Lanka and completed her Postgraduate Diploma in Economic Development and Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Colombo and PhD in Development Administration specializing Public Policy Management from the National Institute of Development Administration Thailand. She is a Visiting Professor in Management and Doctoral Advisor to Management and Science University Malaysia and maintain strong links and cordial relationships with many local and global academic institutions, training organizations in the field of public policy, administration and management.

Dr Sepalika has served as the Additional Director General and the Head of the School of Postgraduate Studies of Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) before joining NSF. She is a proactive and highly professional individual who is having a sound track record of more than 30 years in the public sector in academic, teaching, research and administrative fields.

As an academic and a practitioner in the Sri Lanka public service, she contributes her knowledge in training of senior civil servants, police and military officers in Sri Lanka and abroad. She has also served as a principal consultant for several national policy formulation committees and several high-level committees of the government.

She is an award winner of Professional & Career Woman Award in 2018 for Leadership Excellence for her exceptional contributions and achievements in the field of State and Government Sector organized by Women in Management (WIM) in partnership with International Finance Cooperation –IFC - a member of the World Bank Group

Profile of the Speaker, Senior Lecturer, FIM, UOC/ Entrepreneur



Dr. Himalee De Silva

Since 2008 Dr. Himalee is serving as a Senior Lecturer for the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka.

Her career started in 2005 at the National Institute of Sport Science, Ministry of Sports as an assistant lecturer in Sports Physiology. Due to her keen interest in the environment, she pursued her postgraduate studies in Environmental Science at the University of Colombo in 2005. In 2006, Dr. Himalee joined as a Medical Officer in Charge to the North Central Province (NCP) Department of Ayurveda, Ministry of Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka. During this period, she rendered her service maximum mainly for the propagation of Ayurveda health services in war-torn areas of NCP. Due to her keen interest in the teaching and learning process, she joined as an academic to the IIM (FIM) in 2008 and completed her Doctor of Medicine in Ayurveda from Banaras Hindu University, India as a candidate nominated under the Indian Cultural Exchange scholarship in the field of Ayurveda Psychiatry and hold Diploma in Yoga from the same University in 2012.

While incorporating her knowledge and experience in wellness tourism, as an entrepreneur she introduced a Homestay (“Veludvara”) in 2018 at Nawala, It runs as a family business under unique concepts and includes most of the dimensions of wellness tourism with maintaining the destination authenticity. She is a member of many professional organizations and many women organizations especially in OWSD SLNC and WIM and presently engaging as an Executive Committee member fully committed to the task of disseminating Sri Lankan Traditional Medicine by empowering women in various dimensions.

Sri Lanka National Chapter OWSD – 2023 /2025

Executive Committee members



Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera
President (2023-2025)

Dr Thilina Wanigasekera is currently working as the Director Organization Development in the Ministry of Health. 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 the 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).

She extended her contribution as a Visiting Lecturer in number of educational institutions including the Open University of Sri Lanka, Australian Collage of Business and Technology, Spectrum Collage, Nawaloka Collage , International Institute of Health Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Faculty of Indigenous Medicine/ University of Colombo). She also a Founder Member/ former EXCO of Women In Science & Engineering (WISE /SL), 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 Machine Learning.

I hope the women leaders will create the next level of economic prosperity through the technology – driven industrial revolution.

OWSD membership number: 5136

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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. She has obtained the Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE) from the University of Colombo and is an accredited teacher in higher education by the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA), UK.

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 studies on women in science, technology and research in Sri Lanka.

She has received several research and academic awards to date including the Cooperative Medical Sciences Program Collaborative Award, NIH, USA in 2019, President's Awards for Scientific Research in 2020 and Senate Commendations for Research Excellence for the years 2022, 2021 & 2020.

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, and drug resistance, image processing and clinical trials

OWSD membership number: 7060

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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 Chaturie 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 8th March 2023. She also became The Best Mentor of the Winspiration 2023 of 4th 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 Karunarathne
Immediate Past Secretary

Dr Ureshani is a Senior Lecturer at 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 University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Even she has done a Postgraduate Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science from University of Colombo. Dr Ureshani has recognized as a Young Scientist by National Science Foundation (NSF) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) in 2018 to visit Japan. She got the Award of Studentship from Link Natural Products (PVT) Limited, Kapugoda, Dompe, Sri Lanka from 2011-2017. Her research interests are in Pharmacognacy, Laboratory Animal Science, Nutrition and Biochemistry.

She was the Secretary (from 2021-2023) in Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) Sri Lanka National Chapter. She is the Chairperson of the Environmental Committee, Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS) and President (elect) of Section D, Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS) for 2023. Earlier, 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 Kapani is Head/Senior Lecturer at at 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 6th 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 1st 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.

tory Animal Sciences (SLALAS) in 2016, 2017 and 2019, Award for Best paper presented at the oral session” at the 1st 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

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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 Jayewardenepura since July, 2019. She has obtained a B.Pharm Second Class Lower Division from University of Sri Jayewardenepura 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 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 sinoides (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. Also, she is interested with People’s Health Movement, and would like to contribute to advocate on public health,

health rights and participate in organizing peace work camps. 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.

OWSD membership number: 11043

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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 Honours. 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.

OWSD membership number: 14762

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Dr. Dilushi Wijyaratne
Executive Committee Member



Dr Chandrakantha Mahendranathann is currently affiliated to the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) as the Head of the department and as a Senior Lecturer (Gr. I) in Botany. She holds a B.Sc. Hons. (EUSL), M.Phil.(UPDN) and a Ph.D (EUSL). She’s an awardee of the Commonwealth Scholarship PhD (Split-site) tenable at the United Kingdom for the year 2008. Director, Centre for External Degrees and Extension Courses (CEDEC), EUSL from 2015 to 2018; Director of the Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) EUSL from 2012 to 2013; Director/Career Guidance Unit at Eastern University from 2004 to 2008. She was the Vice-President, Federation of University Teachers’ Association, Sri Lanka (FUTA) in 2019/2020, Vice-President, Teachers’ Association of EUSL in 2019/2020.

She has been an Invited speaker in several international conferences, held in countries such as Chicago, USA, Dubai, Maldives and India (Delhi, Pune, Madras). She was a resource person and a visiting lecturer for the Staff Develop

ment Centre, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL. Her research interests are in Plant Pathology, Postharvest Pathology and Technology, Industrial and Environmental Microbiology and Food Microbiology.

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 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 3rd to 14th 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 12th to 26th 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 21st to 28th 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

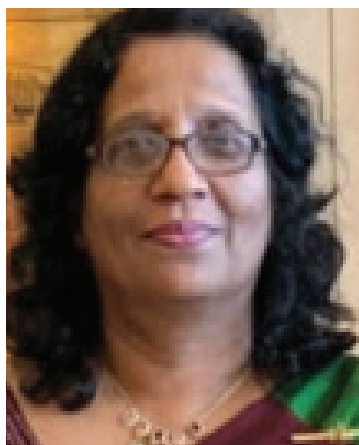
Usha Hettiaratchi is a Professor in Biochemistry and Head in the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences and University of Sri Jayewardenepura. She obtained her BSc. in Biochemistry from University College London, University of London in 1997 and she obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from 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 about 20 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).

OWSD membership number: 13361

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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 Jaywardenepura research grant - Grant no: ASP/01/RE/MED/2019/41- Co Supervisor).

OWSD membership number: 8343

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Prof. Nadeera Karunaweera
Ex-Officio Member

Nadira Karunaweera is the President of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) (2022-2024). She spearheaded the establishment of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC OWSD) and was the Founder President of that organization (2018/2021). She is the Chair and Senior Professor of Parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, 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, and was the elected President of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists during the 2020/2021 period. She is an elected Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an elected Distinguished International Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Her research interest areas are Malaria, Leishmaniasis, Immunology, and Biology. She has published widely with a Google Scholar h-index of 36 and i-10 index of 90 and has authored over 150 peer-reviewed journal articles with nearly 5000 citations, a 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 was awarded nationally and internationally for her outstanding capabilities.

OWSD membership number: 2533

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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.

OWSD membership number:

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The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World



The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) is an international organization founded in 1987 and based at the offices of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), in the program unit of UNESCO, Trieste, Italy.

OWSD is the first international forum to unite eminent women scientists from the developing and developed worlds with the objective of strengthening their role in the development process and promoting their representation in scientific and technological leadership, providing research training, career development and networking opportunities for women scientists throughout the developing world at different stages in their careers

Objectives of the OWSD

- Increase the participation of women in developing countries in scientific and technological research, teaching and leadership (OWSD fellowships)
- Promote the recognition of the scientific and technological achievements of women scientists and technologists in developing countries (OWSD awards)
- Promote collaboration and communication among women scientists and technologists in developing countries and with the international scientific community as a whole (OWSD networking)
- Increase access of women in developing countries to the socio-economic benefits of science and technology (GenderInSITE)
- Promote participation of women scientists and technologists in the development of their country (GenderInSITE)
- Increase understanding of the role of science and technology in supporting women's development activities (GenderInSITE)

National Chapters

OWSD members could connect with the members in all over the regions through the activities organized by the OWSD National Chapters. National Chapters exist to support women scientists over the globe with events and activities aimed to the objectives of the OWSD.

OWSD has over forty National Chapters across the regions:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- The Arab Region
- Latin America and the Caribbean

Sri Lanka – National Chapter OWSD



SLNC-OWSD was established on March 29th of the year 2018, under the umbrella of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL). With the blessings from Prof Jennifer Thompson, President of the OWSD, Prof. Cheryl Praeger, Chair, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Committee of the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), and Prof. Andrew Holmes, President, National Academy of Sciences of Australia, Prof. Haseena Khan from Bangladesh, Prof. Azra Khanum from Pakistan and Prof. Anjana Singh from Nepal representing their respective National Academies of Sciences. Many other scientists from various national and international organizations including the President and Council members of the NASSL, representatives of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB, Italy). Prof. Nadira Karunaweera was the Founder president of the SLNC/ OWSD. Prof. Sugandika Suresh took the leadership in the second term started in the year 2021. Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera is currently hold the President post of the SLNC OWSD for the term starting from the year 2023.

The logo of SLNC/ OWSD portrays a woman carrying a lamp surrounded by light rays. Hair bun symbolizes the Asian origin of the woman, the 'atom' denotes science and 'heart' denotes devotion to the family, compassion and love. This entire logo denotes the fact that a woman scientist has both her scientific knowledge and her compassionate and loving heart making her a guiding light to the family and others and brightens the world around her. The symbols are similar to the logo of the OWSD parent body denoting that the National Chapters connected to the parent organization. Light rays are similar to the logo of NASSL denoting the establishment of SLNC/ OWSD under the umbrella of the NASSL.

Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera, the President of SLNC OWSD, invites the Scientists in Sri Lanka to join hands with the OWSD team. (refer the Application Form)



**Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing world
(SLNC/ OWSD)
2023/25
Membership Application Form**

01	Name (Prof/ Dr/ Mrs./Ms.)	
02	NIC / Passport Number	
03	Institutional Affiliation	
04	Academic Qualification	
05	OWSD Membership Number	
06	Year of Registration	
07	E mail	
08	Phone Whats App	
09	LinkedIn / Facebook	
10	Research Interest	
11	Membership in other Organizations & Membership Number	
12	Expectations from SLNC/OWS	

AYUBOWAN SRI LANKA



An Island with Happiness & Wellness

Organization for Women in Science
for the Developing World
Sri Lanka National Chapter
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