

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA

LIST OF NOMINEES - Election of New Fellows: 2020

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4. Bammanne Arachchige Hema Ranjan Premaratne
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17. Pitumpe Appuhamilage Nimal Punyasiri

MEDICAL, DENTAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

1. Asiri Samantha Abeygunawadena

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. B M Ratnayake Bandara	<u>Seconded:</u>	Prof. S A M Kularatne
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	22 nd October 1963		
<u>Profession:</u>	Senior Professor of Pediatrics		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	MBBS (Univ. Peradeniya), Diploma in Child Health, MD (Paediatrics, Univ. Colombo)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Medical		
<u>Residence:</u>	155, George E de Silva Mawatha, Kandy.		

Scientific Achievements:

Professor Asiri Abeygunawardena [MBBS (SL), MD (Col), OCH (Col), MRCP(UK), F RCPCH (UK)] is the Professor of Paediatrics and the current Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. He is also a Consultant Paediatrician with a special interest in Paediatric Nephrology. He graduated from the University of Peradeniya winning the gold medal for the highest competence at the final MBBS examination. He was the first in the order of merit in both Part 1 and Part 2 MD paediatrics examinations and was the recipient of the gold medal for best performance at the DCH examination. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2006.

He received the Outstanding Asian Paediatrician Award from the Asia Pacific Paediatric Association (2018). He had the rare distinction of being invited as a Guest Speaker to as many as nineteen International Conferences held outside Sri Lanka (2004-2019). He delivered six orations at national and international distinguished gatherings (2002-2018). He received four Presidential Awards for outstanding scientific research (2007-2014).

He has over 50 original peer-reviewed research publications in reputed journals and over 100 conference presentations both nationally and internationally, some of which received the best presentation awards. He was instrumental in developing dedicated paediatric nephrology services including first paediatric renal transplant programme in Sri Lanka at Peradeniya Hospital (2004).

He was the Chairperson of the Board of study in Paediatrics (2015-2018) and the President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (2017). He served as the Director of the Centre for Education Research and Training on Chronic Kidney Disease, University of Peradeniya (2014-2018).

2. Kosala Saroj Amarasiri Jayasinghe

<u>Proposer:</u>	Dr Ranjith Mahindapala	<u>Seconded:</u> Prof. Nadira Karunaweera
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	25 the May 1955	
<u>Profession:</u>	Chair Professor of Medicine	
<u>Qualifications:</u>	MBBS, MD (Univ. Colombo), MRCP (UK), MD by thesis (UK), PhD (Univ. Colombo, FRCP (Lond), FCCP	
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Medical	
<u>Residence:</u>	25/65, Kumbukgahaduwa, Buddhist Institute Avenue (Off Parliament Drive), Kotte.	

Scientific Achievements

Professor Jayasinghe passed the MBBS (2nd upper honours) from University of Colombo and 1st in MD (Medicine); Passed MRCP-UK and first MD (Colombo) to obtain a research doctorate (MD - Bristol) and amongst the handful having three doctorates in diverse fields of Medicine: MD in Clinical Medicine; MD (Bristol) on laboratory-based research and PhD (Colombo) in Social Sciences. He has over 100 journal publications, authored numerous books/manuals, presented over 140 scientific abstracts and delivered over 50 invited lectures in Sri Lanka and overseas. Appointed as Chair Professor of Medicine University of Colombo.

He was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship, WHO fellowships, presidential Awards for Scientific Research and several other awards for research. Honoured as Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians London, in 1996, and Fellow of the Ceylon Collage of Physicians in 2002.

He led the development of novel MBBS curriculum and in introducing major changes to postgraduate MD training programme. He has promoted a wider perspective to medicine, that includes social determinants of health, ethics, urban health and medical humanities. He pioneered novel conceptualizations in clinical medicine and in population health using systems science.

He spearheads vibrant Department of Medicine which has a high research output. He was the first Director Medical Education Research and Development Centre, and Founder Head, Department of Medical Humanities. He was a member of Science Committee, Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme of International Science Council. He provides leadership to CKDu research and to several teams with other disciplines (e.g. Systems science in dengue with the Departments of Mathematics; Urban health with the Department of Architecture; and medical device development with the Department of Biomedical Engineering)

3. Danansuriya Bogodage Mahinda Wickramaratne

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. S H P P Karunaratne	<u>Seconded:</u>	Prof. U L B Jayasinghe
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	26 th May 1958		
<u>Profession:</u>	Professor – Pharmaceutical Chemistry		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	BSc (Sp. in Chemistry, Univ Peradeniya), M.I.Chem.C., PhD (Univ Peradeniya)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Medical/Health/Chemical Sciences		
<u>Residence:</u>	306/1, Nugasevena, Mathalana, Rukgahawila		

Scientific Achievements

D.B. Mahinda Wickramaratne obtained B.Sc. (Chemistry Sp.) in 1981 from the University of Peradeniya. Soon after completing his B.Sc., he joined Prof. Vijaya Kumar's research group at Peradeniya to work on natural products of Rutaceous species and was also selected to work under the international Programme in Chemical Sciences, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden. He obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Peradeniya in 1987.

During 1987-1997 period, Dr. Wickramaratne held several postdoctoral positions in Sweden and USA. His postdoctoral experience at the College of Pharmacies at UIC, Chicago and Kansas University immensely helped him developing the Allied Health Science degree programmes, specially the B. Pharm. programme, later at Peradeniya. After setting down in Sri Lanka permanently, he initially served for the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and later for the University of Peradeniya. During the last 22-year period, he has actively contributed to the university administration, to his research discipline and also to knowledge dissemination.

Prof. Wickramaratne served as the Dean/Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka for five years and also as the Dean/Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, for nine years. He is well recognized for his efforts to establish four-year (120 credit) degree programmes in Allied Health Sciences for the first time in Sri Lanka. Although he was heavily involved in academic administration, he has managed to maintain a Google Scholar h-index of 14. He has two US patents to his credit and one has gone up to the phase II clinical trials in US. He was the founding Editor-in-Chief of the 'Bulletin of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences' research journal published by the University of Peradeniya and has supervised several M.Sc., M.Phil. and Ph.D. students.

4. Bammanne Arachchige Hema Ranjan Premaratne (Ranjan Premaratne)

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. N R de Silva	<u>Seconded:</u> Prof. H J de Silva
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	07 th November 1964	
<u>Profession:</u>	Professor in Medicine	
<u>Qualifications:</u>	MBBS,MD, FRCP(GIs), FCCP	
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Medical	
<u>Residence:</u>	143/5, Pradeepa Lane, Thewatta Road, Ragama	

Scientific Achievements:

Prof. Ranjan Premaratna is Senior Professor in Medicine, at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. He had specialist training in infectious diseases at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, UK, and training in advanced rickettsial disease diagnostics through an Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Engineering Research Fellowship at CDC, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Glasgow and a visiting lecturer and examiner for the MSc in Clinical Management of Tropical Diseases offered by Charite University, Berlin, Germany.

Prof Premaratna has received President's Awards for Scientific Publication on six occasions. He has received several prizes from the Sri Lanka Medical Association, including the K. Rajasooriya award and Sir Frank Gunasekara award in 2000 and the E.M. Wijerama award in 2001. He delivered the P.B. Fernando Memorial Oration in 2010, the Cyril Fernando Memorial Oration in 2012, and the E.V Pieris Memorial Oration in 2017. He has 56 peer-reviewed scientific publications indexed in Pub Med, and a Google Scholar H-index of 17.

Prof Premaratna is a world renowned expert on rickettsial infections. He has been invited to speak on this and other infectious diseases at many international conferences and national meetings. He established the Rickettsial Disease Diagnosis and Research Laboratory in the Faculty of Medicine at Ragama in 2008 and to date, nearly 6000 samples have been tested in this laboratory.

Prof Premaratna has research collaborations with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, Texas and Chicago Universities in USA; Mahidol University Bangkok; and Seoul National University, Korea. He is the recipient of a NRC research grant, and has received three other research grants from the University of Kelaniya.

5. Udaya Kumara Ranawaka

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. Colvin Gooneratne	<u>Seconded:</u> Prof. H J de Silva
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	21 st September 1962	
<u>Profession:</u>	Professor in Neurology, Consultant Neurologist	
<u>Qualifications:</u>	MBBS, MD, MRCP (UK), FRCP (Lond), FCCP, FAHA, FAAN	
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Medical	
<u>Residence:</u>	Dept of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Talagolla Road, Ragama.	

Scientific Achievements

Professor Udaya Ranawaka is Professor in Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. He obtained his postgraduate MD (Medicine) in 1996. He was board certified as a Specialist in Neurology and obtained MRCP (UK) from the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1999.

He is a Fellow of the Ceylon College of Physicians, Royal College of Physicians of London, American Stroke Association and the American Academy of Neurology. He has been awarded eight orations by national and international professional organisations. He has won over 25 national and international research awards, including the Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award in Neuroepidemiology (American Academy of Neurology), President's Award for Scientific Publications and the Award for the Best Publication by a Sri Lankan Physician.

He conducted the first prospective studies on adult central nervous system (CNS) infections in Sri Lanka. His findings included the discovery of pathogens not usually associated with CNS infections (some with unique Sri Lankan genomes). He was the National Coordinator in the first international, multi-centre clinical trial on stroke in Sri Lanka, and is a Principal Investigator in several international stroke trials. He conducted the first community epidemiological survey on stroke, and established the first hospital-based stroke registry in Sri Lanka. His articles on the ten-year experience of, and the awareness of, clinical trial registration are the first such reports world-wide. His review on neurotoxicity in snakebite is among the most cited in the field.

He is a Past President of the Ceylon College of Physicians, Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists and the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka. He played a key role in establishing the Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry, and his efforts were pivotal in it being recognized as a Primary Registry of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform.

B. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

6. Mohamed Cassim Mohamed Iqbal

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. D S A Wijesundera	<u>Seconder:</u>	Prof. G Seneviratne
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	1 st December 1956		
<u>Profession:</u>	Associate Research Professor		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	BSc (Agriculture) Hons., Dipl. Ing. Agr. (ETH, Zurich), PhD (Goettingen)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture, Forestry		
<u>Residence:</u>	53/5A, Park Lane, Rajagiriya		

Scientific Achievements

Prof. Iqbal has a B.Sc. Agric. (Hons) degree from the University of Peradeniya, Dipl. Ing. -Agr. from the ETH, Zurich and Ph.D. from the University of Gottingen, Germany. He has authored over 60 peer reviewed publications and numerous proceedings in scientific conferences with an H-index of 15 and over 640 citations. He has mentored and supervised many undergraduates, MSc, MPhil and PhD theses.

He received a Rotary Foundation Freedom from Hunger Scholarship to read for his PhD. He is a recipient of Fellowships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on four occasions and a fellowship from the Erasmus-Mundus programme of the European Union. The Presidential Awards for Research were given to him on nine occasions.

He has received eight research grants from the NSF and NRC, as principal and co-grantee, and research and travel grants from the British Ecological Society. Currently he is a co-investigator of the NRC Target oriented mega grant to control dengue. He is the Project Leader for Plant and Environmental Sciences at the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS). At the national level, he prepared for the NASTEC, a review format for Science and Technology institutions, which was later adapted to review S&T institutions in Sri Lanka. He prepared the Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for the Second National Communication on Climate Change submitted to the UNFCCC by the Climate Change Secretariat, Sri Lanka.

He served on SLAAS Committee for the Popularization for Science, Ethics Committee, Science and Technology Advisory Committee, Chairman of the General Research Committee, and on the Editorial Board of the Ceylon Journal of Science. He was a member of the Environment and Biodiversity Working Group of the NSF and a member of the Councils of the Institute of Biology and the Royal Asiatic Society. Currently he is a member of the Board of Study for Crop Science of the PGIA and Board of Governors of the NIFS.

7. Keerthi Meepe Mohotti

<u>Proposer:</u>	Dr Ranjith Mahindapala	<u>Seconder:</u>	Prof. H P M Gunasena
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	10 th June 1964		
<u>Profession:</u>	Deputy Director Research (Production), Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	BSc (Agriculture) (Univ. Peradeniya), PhD (Phyto Nematology, UK)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture		
<u>Residence:</u>	59, Uda Eriyagama, Peradeniya 20400		

Scientific Achievements

Dr. Keerthi Mohotti holds B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agriculture and Ph.D. in Phyto-nematology (1998). He has over 100 research papers, 10 book chapters, and an h-index of 6, RG Score of 11.8 and i10 index of 5.

He is a recipient of Presidential Awards for research, Merit Award for Scientific Publications, and best scientist and life time awards for tea research. He is a Fellow, a Chartered Member and a Past President of the Institute of Biology of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Mohotti has a life-time contribution to Tea Research Institute (TRI), initially as a phyto-nematologist but later in a number of areas including organic tea production, climate smart farming, sustainable plant protection, agricultural pollutants and product quality assurance. His research has helped the industry significantly benefitting small-holders, plantations, processors and exporters.

His research is well recognised by international organisations: he is a Working Group member of Inter-Governmental Group on Tea of FAO on Pesticide Residue Management and Organic Tea. Member of PeTAC on addressing nationally and internationally sensitive crisis situations in the tea industry which have arisen from time to time (e.g. Khapra beetle menace). He is a member of the Asian Research Network of Organic Agriculture and Lanka Organic Agricultural Movement. Dr. Mohotti is a visiting lecturer in a number of academic institutions.

At the TRI, Dr. Mohotti provides guidance in execution and monitoring of research as Thrust and Project Lead on Nematology and Sustainable Agriculture and overall R&D on tea cultivation and production. He is the Chairmen, National Plant Protection Committee (Council for Agricultural Research Policy), Committee on Organic Standards (Sri Lanka Standards Institute), and the National Steering Committee (GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP).

He led the establishment of the Central Biological Control Laboratory, Nature Farming Research and Demonstration Area, TRI Organic-Conventional comparison and Biodynamic, Organic-Conventional comparison trials at TRI.

8. Anoma Janaki Mohotti

<u>Proposer:</u>	Dr Ranjith Mahindapala	<u>Secunder:</u>	Prof. H P M Gunasena
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	7 th February 1965		
<u>Profession:</u>	Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. of Peradeniya.		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. (Agriculture) (Univ. Peradeniya), Ph.D. (Plant Physiology, (University of Reading, UK)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture, Plant Physiology		
<u>Residence:</u>	59, Uda Eriyagama, Peradeniya 20400		

Scientific Achievements

Dr. Janaki Mohotti holds B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agriculture and Ph.D. in Plant Physiology (1998). She has about 75 research papers, 18 book chapters, and an h-index of 4, RG Score of 9.33.

She is a recipient of Presidential Awards for research, and has been recognised for scientific research in international scientific journals cited in SCI. She is a Fellow, a Chartered Member and the current President of the Institute of Biology of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Mohotti has made significant contribution to Tea Research Institute (TRI) in the areas of plant physiology, chlorophyll fluorescence, ecophysiology, and plantation crop management. Her time is largely spent on teaching: she is a member of Teaching Panels of MSc in Plantation Crops, Board of Study in Crop Science and Agricultural Biology of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture where she supervises about five students annually. She is a visiting lecturer in Plant Physiology at Sabaragamuwa and Uva Wellassa Universities. She functions as the Chief, Editorial Board of Tropical Agricultural Research, and as a reviewer of number of journals, including *Annals of Botany*, *Scientia Horticulturae*, *Journal of Agriculture and Biodiversity Research*, and *International Forestry and Environmental Science*. She is the coordinator of Study Abroad programs offered to the students to Michigan State, Tasmania and California Davis Universities.

Dr. Mohotti is the Coordinator, Annual Congress of PGIA and a Member of Quality Assurance Cell and Curriculum Development Committee. She is a Senior Student Counsellor, Chairperson, Student Advisory and Welfare Committee, and Chairperson, Publications and Public Relations Committee of the University. She has supervised over 150 undergraduate and post-graduate students and has guided research monitoring at the University and at the Tea Research Institute. She is a reviewer of Research Grants (National Science Foundation), and a technical reviewer of the Plant Physiology Programme of the Coconut Research Institute.

9. Athula Lokhamaniya Thilak Perera

<u>Proposer:</u>	Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala	<u>Seconded:</u> Prof. Vijaya Kumar
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	21 ST October 1946	
<u>Profession:</u>	Emeritus Professor	
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. Agric. (Sri Lanka), M.Sc. (Japan), Ph.D. (UK), D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) (Sabaragamuwa Univ)	
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture; Genetics/Biotechnology	
<u>Residence:</u>	23, Araliya Mawatha, Sirimal Uyana, Ratmalana	

Scientific Achievements

Professor Perera holds M.Sc. (Plant Breeding, Japan) and Ph.D. (Applied Genetics, UK). He conducted post-doctoral research in rice biotechnology in the UK and USA.

Professor Perera is the only Sri Lankan recipient of a Post-Doctoral Fellowship by the Rockefeller Foundation. He was conferred D.Sc. (*Honoris Causa*) by the Sabaragamuwa University. He was a recipient of International Awards for successful completion of the Biosafety Framework Development Project, Sri Lanka (2003), and for molecular breeding tomatoes (Australasian Conference on Plant Breeding, 2009).

Professor Perera has contributed his expertise significantly to national and international efforts. He spearheaded the establishment of the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre at the University of Peradeniya in 2000. As a contribution to Sri Lanka's commitment to biodiversity conservation. He provided invaluable technical and managerial leadership as the National Coordinator of the Biosafety Project of the United Nations Environmental Programme (2003 - 2006). He led awareness programmes on biosafety. He continues as a member of the National Experts Committee and Biosafety Coordinating Committee of the Ministry of Environment. Because of his expertise and experience, UNDP requested him to develop the Biosafety Framework in the Maldives, and functioned as a Consultant in Biosafety for FAO of the UN. He was the Chairman of the committee that prepared the National Biosafety Policy, and a member of the National Biotechnology Policy development (NSF) and the Policy for establishing Genomic Centres (NASTEC), and a Member of Science Advisory Board of the International Barcode of Life programme.

Professor Perera provides scientific leadership to a number of national agencies. e.g. NSF, Sugarcane Research Institute, and the Council for Agricultural Research Policy. He was the first Director, Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, and Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (2006-2011), both of the University of Peradeniya, and is currently the Chairman of Sri Lanka Accreditation Board.

10. Ranjith Senaratne

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. R B Mapa	<u>Seconder:</u>	Prof. H M D N Priyantha
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	21 st July 1954		
<u>Profession:</u>	University Teacher/Senior Professor		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. Agric. (Univ. of Peradeniya, M.Phil. (Agriculture), Ph.D. (Agri, Vienna, Austria), Ph.D. in Civil Law (Honoris Causa)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture		
<u>Residence:</u>	381/6, Kumaratunga Mawatha, Pamburana, Matara		

Scientific Achievements

He has over 100 publications including six books and has been the recipient of several internationally competitive and prestigious research grants, including a grant from the Board on Science and Technology for International Development (BOSTJD) of the National Academy of Sciences, USA; has held a number of coveted fellowships including the Andre Mayer Fellowship of the FAO and the Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Community. He was appointed Professor of Crop Science at the University of Ruhuna in 1998.

In 1992, he was adjudged the most outstanding young scientist in Biology in Sri Lanka by the Third World Academy of Science in Italy. In recognition of his outstanding contribution in education, science, community development and international cooperation, the University of Durham in the UK conferred an honorary Doctorate on him in 2007.

He has been the President of the Agriculture & Forestry Section of the SLASS and the co-editor of "Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension" Journal. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture for nearly eight years and as the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna for six years. He also served as the Chairman of the Ocean University (National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering) and Vice Chairman of the UGC.

As Vice Chancellor, he was strongly committed to promoting academic excellence, high impact research, creative enterprise, strategic partnership with industry, community development and international cooperation. As Chairman of the CVCD in 2006, he initiated the CVCD Encouragement Awards Scheme to promote academic excellence and high impact research in Sri Lankan universities and when he was the Vice-Chairman of the UGC, he was instrumental in establishing a digital library for the benefit of the academic community. He has provided strategic, inspirational and operational leadership to HEIs and is considered as a visionary leader and institution builder.

11. Kuruppu Mudiyansele Swarnalatha Wimalasiri

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. N S Kumar	<u>Seconded:</u>	Prof. R B Mapa
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	21 st March 1960	Profession:	Associate Professor
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. (Hons (Chemistry-Univ. of Peradeniya, Ph.D. (Carbohydrate Chemistry), Postgraduate Diploma Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Japan		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Agriculture		
<u>Residence:</u>	171, Old Gampola Road, Meewathura, Peradeniya		

Scientific Achievements

Prof. K.M.S. Wimalasiri graduated from University of Peradeniya (1984) with a special degree in Chemistry (Second Class-Lower division), received Ph.D. in Carbohydrate Chemistry (1992) under the supervision of Prof. N. Savitri Kumar from the same University, and received a Diploma in Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (Bioactive carbohydrates) from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan (1996).

Prof. Wimalasiri has been serving as a Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor for about 20 years in the Department of Food Science & Technology. She served as the Head of Department of Food Science & Technology (2011-2014) and Acting Head of Department of Nursing (2010-2017). She received IPICS research Fellowship (1988/89; Stockholm University, Sweden), Tokyo Tech-UNESCO fellowship (1995/96; Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan), UNESCO training fellowship (2001; Central Food Research Institute, Mysore, India), Fulbright fellowship (2006/07; University of California-Davis, USA). She has received TWAS/NARESA prize for the best young scientist (1993); Yamagata Tatsuya award for the best young scientist by GLYCO TIT, Japan (1995); Presidential award (2008) and National Research Council (NRC) merit awards (2014, 2015) for scientific publication. She is serving as a technical expert to Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) on chemical and food testing laboratories (2010 to date).

Prof. Wimalasiri is actively engaged in carbohydrate research, analysis of food constituent and allied disciplines. Her work on inulin type prebiotic carbohydrates has resulted in a prebiotic milk beverage. She is a collaborating scientist to an NSF health science research project on understanding food consumption pattern of CKDu patients in Girandurukotte area.

Prof. Wimalasiri is a food analyst working mainly on food constituents with special attention to agro-biodiversity of edible plants and inter-relationships between food and health. She has supervised two Ph.D. students and three M.Phil. students and many M.Sc. students from both PGIA and PGIS, University of Peradeniya.

C. ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND SURVEYING

12. Sarath Bandara Samarasinghe Abayakoon

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. W P S Dias	<u>Seconder:</u>	Prof .M P Ranaweera
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	12 th February 1958		
<u>Profession:</u>	Senior Professor in Civil Engineering		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. Engineering (Hons), MA. SC., Ph.D.		
<u>Scientific discipline:</u>	Engineering		
<u>Residence:</u>	217/5, Uda Peradeniya, Peradeniya		

Professor S.B.S. Abayakoon, BSc Eng (Hons) (Peradeniya, 1979) obtained an MASc (1983) and PhD (1987) from the University of British Columbia (UBC). He was appointed Professor in Civil Engineering at Peradeniya University (2004), and has been a Senior Professor since 2006. He held Visiting Professorships at UBC, United Nations University (Tokyo) and SLIIT; and a Research Fellowship at Tokyo University. He has around 45 publications on plate structures, seismic analysis and soil liquefaction; his paper on 'Seismic Risk Analysis of Sri Lanka' being a seminal contribution.

Professor Abayakoon has been recognized for his contributions to engineering - by an Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) best paper award; and to university education - by awards for educational leadership from the World Education Congress, Amity University (India) and CMO Asia. He has also been a keynote speaker and invited presenter in Sri Lanka, Japan and Australia, on engineering and education topics.

Professor Abayakoon has been consulted for his geotechnical expertise in projects ranging from dams (e.g. Moragahakanda and Upper Kotmale), slope stability (e.g. Beragala) and structural design (e.g. BOC Tower in Colombo 1). He has also provided consulting services in Vancouver (1998-2001) and for the South Asian University (SAU) in New Delhi. He is a Fellow of the IESL and an International Professional Engineer.

Professor Abayakoon has a rare record of leadership in university education, the engineering profession, and research collaboration. He was Vice-Chancellor of Peradeniya University (2009-2012), Dean/Engineering (2005-2009) and Head of Civil Engineering (2003-2005). He is currently the founder Chairman of the Engineering Council, President-Elect of the IESL, and Country Representative on the Task Force for the SAU, New Delhi. He is also a founder member of the International Institute for Infrastructure Renewal and Reconstruction (based in Calgary) and the University Network for Climate and Ecosystems Change Research (based in Tokyo).

13. Joseph Rohan Lucas

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. W P S Dias	<u>Secunder:</u>	Prof. K K Y W Perera
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	17 th October 1947		
<u>Profession:</u>	Emerituc Professor in Electrical Engineering		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. Eng (Cey), M.Sc. (Manch), PhD (Manch)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Earth Sciences		
<u>Residence:</u>	24 1/1, Milagiriya Avenue, Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04		

Scientific Achievements

Professor J.R. Lucas, BSc Eng (Hons) (Ceylon, 1969) obtained an MSc and PhD from University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), finishing his doctorate (1974) within just 2 years. He was appointed Professor of Electrical Engineering at Moratuwa University (1994), Senior Professor (1999), and Emeritus Professor on retirement (2014). He held Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Manitoba (Canada), Canterbury (NZ) and Auckland (NZ); and a Commonwealth Research Fellowship at UMIST (1981/82). He has 97 publications on high voltage, power systems, solar energy and transformer modelling; his *IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery* paper being cited 150 times.

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) honoured Prof. Lucas in 2013 with an Engineering Excellence Award; and Moratuwa University in 2017 by the naming of the Rohan Lucas High Voltage Laboratory, after it was equipped, again in his honour, by Lanka Transformers Ltd, one of Sri Lanka's most successful engineering companies. Prof. Lucas held the University of Canterbury's prestigious Erskine Fellowship in 1997. He has many other university and national awards to his credit too.

Professor Lucas's name is synonymous with High Voltage Engineering in Sri Lanka and beyond. He has published a textbook on it (cited 85 times), in addition to 9 others in electrical engineering. His *Lucas CT Model* is included in the internationally used PSCAD electromagnetic transient software program's Master Library. He has been consulted by the Ministry of Power and Energy, Ceylon Electricity Board, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka and Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

At Moratuwa University, Professor Lucas has been Head of the Electrical Engineering Department for a total period of 7 years; and Head of Computer Science & Engineering for a year. He is a Fellow of the IESL and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, U.K (where he has been Chairman of the Sri Lanka Branch).

D. LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES

14. Thalapatiya Gedera Amarasooriya Pitawala

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. H M D Namal Priyantha	<u>Seconded:</u>	Prof. Rohan Weerasooriya
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	10 th February 1966		
<u>Profession:</u>	Professor, Department of Geology, University of Peradeniya		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. (Geology), M.Phil. (Geology), Ph.D. (Geology)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Earth Sciences		
<u>Residence:</u>			

Scientific Achievements

Amarasooriya Pitawala obtained his B.Sc. (special) degree in Geology (first class) and M.Phil. degree in Geology, both from the University of Peradeniya in 1992 and 1995, respectively. He obtained Ph.D. in Geology (with distinction) from Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Germany in 1999. He is now a Professor in Geology at University of Peradeniya.

Amarasooriya Pitawala is a geochemist and a petrologist by practice having about 25 years of research experience. His outstanding research activities led for him to receive prestigious awards, including P.G. Cooray Medal (2001), Endeavour fellowship from Australia (2008), Ananda Coomaraswamy Medal (2018) and Presidential awards for scientific publications (2010, 2011, 2012, 2015). He contributes to many national/ international research institutes in his discipline as a research collaborator.

Amarasooriya Pitawala has expertise in elemental and stable isotope analyses of rocks and minerals, as well as in aquatic systems and other environmental matrices. He has co-authored more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals, produced over 170 research communications and two text books. He is an excellent teacher with nearly two decades of teaching experience, and has taught geochemistry, isotope geology, petrology, environmental geology, industrial minerals and oceanography. He has significantly contributed to uplift postgraduate education in many M.Sc. programmes in earth sciences. His current research projects are; synthesis and commercialization of value-added products from Sri Lankan carbonate rocks, vein graphite, phosphate and quartz, and investigation of water pollution.

Amarasooriya Pitawala is currently serving as the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Science. He was able obtain 16 research grants, as the Principal Investigator for the majority of the grants. He has supervised 09 Ph.D. students, 09 M.Phil. students and 17 M.Sc. students.

15. Harindra Joseph S Fernando

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. Tissa Illangaseker	<u>Seconded:</u>	Prof. Lal G Chandrasena
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	19 th October 1955		
<u>Profession:</u>	Wayne and Diana Murdy Professor of Engineering and Geosciences		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. (Mechanical Engineering, Univ of Moratuwa), M.A and Ph.D. (Earth & Planetary Sciences, USA), Post-Doctoral Fellow (Environmental engineering Sciences, USA))		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Earth Sciences		
<u>Residence:</u>			

Scientific Achievements

Fernando's seminal contributions span an impressive array of topics in earth sciences and engineering. He excels in creation of fundamental knowledge and its insightful applications to practical problems. His approaches include elegant theoretical analysis, laboratory experiments, numerical simulations, field experimentation augmented by multidisciplinary collaborations. His record includes more than 300 papers in archival journals; an ISI H-index of 41 and Google H-index 56; \$43 million in research funding that supported a remarkable academic enterprise of training 24 PhDs, 34 MS and 25 post-docs.

Fernando's early groundbreaking work (published with Lord Julian Hunt of University of Cambridge) demonstrated how internal waves and turbulence affect atmosphere and ocean via nonlinear wave-turbulence resonance mechanisms, which formed the basis for parametrizations for predictive atmosphere-ocean models. In the early 1990's, Fernando introduced scales for rotating (deep) convection, setting the gold standard for an expansive research topic. He pioneered a new research area, *Urban Fluid Mechanics*, advocating multi-scale (nested) holistic modeling of urban systems that garnered international accolades (e.g., PBS News Hour). In 2008, the *Arizona Republic* newspaper honored him as one of the top five contributors to improvement of life in the city for his work on *Urban Heat Island*.

Fernando's research on the role of coral poaching in 2005 Sumatra Tsunami devastation in Sri Lanka was featured in top scientific literature (*Science* and *Nature*) and in international media (e.g., *New York Times*, *Herald Tribune*, *US National Public Radio*, including and *Sri Lanka Daily News/Mirror*). He demonstrated destructive flow 'jetting' through missing corals, which led to new coastal conservation policies in tsunami-ravaged countries. Fernando has spearheaded many multidisciplinary international projects, including a (2012-2022) project on air-sea interactions during Indian Ocean monsoons. In addition to its many scientific contributions/papers, this project provides substantial (U.S.) research funding and capacity building to international partners, including NARA (Sri Lanka).

E. CHEMICAL SCIENCES

16. Priyani Ashoka Paranagama

<u>Proposer:</u>	Prof. H M D. Namal Priyantha	<u>Seconder:</u>	Prof. A D L Perera
<u>Date of Birth:</u>	18 th January 1963		
<u>Profession:</u>	Chair of Chemistry, Senior Professor, University of Kelaniya and Director/Institute Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo		
<u>Qualifications:</u>	B.Sc. (Hon.in Chemistry), M.Phil. in Chemistry and Ph.D. (Organic Chemistry)		
<u>Scientific Discipline:</u>	Chemical Sciences		
<u>Residence:</u>	459/1/2, Nadungahahena, Weliveriya.		

Scientific Achievements

Priyani Ashoka Paranagama obtained B.Sc. (Chemistry) in 1986 and M.Phil. (Chemistry) in 1991 both from University of Kelaniya, and Ph.D. (Chemistry) from University of Glasgow, UK (1994). Subsequently, she was promoted to Professor in 2003 and Senior Professor in 2011.

She was promoted to Chair of Chemistry in 2012. She is a fellow of Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon and a Chartered Chemist (CCChem), Royal Society of Chemistry. She is a member of several professional bodies in Sri Lanka. She was awarded the Dr. C.L de Silva Gold medal for outstanding research in Chemical Sciences (2015) and Prof. M U S Sultanbawa gold medal for achievements in her research career (2008).

She is a recipient of several national and international research grants/awards. She participated in the conference organized by The World Academy of Science on shaping careers in Science (2016). She has published over 50 research papers in indexed journals, written/edited 7 books and published over 80 communications. She has successfully supervised over 14 postgraduate students and is currently supervising eight postgraduate students in many different areas of organic chemistry. Her research interests are isolation and characterization of bioactive natural products from plants and endolichenic fungi, development of biopesticides, value addition of natural products. She is involved in teaching spectroscopic methods in Organic Chemistry, Natural Product Chemistry, Heterocyclic molecules, Applied Organic Chemistry and basic principles in Organic and Biochemistry.

Currently she is serving as the Director, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo. She has served as the Dean, College of Chemical Sciences, and Institute of Chemistry Ceylon from June 2016 to October 2017. From 2009 to 2012, she served as the Head of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya.

17. Pitumpe Appuhamilage Nimal Punyasiri

Proposer: Emeritus Professor, E H Karunanayake **Seconded:** Prof. K H Tennekoon
Date of Birth: 22nd September 1960
Profession: Professor and Chair of Biochemistry
Qualifications: Grad. Chem, Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Biochemistry, Ph.D. (Biochemistry)
Scientific Discipline: Chemical Sciences
Residence: No.26, Millage, Kirindiwela

Scientific Achievements

Professor. P.A. Nimal Punyasiri, currently Professor of Biochemistry at the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), University of Colombo holds a PhD in Biochemistry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, Sri Lanka. Furthermore, he has gained extensive research experience in advanced University laboratories in Germany, Sweden and Thailand.

His contribution to the economic development and scientific research of Sri Lanka is reflected by the number of National Level awards received including 2 prestigious medals from the Institute of Chemistry and several Presidential Research Awards.

He has excelled in Natural Products Chemistry, Pesticide Residue Analytical Chemistry and Biochemistry and has published in peer-reviewed journals of high standard. One of his NRC funded research projects "Metabolomics of the Sri Lankan Tea Germplasm" where he identified chemical parameters to grade the quality tea accessions, has contributed immensely to the Plant Breeding Programme of Tea in Sri Lanka. He also elucidated the complete biosynthetic pathway of the tea plant for the first time during his studies at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. A biochemical parameter to identify resistance of tea leaves to Blister Blight was also significant scientific contribution of Prof. Punyasiri.

Prof. Punyasiri is an active member of the Institute of Chemistry, served as a member of the Council and as a member of several other committees including the Academic Board. He has been a visiting lecturer for both postgraduate and undergraduate degree programmes at the Universities of Uwa Wellasa, Sri Jayawadena Pura and Peradeniya and at the Institute of Chemistry since 2008. He is the President of the Cosmetic Manufacturers Association of Sri Lanka for the periods 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020. He functions as Chairperson / Member of several committees at the IBMBB.