

SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Indika KARUNATHILAKE*¹



Introduction

The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) is the oldest national professional organization of medical doctors in Asia and Australasia and the apex body of all medical professionals in Sri Lanka. It brings together a cross-section of the medical fraternity from both the state and private sector, ranging from senior to junior specialists and generalists, postgraduates, grade medical officers and even medical students. It brings together medical practitioners of all grades and from all branches of medicine in Sri Lanka. The SLMA started life as the “Ceylon Branch of the British Medical Association” on 17 December 1887 with 65 members on its roll and Dr. P.D. Anthoniz as its first President. The change of the name to “Ceylon Medical Association” came in 1951 and in 1972 when Sri Lanka became a Republic, the name changed to the “Sri Lanka Medical Association.”

Vision:

To be the most influential and effective apex medical professional organization in Sri Lanka.

Mission:

To lead the medical community to achieve the highest standards of medical professionalism and ethical conduct.

To be an advisory body on health policy to the Sri Lankan government and community.

General objectives

1. Enhance the capacity as an apex professional and scientific organization for all categories of medical doctors as defined in the constitution of the SLMA.
2. Play an advocacy role towards comprehensive curative and preventive health services for the people of Sri Lanka.
3. Promote professionalism, good medical prac-

tice and ethical conduct among doctors.

4. Disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge, clinical practice, technology and emerging concepts in medical sciences among medical and allied health professionals.
5. Provide opportunities for continuous professional development of doctors and allied health professionals.
6. Encourage ethical medical research.
7. Educate the public on health-related issues.
8. Enhancing closer professional and scientific links between medical doctors and allied health professionals.

Activities of the SLMA during the Year 2010

Annual Scientific Sessions 2010

The 123rd Annual Scientific Sessions were held on 31st May-5th June 2010. The Chief Guest was Prof. Sir Michael Marmot, President Elect of the British Medical Association and the Chairman of the WHO commission on Social Determinants of Health. The theme for the 2010 sessions was “Achieving Equity in Health.” There were several overseas and local resource persons who are world authorities in their respective fields. The academic programme included a theme-seminar, 12 symposia, 9 guest lectures, 2 interactive sessions and 3 post congress workshops. From the large number of papers submitted, 62 were selected for oral presentation and 40 were displayed as posters.

Foundation Sessions 2010

The second most important academic activity of the SLMA is the Foundation Sessions. The Foundation Sessions 2010 will be held in Jaffna from 22nd-24th October 2010. Jaffna is the capital of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, an area

*1 Secretary, Sri Lanka Medical Association, Colombo, Sri Lanka (slma@eureka.lk).

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which was badly affected by the recently resolved conflict as well as the 2004 Tsunami. This can be considered as a historic occasion considering the fact that Sri Lanka will be facing major challenges during the post conflict era in rebuilding the health sector in the war-torn areas.

Monthly Clinical Meetings

The educational programme of the Association includes a regular programme of Monthly Clinical Meetings targeting postgraduate trainees.

Regional Meetings

SLMA conducts joint Clinical Meetings with Provincial/Regional Clinical Societies. So far six joint clinical meetings have been conducted for the year 2010.

Orations

SLMA awards 6 prestigious annual orations, namely the SLMA Oration, the SC Paul Oration, the EM Wijerama Oration, the Sir Nicholas Attygalle Oration, the Sir Murugesar Sinnathamby Oration and the Sri Marcus Fernando Oration.

Ceylon Medical Journal

The SLMA publishes the Ceylon Medical Journal (CMJ), the first issue of which came out in August 1887. The name changed to Journal of the Ceylon Branch of the British Medical Association in 1904, but changed to its pristine appellation in 1952. It continues to be published as the CMJ. At 121 years, it is the oldest surviving English medical journal in Asia and Australasia, and the leading scientific journal in Sri Lanka. The CMJ is indexed in BIOSIS, CAB International, EMBASE and the Index Medicus. CMJ's editorial policies and quality are of international standard and it is listed by the International Committee of Medical Journal editors as conforming to their editorial guidelines.

Activities of SLMA Committees

The SLMA functions through its expert Committees. Following are the highlights of these Committees for the year 2010.

Communicable Diseases Committee

The Committee has conducted a seminar on control of Dengue (currently there is an epidemic of Dengue in Sri Lanka).

Central Continuous Professional Development Committee

A national CPD programme has been launched for doctors in Sri Lanka. This is a voluntary programme based on scoring of CPD credit points.

Medicinal Drugs

The Committee has published several newspaper articles and conducted television programmes on drug information.

Working Group on Disabilities

The working group has been actively promoting awareness on disability related issues.

Ethics Committee

The Committee has conducted workshops on Clinical Ethics at scientific meetings of Regional Associations and Professional Colleges.

Health Management Committee

A Career Guidance Seminar was organized for junior doctors in collaboration with Specialist Colleges and Associations. The Seminar was attended by over 200 junior doctors.

Media Committee

Medical journalism is encouraged by awarding of prizes for "excellence in health journalism" for articles published in the print media (in all 3 languages).

Non Communicable Disease Committee

The main activities of the Committee for the year 2010 are;

1. Research into the social and environmental determinants of diabetes
2. Activities to commemorate the World No Tobacco Day
3. Media programme on prevention and control of NCD
4. Advocacy meetings among stakeholder groups related to prevention of NCDs
5. NIROGI Lanka project on prevention and control of NCDs

The Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry

The Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry, started as recently as 2006, has achieved recognition from the World Health Organization by being approved as a WHO Primary Clinical Trials Registry.

Committee on Snake Bites

The main activities of the Committee for the year 2010 are;

- Notification of snakebite deaths
- Snakebite epidemiology database
- Development of effective snakebite antivenom

Tobacco, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee

Members of the committee appeared on television on several occasions in discussions regarding tobacco and alcohol use.

Tsunami Disaster Relief

The CMAAO/SLMA Joint Sponsorship Scheme which was made possible by the magnanimous donation of the CMAAO has been functioning smoothly since November 2006. At present there are 22 children from Galle, Hambanthota, Ambalanthota, Suriyawewa & Tangalle, with ages ranging from 6 to 18 yrs who receive a monthly sum of Rs 2,000/-. Our records indicate that there are at present three children studying in Grade 1, one each in Grade 2 & 3, two in Grade 4, one each in Grade 5, 6 & 7, seven

in Grade 8, two in Grade 9, three in Grade 10. One student has completed secondary school education.

Committee on Women's and Family Health

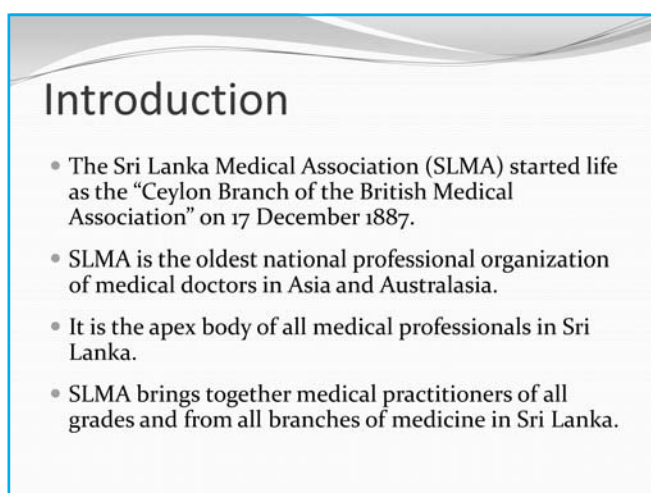
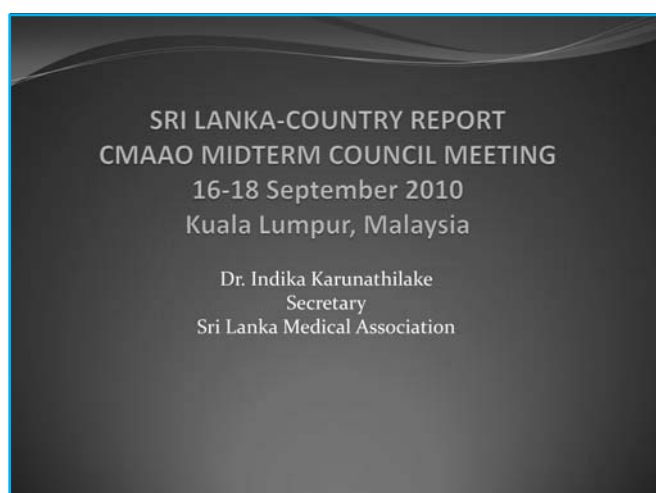
A Post Congress session on "Health Issues in Elderly Women" was conducted during the Annual Scientific sessions. The target audience comprised nursing officers from the curative and preventive sectors, junior medical officers, health administrators and general practitioners.

Equity in Health

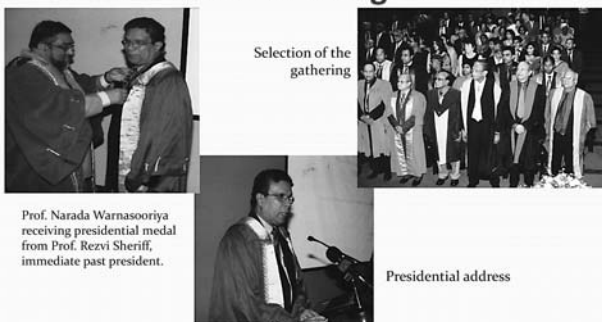
The objectives of this recently established committee are;

To raise awareness of the medical profession and general public on issues relating to health equity and social determinants of health (SDH) and to advocate

- conduct of research in relevant areas
- capacity building and translation of knowledge into practice
- networking with local, regional and global partners to take forward the agenda of narrowing health inequalities.



Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010 – Presidential Inauguration



Prof. Narada Warnasooriya receiving presidential medal from Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, immediate past president.

Presidential address

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Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010 - Annual Scientific Sessions



Minister of Health with President SLMA and chief guest

Chief guest addressing the Annual Scientific Sessions Inauguration

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010 - Annual Scientific Sessions



Doctors' Concert

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010



Rehabilitation programmes

Exposition of services available to disable people

- The theme for the 2010 sessions was “Achieving Equity in Health”
- There were several overseas and local resource persons who are world authorities in their respective fields.
- The academic programme included a theme-seminar, symposia, guest lectures, interactive sessions and post congress workshops.

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010

Foundation sessions

- The second most important academic activity of the SLMA.
- This sessions will be held in Jaffna from 22nd-24th October.

- Jaffna is the capital of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka
- It is an area which was badly affected by the recently resolved conflict as well as the 2004 Tsunami.
- This is a historic occasion considering the challenges during the post conflict era in rebuilding the health sector in the war-torn areas.

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010



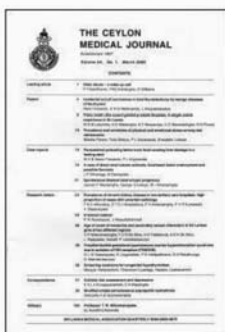
Dr. Samanmali Sumanasena addressing a regional meeting



Orations

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 - SLMA Oration
 - SC Paul Oration
 - Sir Marcus Fernando oration
 - Sir Nicholas Attygalle Oration
 - Murugesar Sinnetamby Oration
 - E.W.Wijerama Endowment Lecture

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010 - Ceylon Medical Journal



- The SLMA publishes the Ceylon Medical Journal (CMJ),
- The first issue of which came out in August 1887.
- At 121 years, it is the oldest surviving English medical journal in Asia and Australasia.
- It is the leading scientific journal in Sri Lanka.


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SLMA committees



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- Central Continuous Professional Development Committee
- Medicinal Drugs
- Working Group On Disabilities
- Ethics Committee
- Health Management Committee

- Media Committee
- Non Communicable Disease Committee
- The Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry
- Committee on Snake Bites
- Tobacco, Alcohol And Substance Abuse Committee
- Tsunami Disaster Relief
- Committee on Women's and Family Health
- Equity in Health

Activities of the SLMA during the year 2010



SLMA Cricket Team



SLMA Ladies Cricket Team soon after winning the Law - Medical championship.

