



Published by the Peradeniya Medical School Alumni Association - UK

From the President

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, our way of life has changed dramatically and we have adapted to the situation, to assist in containing and controlling the crisis. PeMSAA-UK Executive Committee continued to promote their work and relied on the 'Zoom Portal' to host our regular official business with increasing participants at the meetings!

The alumni / alumnae and the staff of University Peradeniya are ecstatic that our University is at the Pinnacle of Higher Education in Sri Lanka achieving international recognition.

For the first time in the history, University of Peradeniya is listed in the **"Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020"**. Furthermore, University of Peradeniya has been ranked in the category of the 401-500 Best Universities in the World. This has never happened to any other University in Sri Lanka. It is a double celebration for the proud alumni and the hard-working staff and students of the University. We salute you, *almamater!*

Since our last Newsletter, PeMSAA-UK has donated 30 Second MBBS textbooks to be distributed among the deserving students. We hope that our members' generosity is of some help to those students.

We also received excellent submissions for the **"2020 PeMSAA-UK Research/ Audit/ Quality Improvement Projects Publication Award"**. The Award panel will be announcing the winner in September and an abstract of the winner's publication would be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

We are proudly looking forward to hosting a Webinar on **"COVID-19: Current and Future Developments"** on 29th August 2020 with a panel of internationally renowned & esteemed speakers. Please register your interest at your earliest to avoid disappointment to receive the webinar link and the password. The participation is open to international community in addition to UK residents.

Joining the Alumni Association encourages continued success for the students and support for the Faculty. We want you to be a part of PeMSAA-UK and thank you for your support for making PeMSAA-UK proud.

Please continue to visit the website www.pemsaa.uk for information on Alumni activities.

Krish

Dean's Message

This message to your *Newsletter* comes during a time we are battling to overcome the disastrous effects of COVID-19. This disease has had major implications in all spheres of activity, and education is no exception. As such, the last few months and the period ahead will be a very challenging one for the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. Being the highest ranking University in the country and having students from all parts of the country with diverse economic backgrounds, I am happy to note that we have been able to continue our academic programme using an online portal with the support of the university hierarchy and the academic staff. I feel this is an achievement that all of us in the faculty and the alumni world over could be proud of.

Our alumni have played an important role in the welfare of the faculty. It is with gratitude that I mention some of the recent activities undertaken by PeMSAA-UK in this regard. Your organization has on many occasions provided scholarships for the needy students. The more recent donation came in the form of a journal subscription to the medical library for a journal in surgery and medicine and 10 textbooks each for the pre-clinical subjects. These books will be distributed to the needy students identified by the Student Affairs Committee when the faculty reopens physically in mid-August. The role played by some alumni by sharing your experience and knowledge have been immensely useful to us to fine tune our curriculum to meet the future needs.

Hence let me once again thank the office bearers and the membership for your involvement with your alma mater which has contributed to provide a better environment for learning. I hope you will maintain these close ties in the future as well which will certainly help the medical school you graduated from to be ranked among some of the best.

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena

Edited by:

Dr. PG Samarawickrama

Prof. DYD Samarawickrama

A short tribute to a 1992 founding PeMSAA Committee Member

Dr. Tilak De Silva MS, FRCOG



Tilak De Silva passed away peacefully in the UK on the 15th of June 2020. He worked as a VOG in Kandy and Peradeniya Teaching Hospitals, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in the UK, and finally as a Consultant in Accident & Emergency Medicine until his retirement. He was a founding member of PeMSAA in 1992 and served as the Secretary of the inaugural PeMSAA Committee from 1992-1994. He was a loving and devoted husband to Chandra and father to Punyanganie and Manya.

May he attain Nibbana.

Please visit www.pemsaa.uk to view the obituaries published so far.

Membership Drive

Please become a PeMSAA-UK paid up member to support the *alma mater* and also enjoy the benefits.

Alumni and alumnae of Peradeniya Medical School are invited to join PeMSAA-UK. Full membership is available to any UK alumnus / alumna and the academic and Consultant staff of the Peradeniya Medical School.

Associate Membership is available for the following categories:

- 1) Trainees from SL on overseas postgraduate training & education
- 2) Dental Surgeons from Peradeniya pre-1985 (when the Dental School was part of the Medical School)
- 3) Children of PeMSAA members in the UK who are medical graduates
- 4) Any UK undergraduate who has done an approved elective clinical or non-clinical attachment at the Medical School or at Teaching Hospitals affiliated to the Medical School
- 5) Any UK based medical professionals, who are actively engaged in research and other collaborative work with the Medical School Peradeniya
- 6) Any professional who has an interest in the development the Medical School, Peradeniya.

Membership Fees:

Annual Membership Fee: £25 per year
Annual Associate Membership Fee: £15 per year Life Membership Fee: £200
Life membership Fee for the over 70s: £130
Life Associate Membership Fee: £100
Life Associate Membership Fee for the over 70s: £65

Becoming a member of PeMSAA-UK is one of the ways to support PeMSAA-UK to raise funds that can be used for supporting undergraduates and for the development projects at the Faculty. We would kindly request all the UK alumni/ alumnae to register as annual or life-members to help us to succeed in our endeavour.

Membership information/benefits and application forms to join as members are available at this website (www.pemsaa.uk). You can join by completing an application form online or by printing a form, completing it manually and posting it, along with your membership fee.

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The Island
Online

13 July 2020

Peradeniya: Pinnacle of Higher Education in Sri Lanka Achieving International Recognition

By Professor R.P. Gunawardane

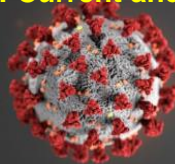
For the first time, a Sri Lankan university, the University of Peradeniya, has been ranked in the category of the 401-500 best universities in the World by the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the year 2020**. Detailed analysis of the ratings show that the University of Peradeniya is recognized as one of the best universities in Asia this time.

Read the full article at: www.island.lk



PeMSAA-UK Webinar

COVID-19: Current and Future Developments



Welcome to an exciting Webinar on

29 August 2020
From 10.00 -12.00 hrs. UK time (GMT+1)

A panel of internationally renowned speakers:

Professor Malik Pieris - Hong Kong
Dr. Gihan Hettiarachchi - UK
Dr. Poomahal Kumar - Australia
Professor Ram Swaminathan - UK
Professor Nadarajah Sreeharan - UK

Click on the links below for:

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