

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA
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Profiles of Nominees

Annexure I – Notice of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka

To: All Fellows of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka

Agenda item – Election of New Fellows

The Council, in terms of Rules 3.11 to 3.13, has recommended the following nominees as eligible for election as Fellows vide rule 3.23.

A: MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

01. Ellalagoda Gamage Don Shaman Rajindrajith

02. Priyanga Ranasinghe

C: ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE & SURVEYING

03. Jagath Manjula Arunakumara Manatunge

04. Udeni Priyantha Nawagamuwa

05. Sujithra Kaushaliya Weragoda

D: LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES

06. Alisandirige Lokapriya Tilak Hewawasam

07. Sanath Rajapakse

Date: 23rd January 2025

Schedule to Annexure I



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SRI LANKA (NASSL)

Details of Nominees

A: Medical, Dental and Veterinary Sciences

1) Ellalagoda Gamage Don Shaman Rajindrajith (Shaman Rajindrajith)

Proposer: Prof Asiri Abeyagunawardena **Seconder:** Prof Sachith Mettananda
Date of Birth: 18th January 1968
Profession: Professor of Paediatrics
Qualifications: MBBS (Ruhuna), MD (Paediatrics), PhD (Amsterdam), FRCPCH (UK)

Shaman Rajindrajith graduated MBBS (Ruhuna) with Second Class Honors with best performances in Community Medicine winning the Gold Medal. He obtained MD-Paediatrics (Colombo) and graduated PhD from University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. He is a Fellow of the RCPCH (UK), The Royal Society of Medicine and member of American Gastroenterology Association. He is also a member of prestigious Rome V Committee.

He has won President's Awards for Scientific Publications in years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. He has also won Prof. Ebrahim Award for best paper from Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians 2009 and 2012. He was the most outstanding researcher of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya in 2012. He was awarded the best Junior researcher award from IFFGD, USA (2012). In 2023 he won the CVCD lifetime award for outstanding medical/dental researcher in Sri Lanka.

He has 107 peer-reviewed publications mostly on functional gastrointestinal disorders establishing the global epidemiology, and risk factors. He supervised the first clinical trial of domperidone for children with functional abdominal pain. He has co-authored 17 book chapters mostly related to paediatric gastroenterology and edited two paediatric textbooks. He has been the first editor of two these landmark pediatric textbooks published in Sri Lanka during the economic crisis to enhance student teaching. His current h-index is 41. He also developed the first stoma clinic and pediatric gastroenterology clinics in the Lady Ridgeway Hospital to improve care in children with gastroenterological ailments. He is also an acclaimed paediatric endoscopist.

He is the Chair Professor of Paediatrics, in University of Colombo. He was the President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians 2021-22. He serves as an editorial board member of several international journals and serves as a council member for Asia Pan Pacific Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

2) Priyanga Ranasinghe

Proposer: Prof Vajira HW Dissanayake

Seconded: Prof Shalini Sri Ranganathan

Date of Birth: 20th November 1982

Profession: Professor in Pharmacology; Specialist in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Qualifications: MBBS, MD (Medicine), PhD (Colombo), PG certificate (Med. Edu.), FRCP (Edinb.)

Professor Ranasinghe holds a PhD and MD from University of Colombo, specializing in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT) as the first Board Certified Specialist in Sri Lanka. He has made significant contributions to non-communicable disease research, particularly hypertension, and diabetes, and pharmacogenomics. His work has resulted in 139 peer-reviewed publications with >26,000 citations (H-index: 52, i10-index:84). He has led numerous clinical trials, systematic-reviews, and meta-analyses, focusing on enhancing non-communicable disease care.

Professor Ranasinghe has been recognized as a top-cited scientist globally (top 2%) by Elsevier/Stanford University (2022, 2023). He has received multiple Presidential Awards for Scientific Research (2011-2015, 2017, 2019-2020) and CVCD Lifetime Research Excellence Award (2014). His accolades include multiple Best Publication awards from Ceylon College of Physicians and Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence, University of Colombo (2022).

His research has significantly impacted public health policy and clinical practice regarding non-communicable diseases in Sri Lanka. His work on pharmacogenomics is pioneering personalized medicine in the region. Notably, his research on Ceylon cinnamon and zinc supplementation has led to two patents and value-added contributions to Sri Lanka's export market.

Being the first and up to now only specialist in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, he is playing a crucial role in shaping Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Sri Lanka, an important current national need. His collaboration with overseas scientists has led to significant research partnerships globally as well as provided a pathway to upgrade national research capacity. He continues to disseminate his excellence in research methodology through workshops/lectures for Universities/Professional Colleges/Associations across Sri Lanka and via mentorship of numerous students. Recognizing his expertise, he has been invited to serve as Chairperson, Ethics Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo and Secretary, Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

C: Engineering, Architecture and Surveying

3) Jagath Manjula Arunakumara Manatunge (Jagath Manatunga)

Proposer: Prof Malik Ranasinghe

Seconded: Prof Ananda Jayawardane

Date of Birth: 20th August 1966

Profession: Professor

Qualifications: BSc Eng Hons (Moratuwa), MSc (Lond.), DIC, PhD (Saitama), MIE(SL), CEng., MIEPSL

Prof Jagath Manatunge holds a BSc Honors First Class Degree in Civil Engineering (Moratuwa), an MSc and a Diploma in Environmental Technology from Imperial College, University of London, and a PhD from Saitama University, Japan. He is a Corporate Member of the IESL, a Member of the Institute of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka, and a Passed Finalist of CIMA.

In 2020, he received the CVCD Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in the field of Technology and Related Sciences. He has been awarded 14 Outstanding Research Awards and three Presidential Awards. Additionally, he is a recipient of the Chevening Award, Monbukagakusho Scholarship, a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and a fellowship from the Japan Science and Technology Agency held at the University of Tokyo.

Prof Jagath is a specialist in civil and environmental engineering, having worked on projects for the World Bank, ADB, and various consultancy companies. He has provided expertise to several government organizations: the Ministry of Environment, UDA, CEA, and others. His work includes conducting technical and feasibility studies for large-scale infrastructure projects. He has made significant contributions to formulating policy documents, national regulations, and Master Plans for major cities and national institutions.

Prof Jagath is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the China-Sri Lanka Joint Research Centre, the Ministry of Water Supply, an Advisor on environmental policy research at the Center for East Asian Development Studies, Japan, the Editor of the IESL Annual Transactions, a member of the Editorial Boards of the Journal of the National Science Foundation and the IESL Engineer Journal. He was a member of the BOM of the PGIE at OUSL (2010 to 2023).

4) Udeni Priyantha Nawagamuwa (Udeni Nawagamuwa)

Proposer: Prof Malik Ranasinghe

Seconded: Prof Ananda Jayawardane

Date of Birth: 17th September 1972

Profession: Professor in Civil Engineering

Qualifications: BSc Eng Hons (Moratuwa), MEng (AIT), Dr Eng (YNU), Japan, CEng, Fellow (IESL)

Prof Udeni Nawagamuwa, holds a BSc Eng (Hons) degree from the University of Moratuwa (1999) and an MEng from the Asian Institute of Technology (2002). In 2005, he earned a Doctor of Engineering from Yokohama National University. He became a Chartered Engineer in 2008 and was honored as a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) in 2016.

Prof Udeni's academic journey began with a significant achievement as the winner of the Sri Lanka National Mathematical Olympiad in 1992. Over the years, he has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious E.O.E. Pereira Award for the Best Technical Paper presented at the IESL Annual Sessions in both 2009 and 2010. He has consistently been recognized for his research contributions at the University of Moratuwa and received the Best Performance Award in the Summer Training Course for Slope Land Disaster Risk Reduction at National Taiwan University in 2013. Additionally, he was awarded the Endeavour Research Fellowship by the Australian Government, allowing him to spend his sabbatical at the University of Wollongong from August 2017 to February 2018.

With over two decades of experience in civil engineering, he has served both academia and the construction industry as a consultant. Notably, he contributed as a Geotechnical Engineer to the Southern Expressway Project and other significant ventures requiring expert geotechnical input.

Since joining the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) in 2007, he has held various leadership roles, including President of Section C, Chairman of multiple committees, General Secretary, and now, President-elect. He has also served the IESL as a council member and contributed to the community as Editor of the IESL Newsletter for four years.

5) Sujithra Kaushaliya Weragoda (S K Weragoda)

Proposer: Prof C M Madduma Bandara

Seconded: Prof Rohan Weerasuriya

Date of Birth: 07th June 1974

Profession: Civil and Environmental Engineer

Qualifications: BSc (Eng) Peradeniya, MEng (AIT), PhD (Saitama)

Dr SK Weragoda completed his Ph.D. in 2009 at Saitama University, Japan, focusing on the use of wetland systems. He earned the M.Eng degree in 2005 from the AIT, Thailand, researching Trihalomethanes formation and the B.Sc. (Honors) in Civil Engineering from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, in 2000.

He has received numerous prestigious awards and recognitions. In 2023, he was honored with the President's Award designated for best research publications. He was nominated for the IWA Development Award at the WDCE in Rwanda, the ANSO S&T Cooperation Prize, China and the IWA Development Award at WDCE 2019 in Colombo. In 2018, he took a lead role in guiding the Sri Lankan Government to secure a \$16 million grant from China. He played a critical role as a trainee at the Chinese Academy of Sciences by convincing the renowned scientists in water sector and the policy makers of the Government of China the importance of setting up a dedicated institute to meet all scientific needs in the water sector to complement the current facilities available in Sri Lanka. He served as Deputy Principal Investigator for a National Research Council Grant in 2016 and Principal Investigator for another in 2012. Additionally, he received the Monbukagakusho Scholarship (2006) and the Joint Japan World Bank Scholarship (2004).

His extensive contributions to water safety and treatment merge rigorous research with practical applications. As one of the authors of the WHO/IWA manual on water safety plans, he provided a foundational global resource. With an H-index of 15 and over 100 publications, his work significantly advances understanding in water treatment and safety. He has guided to develop water safety policy for Sri Lanka.

He pioneered the application of WSPs in Sri Lanka, setting a national precedent. As a WHO-recognized master' trainer, he has educated numerous professionals, enhancing water safety and reliability. His recognition as a panel member at the 2024 IWA International Water Conference in Toronto underscores the significant contributions to water supply research and practice.

D: Life and Earth Sciences

6) Alisandirige Lokapriya Tilak Hewawasam (Tilak Hewawasam)

Proposer: Prof HMTGA Pitawala

Seconded: Prof SV Rohan Weerasuriya

Date of Birth: 09th October 1968

Profession: Senior Professor in Geology

Qualifications: BSc (Geology) Special, MPhil (Geology), PhD (Geology), Chartered Geologist

Tilak Hewawasam, BSc(Geology), MPhil(Geology), PhD(Geology), and Chartered Geologist, is a Senior Professor at the University of Peradeniya (UoP). He pursued a PhD degree at the University of Berne, Switzerland, while receiving a competitive scholarship. Further, he has been trained as an expert in disaster risk management and environmental impact assessments.

Prof Tilak was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship and a DAAD Fellowship to pursue postdoctoral work in the UK and Germany, respectively. He has received numerous honours for research, including the President's Award for Scientific Publication (2020, 2017, 2015, 2014, and 2010), the NRC Merit Award for Scientific Publication (2014 and 2019), the SCOPUS Young Scientist Award (2008), and the PG Cooray Medal (1997). In 2020, he was awarded the prestigious Ananda Coomaraswamy medal by the Geological Society of Sri Lanka(GSSL) in recognition of his contribution to advancing geological knowledge.

Prof Tilak is a geomorphologist who is engaged in research with local funds and those raised through international collaborations. He advances geological knowledge through fundamental research by using cutting-edge geochemical tools. His research findings on understanding the earth surface processes in the tropical Highlands, published in first-class international journals, are exciting and were able to draw the attention of many international geomorphologists. He is an excellent teacher who contributes to several Universities and Postgraduate Institutes and has been supervising many Ph.D., M.Phil., and MSc. students.

He was Head of an Academic Department twice, Chair of a Board of Study of a Postgraduate Institute, organized more than ten national and international conferences by providing a leading role, and is currently the Director of the Center for Environmental Sustainability at the UoP. Over the last 30 years, he has rendered an immense contribution to the geological community by holding national-level positions at the GSSL and the Institute of Geology, Sri Lanka(IGSL).

7) Rajapakse Gedera Sanath Chaminda Rajapakse (Sanath Rajapakse)

Proposer: Prof Namal Priyantha

Secunder: Prof Nadira Karunaweera

Date of Birth: 30th September 1970

Profession: Senior Professor in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Qualifications: BSc (Peradeniya), MPhil (Peradeniya), Ph D(Hokkaido), M I Chem. C,
M I Biol.

Sanath Rajapakse obtained his BSc and MPhil degrees from the University of Peradeniya (UoP) in 1997 and 2022, respectively. Subsequently, he obtained his PhD from Hokkaido University, Japan, in 2006. His scholarly contributions include 71 peer-reviewed publications listed in Google Scholar, with a high h-index of 17, i10-index of 19 and over 1243 citations. He has produced over 140 research communications and co-authored three textbooks. He has produced nine PhDs; eight MPhils and has supervised twenty-nine Masters graduates. He has secured a total of eight research grants from the NRC, NSF and UoP.

Among his accolades, he has received the Presidential Award for Scientific Publications five times, SUSRED Award from the National Science Foundation in 2014 and the NRC merit award in 2015. His outstanding research activities led him to receive JSPS invitation fellowship (long-term) in 2013 and prestigious JSPS invitation Fellowship (short-term) in 2022.

Sanath Rajapakse is an excellent teacher with nearly two decades of teaching experience, and has taught courses related to Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology. He has also introduced the new Masters and M Sc programmes in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology offered by the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), UoP. His research has significantly advanced scientific knowledge on hydrolytic enzymes in carnivorous plants, and proteases expressed in male and female reproductive systems. He has identified new hydrolytic enzymes with potentially higher biotechnological applications. Currently he is engaged in research on hydrolytic enzymes isolated from bacteria living in hot water springs.

Rajapakse is a Senior Professor in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. Having served as Head of Department, he is currently serving as the Dean, Faculty of Science, UoP. In addition, he serves as a member of the Research Council of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies and as a member of the Board of Management of PGIS, UoP.