

## Welcome to the First Issue of Vet College News

The need for a professional college for veterinarians in Sri Lanka has been discussed by senior members of the profession for many decades. The rationale was that such a college would be able to promote and facilitate the development of specialist competencies, and enable certification in different clinical, production, management and related veterinary disciplines. Therefore, inauguration of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) in 2014 can be considered a momentous occasion for the veterinary profession in Sri Lanka.



The two Executive Councils that have held office over the first four years have been working to formalize many of the procedures of the College, including the drafting of a comprehensive set of By-Laws and conducting seminars and training courses. However, there are many challenges ahead for the College to fulfil its role as the national body in Sri Lanka for promoting, conducting and evaluating

professional training and development programmes leading to specialist certification for veterinarians.

The College looks forward to the active support of all its Fellows and Members, as well as other veterinarians and well-wishers, in pursuing its objectives in order to enhance the contribution of the veterinary profession to national development in Sri Lanka.

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# Objectives of the College

- Promote the advancement of the veterinary profession and enhance the competence of those who practise in this profession
- Design, develop and conduct continuing professional development (CPD) and/or arrange and offer such programmes through recognized higher education institutions / professional training institutions / organizations to members of the veterinary profession, and impose such training as an obligation of membership of the College
- Draft and impose requirements of continuing professional education and experience as pre-requisites for certification in the various veterinary specialties, and to examine, certify and award professional qualifications to veterinarians as specialists in specified areas of veterinary and allied sciences
- Encourage research, development and innovations in veterinary and allied sciences, fostering the scholarship of its members towards advancing the knowledge in veterinary science and allied fields and promoting dissemination of such knowledge among veterinarians and other stake holders
- Establish and promote interaction and collaboration with veterinary professional collages / associations overseas
- Promote ethics and good practices among the members of the College
- Engage in any other activity that may be deemed necessary in furtherance of the above

# Milestones

- **February 2009:**  
Formation of a Working Group for establishment of a College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- **14-07-2014:**  
Inaugural meeting, adoption of Articles of Association and election of Founder Executive Council.
- **22-09-2014:**  
Articles of Association approved by the Registrar of Companies.
- **20-10-2014:**  
Registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee under the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, with Reg. No. GA 2976.
- **30-10-2015:**  
Formal inauguration, induction of Founder President and awarding of Founder Fellowships and Memberships.
- **18-03-2016:**  
First Annual General Meeting and election of Second Executive Council.
- **26-05-2017:**  
Induction of second President, awarding of Fellowships and Memberships, and second Annual General Meeting.





# Inauguration Ceremony and Induction of the Founder President

The inauguration and induction ceremony of the College was held on 30th October 2015 at the Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo. Induction of the Founder President, Dr. Oswin Perera, and awarding of certificates of enrolment to Founder Fellows, Founder Members and Honorary Fellows were made at this ceremony. The Chief Guest was Prof. Carlo Fonseka, President, Sri Lanka Medical Council, and the Guest Speaker was Dr. Sam Thevasagayam, Director, Livestock Initiative, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA. The ceremony was attended by over 130 persons, including Members/Fellows, their spouses, guests, sponsors and well-wishers.



Ceremonial Procession



Participants at the Ceremony



Address by the Chief Guest



Awarding of Certificates to Fellows/Members

## Participation in Professional Activities

The Executive Council members of the SLCVS (2016-2018) in liaison with Directorate of the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) have taken an active role in the following activities.

- Preparing a comprehensive document containing the amendments to the Draft Animal Welfare Bill and participation in follow-up discussions with the Minister and Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Economy, representatives of animal welfare groups, and officers of the Attorney General's Department.
- Preparation of amendments to Animals Act No. 29 of 1958.
- Amendments to Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act No. 46 of 1956 and the Code of Practices for Veterinarians.



# First Annual General Meeting

The First Annual General Meeting of the College was held on 18th March 2016 at the Institute for Continuing Education, Department of Animal Production and Health (ICE-DAPH) in Gannoruwa. The meeting was preceded by a seminar and panel discussion on future activities of the College. The second Executive Council was elected at this meeting. The event was attended by around 60 Members and Fellows of the College.



Traditional Lighting of the Oil Lamp



General Secretary, President & Treasurer



Participants at the Seminar & Annual General Meeting



## Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons Second Executive Council, 2016 - 2018



- Seated L to R : Prof. H.B.S. Ariyaratne, Dr. Rasika Jinadasa (General Secretary), Dr. D.S. Kodikara (President-Elect), Prof. H. Abeygunawardena (President), Dr. Oswin Perera (Immediate Past President), Prof. N.P. Sunil-Chandra (Vice President), Dr. Neville De Silva (Treasurer)
- Standing L to R : Prof. Mangala Gunatilake, Dr. H.P. Premasiri, Dr. Susil Silva, Dr. R.M.P.H. Dassanayake, Dr. Susantha Mallawarachchi, Dr. Bimalka Ranasinghe, Dr. Anil Pushpakumara, Dr. Nalinika Obeysekera,
- Absent : Prof. Indira Silva, Dr. Niranjala De Silva, Prof. Basil Alexander, Dr. Ruchika Fernando, Dr. Aruni Tiskumara, Dr. Nimal Priyankarage



# Induction of the Second President

Induction of the Second President, Prof. H. Abeygunawardena, and awarding of certificates of enrolment to new Fellows, Members and Honorary Fellows, were made on 26th May 2017 at a ceremony held at the ICE-DAPH in Gannoruwa.



Ceremonial Procession



Induction of the Second President



Address by the Newly Inducted President



Participants at the Ceremony

## Continuing Professional Development - Seminars & Training Courses

### Seminar on Wildlife Diseases, Veterinary Practice and Diagnostic Pathology



This seminar was organized jointly by the College, the Sri Lanka Wildlife Health Centre (SLWHC) and the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA). It was conducted at the ICE-DAPH in Gannoruwa on 23rd January 2015. Presentations were made by Dr. Hélène Philibert and Dr. Ted Leighton from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, and was followed by a moderated discussion. There were around 70 participants, comprising practising veterinarians in the state and private sectors, including staff from the DAPH Head Office, Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs) and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FVMAS).

## Seminar on Wildlife, Zoonoses and Public Health

Organized jointly by the College, SLWHC, and the Society of Companion Animal Practitioners (SCAP) this seminar was held at the Auditorium of the Organization of Professional Associations in Colombo on 2nd July 2015. Presentations were made by Dr. Oswin Perera, Dr. Chelsea Himsworth (Canada) and Dr. Jagath Amarasekera. The presentations were followed by a moderated panel discussion on issues of importance at the wildlife-human interface in Sri Lanka. The seminar was attended by around 45 participants from the livestock, companion animal and public health sectors.

## Guest Lecture on Application of Contemporary Molecular, Cellular and Genomic Techniques to Study Virus-Host Interactions: Lessons Learned and Insights Gained from Equine Arteritis Virus

The lecture was delivered by Prof. Udeni Balasooriya (Professor of Virology, Department of Veterinary Science, Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY, USA) at the FVMAS, Peradeniya on 10th September 2015. It was attended by around 20 staff from FVMAS and DAPH.

## Training Course on Equine Medicine and Surgery



This two-day course was organized jointly by the College, FVMAS and SLVA, and was conducted by Prof. Chris Riley from Massey University, New Zealand, with support from the

staff of the FVMAS, Peradeniya on 16th and 17th March 2016. The topics covered included types, treatment and management of wounds in horses and practical training was conducted at the Turf Club stables, Nuwara Eliya. There were around 30 participants from the DAPH, FVMAS and the private sector.

## Certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science

This course was organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) in collaboration with the Medical Research Institute and was held at University of Sri Jayawardanepura from 28th June to 1st July 2016. The College was associated with the course and awarded 2 CPD points to veterinarians who successfully completed it.

## Workshop on Gross Pathology



This workshop was organized in collaboration with the DAPH and was held at ICE-DAPH, Gannoruwa on 6th October 2016. The resource person was Dr. Neil Horadagoda, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, Australia. The participants were Veterinary Investigation Officers (VIOs) of DAPH and Veterinary Surgeons (VSs) of National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), numbering around 25.

## Training course on Diagnostic Imaging

This course was conducted at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the FVMAS during weekends from 29th October to 27th November 2016 and carried a value of 2 credits. The resource persons were Dr. Niranjala de Silva and Dr. Bandula Kumara. There were 10 VSs from the state and private sectors.



## Physical Examination Skills for Diagnosing Cardiopulmonary Diseases and Interpretation of ECG

Organized jointly by the College and SCAP, this half-day seminar was held at the FVMAS on 11th August 2017. The resource person was Dr. David Connolly, Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK.

## Workshop on Veterinary Public Health: Global Trends, Local Experience and New Initiatives



This workshop was organized as a collaborative effort of the SLCVS, SLVA and the DAPH and was held at the Oak Ray Regency, Getambe, on 18th August 2017. There were well over 200 participants representing the Ministry of Rural Economy, Central and Provincial Departments of Animal Production and Health, FVMAS, SLCVS, SLVA and the animal industry.



The objectives of the workshop were, (i) to create awareness among all relevant stakeholders on the current and global trends of veterinary public health, role of veterinarians and veterinary public health service in optimizing “physical, mental and social well-being of the human society”, and the urgent

need of establishing an institutional mechanism to implement and consolidate veterinary public health activities within the DAPH, and (ii) to seek stakeholder views on the draft proposal on “Establishing an institutional mechanism to implement veterinary public health activities within the DAPH network”. The workshop consisted of presentations on veterinary public health and food safety by Drs. Tikiri Wijayathilaka, Nimal Jayaweera, Ruwani Kalupahana, Eranda Rajapaksha and Palika Fernando (Sri Lanka) and Prof Nigel French (Massey University, New Zealand). These were followed by presentation of the draft proposal and a panel discussion to obtain views of the participants.

## Training Course on Investigation of Individual Cow/ Buffalo Infertility (1)

This course was jointly organized by the College and the SLVA. It was conducted at the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health of the FVMAS during week-ends from 6th October to 11th November 2017. It carried a value of 2 credits. The chief resource persons were Dr. Anil Pushpakumara and Prof. Basil Alexander. The participants comprised 15 veterinarians from the public and private sectors.

## First Certificate Course on Applied Physiology on Pain, Analgesia, Anaesthesia and Euthanasia for Laboratory Animals

This course was organized by SLALAS in collaboration with the Comparative Biology Centre of Newcastle University, UK, and was conducted at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo from 30th October to 3rd November 2017. The resource persons included Prof Paul Flecknell, Dr Matthew Leach and Dr Kathy Murphy (Newcastle University), Dr Dilshani Dissanayake and Prof. Mangala Gunatilake. The College was associated with the course and awarded 2 CPD points to veterinarians who followed the course.

## Training Course on Applications and Interpretations of Laboratory Diagnostic Tests in Small Animal Practice

This two day course was jointly organized by the College and the SLVA. It was held at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the FVMAS on 13th and 14th December 2017 and carried a value of 1 credit. The chief resource person was Dr. Neil Horadagoda, assisted by staff from FVMAS. There were 18 participants from the public and private sectors.

## Training Course on Investigation of Individual Cow/ Buffalo Infertility (2)

This course was a follow-up to the one conducted in 2017, and was jointly organized by the College and the SLVA. It was conducted at the FVMAS and on dairy farms during week-ends from 15th April to 18th May 2018. It carried a value of 2 credits. The chief resource persons were Drs. Anil Pushpakumara, K.K. Jagath and B.R. Fernando. The participants comprised 13 veterinarians from the public and private sectors.

## Future Activities Planned

The Executive Council of the SLCVS (2016-2018) has prepared the following tentative programme for the year 2018/2019

- 3rd Annual General Meeting on 14th June 2018 at the Oak Ray Regency, Getambe
- Induction of the 3rd President of SLCVS on 21st July 2018 at the Hotel Kingsbury, Colombo
- Establishment of a Chapter for Small Animal Practitioners
- Conduct of the following Continuing Professional Development Programmes:

Title	Month (2018)	Coordinator
Dairy Management	July	Dr. R.A.C. Rabel
Aquatic Animal Health	July	Dr. S.S.S. de S. Jagoda
Diagnostic Imaging	October	Dr. D.D.N. de Silva
Poultry Health & Management	November	Dr. D.A. Satharasinghe

- Conduct of seminars and workshops
- Publication of manuals, guidelines, etc.
- Continuing to engage with other stakeholders in matters related to the veterinary profession

## Publication Committee:

Dr. Niranjala de Silva (Chairperson)  
Dr. Oswin Perera (Editor)  
Dr. Neville de Silva  
Dr. Rasika Jinadasa  
Dr. Kavindra Wijesundera

Dr. Madura Munasinghe  
Dr. Anil Pushpakumara  
Dr. Ruwani Kalupahana  
Dr. Anuruddhika Dissanayake  
Dr. Mangala Gunatilake.

Information for new applicants and the Application Form can be downloaded from the College website: [www.slvvetcollege.org](http://www.slvvetcollege.org)

