

Faculty of Nursing Newsletter 2022

Volume 1, Issue 1



Guidance:**Professor S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya**

Dean,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Publications Committee:**Dr. G. Kisokanth**

Senior Lecturer/Head,
Department of Clinical Nursing,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Dr. G.A.S. Premakumara

Senior Lecturer,
Department of Basic Sciences & Social Sciences,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Mrs. W.A.R.P. Menike

Senior Lecturer/Head,
Department of Fundamentals of Nursing,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Editorial Board:**Dr. (Mrs.) T.A. Asurakkody**

Senior Lecturer,
Department of Fundamentals of Nursing,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Ms. K.I.D.F. Senanayake

Assistant Librarian,
Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Legal Advisor:**Dr. I.D.L. Pathirana**

Coordinator,
Legal Research Unit,
University of Colombo.

English Editors:**Ms. M.G.N.S. Mahagamasekara**

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Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

Ms. A.G.N.D. Gunarathna

Senior Lecturer,
Department of English Language Teaching,
Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

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The Dean, the Heads of departments, the members of the academic staff and the students are greatly appreciated for providing information for this newsletter.

DISCLAIMER

Neither the editors nor the publisher has responsibility for the accuracy or lack of correctness of the information included in this publication.

Message from the Dean- Faculty of Nursing

Professor S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya

Dean

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

Sri Lanka



After completing almost two years of my tenure as the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, I am delighted to announce that I feel very fortunate to be holding this post. Our students and all members of the staff have contributed immensely towards making the Faculty of Nursing very productive and result-oriented. Although we are facing challenging financial circumstances and infrastructure issues at present, we remain positive and focused on our mission, which is to educate our students. However, there is a backlog of clinical training and examinations due to the postponement of those activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our students and staff have initiated several activities aimed at increasing student enrollment to the faculty by promoting the name of the faculty locally and internationally. We are actively encouraging the prospective students to enroll in our degree programmes and join our “*Nursing Faculty family*” by highlighting the value of our degree program and the care with which we prepare them for a successful future. Additionally, we are in the process of establishing a higher degree committee to facilitate post graduate programs to create an opportunity to the applicants who seek MPhils and PhDs in the field of nursing. Further, we have already implemented the nEUROcare capacity building project under Erasmus + EU funding that has many potentials to develop new courses and strengthen the academic staff in very specialized areas in nursing. We were able to get a strong fiber network with Wi-Fi connections very recently which has immensely facilitated the learning process of the students and the academic performance of the staff as well. Moreover, we have also taken initiatives to recruit qualified nursing officers from the Ministry of Health as

lateral entrants from this year onwards by opening an avenue to diploma nurses to complete their graduate education in the Faculty of Nursing. Despite all the challenges due to Covid 19 pandemic, both our students and staff have been able to bring together various annual events such as the annual research symposium, oath ceremony, celebrating faculty anniversary, and so on.

Sustaining a faculty that enables all its members to fulfill their potential is my top priority as the Dean. A significant portion of our efforts is directed towards promoting research opportunities for students and identifying the ways of connecting with each other and with the faculty as a whole thus adding to the richness and depth of the educational experience. Our final-year students are in the process of developing their first research projects. Fostering connections among faculty members is equally important and in order to achieve this goal, I have been actively involved in the creation of common-interest groups for research and as one of such initiative, we have been continuing the monthly journal club during the past two years successfully.

I believe that these initiatives would give inspiration to each and every member of the faculty and you will be further motivated to carry such work in future as well when you read about what we have accomplished together as a faculty.

In this newsletter, we share the news of some exciting events and new activities carried out during the past few years in order to generate knowledge and share experiences. While highlighting individual faculty accomplishments, we also recognize the need to share the other success stories pertaining to teaching, learning and knowledge dissemination activities going on every day in the faculty amidst all the challenges related to Covid 19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and the members of the staff who have provided news items to the newsletter and our very active library committee for taking initiatives to launch this first newsletter in the faculty.

Prof. S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya

Dean

Faculty of Nursing

Message from the Chairperson- Library Committee- Faculty of Nursing

Dr. G Kisokanth

Chairperson/ Library Committee

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

Sri Lanka



It is with great pleasure that I send this message as the first Chairperson of the library committee of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, for the launch of the first issue of the library Newsletter of the Faculty of Nursing. It is a historical event of the faculty. I am sure that the newsletter would provide a good platform for the faculty staff and students to publish their achievements, contributions and activities.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the staff and the students who have contributed to the first issue of the newsletter of the Faculty of Nursing by sharing their achievements and information of various events. Further, I congratulate our library committee and the members of the staff for their collective efforts in order to launch this first issue of the newsletter.

I hope the newsletter will share the information of the activities carried out by the staff and the students of the Faculty of Nursing and also their achievements among others.

Dr. G Kisokanth

Chairperson/ Library Committee

Senior Lecturer/Head,

Department of Clinical Nursing,

Faculty of Nursing

Message from the Librarian (Acting)- University of Colombo

Dr (Mrs.) D. C. Kuruppu

Acting Librarian

University of Colombo

Sri Lanka



It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the first issue of the Faculty of Nursing Newsletter. A newsletter is a written report that presents the institution's news and is issued periodically by the institution.

As all of you know, the library is the publishing house of the university. Hence, the library conveys our heartiest congratulation to the Faculty of Nursing and the Editorial Board of the newsletter for their initiation to bring forward the essential news items to the world. We firmly believe that the newsletter will not end up with this issue but there will be many more issues in time to come.

Dr. D C Kuruppu

Acting Librarian

University of Colombo

1. Academic Contribution

1.1 Invited Speeches

Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing participated as the guest of honor of the oath ceremony of 13th BSc Nursing batch at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 18th January 2022 and delivered the main guest speech of the oath ceremony.



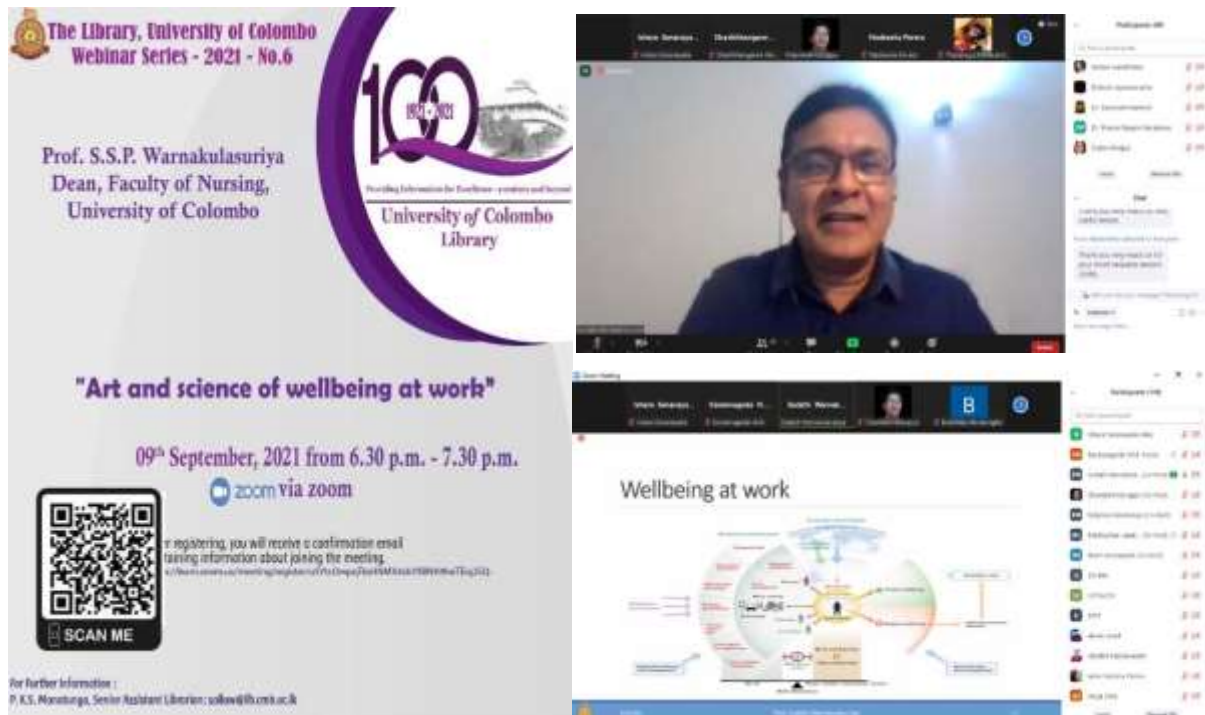
The oath ceremony of the BSc Nursing students of 35th and 36th intake of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Sir John Kotelawala Defense University was held on 2nd January 2022. The Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo participated as the guest of honor of the oath ceremony and delivered the main guest speech.



The fourth annual research symposium organized by the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences; University of Jaffna was held on 3rd February 2022. Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing participated as the guest of honor of the symposium and delivered the Keynote speech on the theme “Unite for the Wellbeing of the University Community”.

1.2 Webinar 6- Art & Science of Wellbeing at Work

The main library, University of Colombo successfully conducted the webinar “Art & science of wellbeing at work” as the 6th webinar of the webinar series which has been scheduled as an event of the centenary celebration of the library, University of Colombo. The 6th webinar was held on 09th September 2021 via zoom, with the participation of Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Dean, Faculty of Nursing as the resource person.



Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya was warmly welcomed by Dr.D.C. Kuruppu the Librarian (Acting), University of Colombo with a brief introduction. The academic and nonacademic staff members and the undergraduate and postgraduate students from various faculties of the university also participated for the webinar. The webinar mainly focused on all aspects of working life, from the quality and safety of the physical environment, how workers feel about their work, their working environment, the climate at work, work organization and management of work stress.

Submitted by:

K.I.D.F. Senanayake
Assistant Librarian,
Faculty of Nursing,
University of Colombo

2. Community Development Projects

2.1 nEURO care Project- European initiative for capacity building to meet the challenges of caring for people with Neurodegenerative Disorders in Sri Lanka

Inauguration Ceremony and the Workshop

The Inauguration Ceremony of the nEUROcare capacity building project of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo was held on 7th February 2022 at Waters Edge, Battaramulla at 8.30am followed by an international workshop with the participation of members from four Sri Lankan universities and four European universities. The aim of this project is to develop new and innovative courses and methodologies in healthcare in order to develop the human capacities in the field of Neurodegenerative Disorders within the four selected Higher Education Institutions of Sri Lanka.



Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo participated as the Chief Guest. In addition, Professor Sanath Dammika, Deputy Vice Chancellor, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, Prof. S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya, the Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Dr. A.R.N. Silva, Acting Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University and representatives from the faculties of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna and University of Peradeniya graced the occasion.



The Project coordinator, Prof. Martin Persson, Kristianstad University, Sweden and other representatives from three European universities such as Triskelion University, Norway, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, University of Tartu, Estonia and Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus, also participated in this event. In addition, project managers and project members of all four local universities such as University of Colombo, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University, University of Peradeniya and University of Ruhuna attended the inauguration ceremony.



The international workshop continued after the inauguration ceremony from 7th to 11th February 2022. A total of 25 participants (project managers and project members) from all four local universities and four partner EU universities participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to develop the course structure for Master's Degree, Diploma and Certificate program on Neurodegenerative disorders based on Sri Lankan Qualification Framework. Development of these courses were facilitated by a Neurosurgeon, a Neurologist, a Psychologist and a General physician from EU partner universities. Trainers from local universities were facilitated to improve the provision of care for the patients with neurodegenerative diseases through these courses.



Prof. S.S.P. Warankulasuriya, Dean/Faculty of Nursing (Project Manager), Dr. G. Kisokanth, Mrs. Rupa Menike, Ms. Shiroma Malkanthi and Mrs. Chandrani Herath participated in the event representing the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo.

Submitted by

Dr. G Kisokanth

Project Member/ nEUROcare Project

3. International Affairs

3.1 2nd International Development Cooperation Nursing Education Forum

Dr. Thanuja A. Asurakkody, a Senior Lecturer from the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, has been invited to participate in the 2nd International Development Cooperation Nursing Education Forum, which was organized by the Inje University- South Korea on 17th of December 2021, through the Zoom Platform.



The purpose of this international university community gathering was to discuss the changes in nursing education which were made possible with the International Development Cooperation Projects, Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP), experiences of scholarship students, the role played by the Nursing Leaders and the demands and the expectations of International Development Cooperation in the New Normal Era.

Professors from Korea, Laos, and Vietnam conducted the sessions sharing their expertise and experiences. The objective of the programme was to get the leaders of

nursing education in Asian countries to discuss the success of their international projects in developing nursing education in their respective countries.



Dr. Thanuja shared her experiences as a Korean Government Scholar and appreciated the enormous support she received from the Korean Government and the Inje University for her MSc and PhD. Further, she discussed her role as a Nursing Leader in Sri Lanka, especially in developing the Nursing Education in Sri Lanka on par with global trends.

Submitted by:

Ms. Sachintha Lokuyaddage
Lecturer (Probationary)
Department of Fundamentals of Nursing
Faculty of Nursing
University of Colombo

3.2 Asian Regional Session of International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress



ICN Congress

Nursing Around the World

2-4 November 2021

Renewing the Nursing history of Sri Lanka, for the first time, three Sri Lankan nurses addressed the South East Asian Regional Session of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) congress 2021. Nurses from South East Asia shared their experiences of Nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic at this conference.



Miss. Shalomi Perera, a 2nd year undergraduate nursing student of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo expressed her ideas at the virtual meeting of SEAR session of ICN making the Faculty of Nursing very proud.

Submitted by:

Ms. Shalomi Perera
2017/2018 Batch
Faculty of Nursing
University of Colombo

4. Research, Conferences and Workshops

4.1 Annual Research Symposium 2021

The Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo successfully held its 4th Annual Research Symposium of the faculty on 15th December 2021 under the theme of “New dimensions in nursing; creating a sustainable healthcare and safety net for all” at the

Faculty located in Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital premises with the participation of Senior Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.

This time the research conference was organized as a hybrid event by adhering to the covid 19 health regulations. Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, the academic/non academic staff members, student representatives and presenters from different universities and institutions participated in the event.



The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Martin Persson, Professor of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, Kristianstad University, Sweden on “Body image and the psychological impact: healthcare perspective” via zoom platform.

Submitted by:

K.I.D.F. Senanayake
Assistant Librarian,
Faculty of Nursing,
University of Colombo

4.2 Undergraduate Research

For the first time in the Faculty of Nursing, two undergraduate student research groups participated in the Annual Research Symposium of the Faculty which was held on 15th December 2021.



Best Oral Presentation

Ms. M.G.S. Nishara, undergraduate Nursing Student (2016/2017, 1st Batch) of the Faculty of Nursing, has won the award for the best oral presentation for her research paper titled “Rapid Review of the Literature on Nursing Students’ Perception and Experiences during COVID 19 Pandemic” under the guidance and supervision of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing at the 4th Annual Research Symposium. The co-authors of the research paper are Herath H.M.H.I, Shavindi J.M.L, Lakrandi P.P.M, Thavalingaratnam P and Asurakkody T.A. (Senior Lecturer).



Under the guidance and supervision of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, a study on Appreciation of Evidence on Scientific and Artistic Components of Nursing by Chathurika JN (presenter of the poster), Hansini KHC, Kaushalya KADS, Wahala WMYB, Asurakkody TA (Senior Lecturer) received certificates of participation at the 4th Annual Research Symposium.

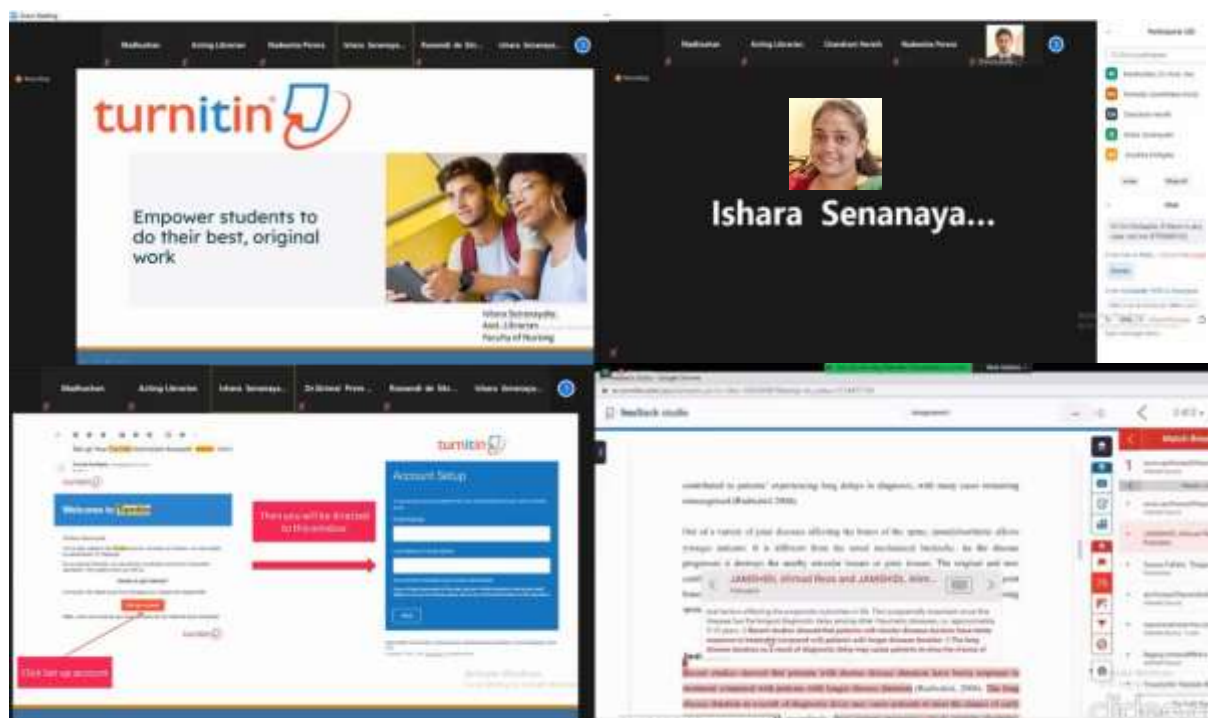


Submitted by:

Dr. T. A. Asurakkody / Senior Lecturer
Department of Fundamentals of Nursing
Faculty of Nursing
University of Colombo

4.3 Turnitin Workshop

The Library, Faculty of Nursing conducted a workshop on “Turnitin” with the purpose of introducing Turnitin similarity detection tool with a real class experience to the academics in order to enhance the quality of the students’ assignments. The workshop was conducted by Ms. K.I.D.F. Senanayake, the Assistant Librarian of the Faculty of Nursing on 11th June 2021 via zoom platform.



The workshop mainly focused on the areas of creating the Turnitin instructor/Teacher Assistant (TA) accounts, activating the quick submit option and uploading papers, creating standard/master classes and editing class settings, adding a paper assignment and editing assignment settings, interpreting the similarity score, refining the similarity report using exclusions, adding comments to the similarity report and downloading the similarity report. All the members of the academic staff of the Faculty of Nursing participated in the workshop. Dr. D.C. Kuruppu, the Librarian (acting), Ms. K.N.L. Perera, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Medicine and Mr. M.A. Lankathilake, Assistant Librarian, Main Library also participated in the workshop representing the library, University of Colombo.

Submitted by:

K.I.D.F. Senanayake

Assistant Librarian

Faculty of Nursing

4.4 Indexed Research Articles Published by the Academics of the Faculty of Nursing

1. Dissanayake SAIP, **Kisokanth G, Warnakulasuriya SSP**. (2021). Prevalence of risk factors for non-communicable diseases, work-related health problems and associated factors among male three-wheeler drivers in Gampaha Urban Council area, Sri Lanka. *J Men's Health* 2021; 17(4): 295-303.

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DOI:10.31083/jomh.2021.059

JOMH

Journal of Men's Health

Original Research

Prevalence of risk factors for Non-communicable diseases, work-related health problems and associated factors among male three-wheeler drivers in Gampaha Urban Council area, Sri Lanka

Dissanayake SAIP¹, Kisokanth G², Warnakulasuriya SSP^{2,*}

¹Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital, 10115 Malabe, Sri Lanka

²Department of Clinical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, 00700 Colombo, Sri Lanka

*Correspondence: sudath@dcn.cmb.ac.lk (Warnakulasuriya SSP)

Abstract

Background and objective: Driving is associated with various occupational health problems and the nature of the job creates a greater risk for Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the drivers. We aimed to determine the prevalence of risk factors for NCDs, work-related health problems and its

2. Pushpika Ariyasinghe, Ruwan Kumara, Daham Alexander, Harsha Senarathna, Sunethra Kasthuri, Lahiru Sandaruwan Galgamuwa, Nimantha Karunathilaka, **Sudath Warnakulasuriya**. (2021). Association of the level of cognition and obesity among middle-aged adults in Sri Lanka. *International Journal of research in Medical Sciences*, 9(6): 1546-1551. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2320-6012.IJrms20212220>.

International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences
Ariyasinghe P et al. *Int J Res Med Sci*. 2021 Jun;9(6):1546-1551
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Original Research Article

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2320-6012.ijrms20212220>

Association of the level of cognition and obesity among middle-aged adults in Sri Lanka

Pushpika Ariyasinghe¹, Ruwan Kumara¹, Daham Alexander¹, Harsha Senarathna¹,
Sunethra Kasthuri¹, Lahiru Sandaruwan Galgamuwa²,
Nimantha Karunathilaka^{1*}, Sudath Warnakulasuriya³

¹Department of Nursing and Midwifery, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka

²Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sabaragamuwa, Sri Lanka

³Department of Clinical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

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3. Sutharshan, N., Nufais, M., Shrirajanie, N., Abdul Munaff, M., & **Kisokanth, G.** (2021). Perceived work-related stress and coping strategies among critical care nurses – A preliminary study from Sri Lanka. *International Journal of Occupational Safety and Health* 2021; 11(2): 95–99.

IJOSH, Volume 11, No. 2, 2021 (p-ISSN 2738-9707, e-ISSN 2091-0878)

Original Article

Available Online at <https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/IJOSH>
International Journal of Occupational Safety and Health, Vol. 11 No. 2 (2021), 95 – 99

Perceived work-related stress and coping strategies among critical care nurses – A preliminary study from Sri Lanka

Sutharshan N¹, Nufais MB², Shrirajanie N², Abdul Munaff MH³, Kisokanth G⁴

¹Divisional Hospital, Maruthamunai, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, ²Ashraff Memorial Hospital, Kalmunai, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, ³Divisional Hospital, Iragamam, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka, ⁴Department of Clinical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Work-related stress has become a major concern among the nurses over the years. Nurses experience a high level of work-related stress when work demands exceed their ability to cope. The study aimed to assess the perceived work-related stress level and coping strategies among nurses working in Critical Care Units at a Base Hospital in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

4. **Don Anushka Sandaruwan Elvitigala**, Jehee Lee (2021). Identification and molecular profiling of a novel homolog of cystatin C from rock bream (*Oplegnathus fasciatus*) evidencing its transcriptional sensitivity to pathogen infections, Mol Biol Rep Vol 48, 4933–4942. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-021-06415-9>

Molecular Biology Reports
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-021-06415-9>

SHORT COMMUNICATION



Identification and molecular profiling of a novel homolog of cystatin C from rock bream (*Oplegnathus fasciatus*) evidencing its transcriptional sensitivity to pathogen infections

Don Anushka Sandaruwan Elvitigala¹ · Jehee Lee^{2,3}

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Abstract

Cystatins are reversible inhibitors of cysteine proteases which show an omnipresent distribution in the life on earth. Although, cystatins with mammalian origin were well characterized and their roles in physiology were reported in details, those from teleostean origin are still underrepresented in literature. However, role of cystatins in fish physiology and immune defense is highlighted in few recent reports. In this study, a cystatin C holmologue from rock bream (*Oplegnathus fasciatus*); termed RbCytC was identified and molecularly characterized. The complete coding sequence of RbCytC was 387 bp in length, which codes for a polypeptide with 129 amino acids, including a signal peptide of 19 amino acids. The consensus cystatin family

5. T. Somarathna, M. G. Thammitiyagodage, K. K. D. S. Ranaweera, **G. A. S. Premakumara**, M. A. Akbarsha, B. Kadalmani, N. S. Weerakkody, (2021) "In Vivo and In Vitro Toxicity Profiles of Hexane Extract of *Alpinia malaccensis* Rhizome in Rat and Cell Line Models", Journal of Toxicology, vol. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/9578474>

Hindawi
 Journal of Toxicology
 Volume 2021, Article ID 9578474, 12 pages
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/9578474>



Research Article

In Vivo and In Vitro Toxicity Profiles of Hexane Extract of *Alpinia malaccensis* Rhizome in Rat and Cell Line Models

T. Somarathna,^{1,2} M. G. Thammitiyagodage,² K. K. D. S. Ranaweera,³
G. A. S. Premakumara,⁴ M. A. Akbarsha,^{5,6} B. Kadalmani,^{7,8} and N. S. Weerakkody¹

¹Department of Agricultural & Plantation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Technology, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Sri Lanka

²Animal Centre, Medical Research Institute, No: 527, Dr Danister de Silva Mawutha, Borella, Sri Lanka

³Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka

⁴Department of Basic Sciences & Social Science, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

⁵Mahatma Gandhi-Doerenkamp Center, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India

⁶Department of Biotechnology & Research Co-ordinator, National College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli 620001, India

6. Ilangasingha Gamlathge Nethmini Hansika Senevirathne, Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera, Walimuni Prabhashini Kaushalya Mendis Abeysekera, Nileththi Yasendra Jayanath, **Sirimal Premakumara Galbada Arachchige** and Danthasingha Chithra Mulacharige Susantha Indika Wijewardana (2021). Antiamylase, Antiglucosidase, and Antiglycation Properties of Millets and Sorghum from Sri Lanka. Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine Volume 2021, Article ID 5834915, 10 pages, <https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/5834915>

Hindawi
Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Volume 2021, Article ID 5834915, 10 pages
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2021/5834915>



Research Article

Antiamylase, Antiglucosidase, and Antiglycation Properties of Millets and Sorghum from Sri Lanka

Ilangasingha Gamlathge Nethmini Hansika Senevirathne ¹,
Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera ²,
Walimuni Prabhashini Kaushalya Mendis Abeysekera,³ Nileththi Yasendra Jayanath,¹
Sirimal Premakumara Galbada Arachchige,^{4,5}
and Danthasingha Chithra Mulacharige Susantha Indika Wijewardana⁶

¹Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka

²Department of Agricultural Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

³Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Colombo, Sri Lanka

⁴Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Halbarawa Gardens, Malabe, Colombo, Sri Lanka

⁵Department of Basic Science & Social Science, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

7. Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera, Wanigasekara Daya Ratnasooriya, Walimuni Prabhashini Kaushalya Mendis Abeysekera and **Galbada Arachchige Sirimal Premakumara** (2021). Anti-Acetylcholinesterase Activity of Commercially Important Ceylon Black Tea (*Camellia sinensis* L.) Grades Belonging to Different Elevations: Potential Natural Product for Type 3 Diabetes Management?. Asian Food Science Journal 20(10): 36-46.



Asian Food Science Journal

20(10): 36-46, 2021; Article no.AFSJ.71844
ISSN: 2581-7752

Anti-Acetylcholinesterase Activity of Commercially Important Ceylon Black Tea (*Camellia sinensis* L.) Grades Belonging to Different Elevations: Potential Natural Product for Type 3 Diabetes Management?

Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera^{1*},
Wanigasekara Daya Ratnasooriya²,
Walimuni Prabhashini Kaushalya Mendis Abeysekera³
and Galbada Arachchige Sirimal Premakumara^{4,5}

¹Department of Agricultural Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

8. Hettiarachchi, T. W., **Nayanamali, M. A. A.**, Sudeshika, T., Fernando, W. B. N. T., Badurdeen, Z., Nanayakkara, S., Nanayakkara, N. (2021). Mortality pattern of chronic kidney disease of uncertain etiology in Girandurukotte, Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science*, 50(3), 293–296. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v50i3.7911>

Ceylon Journal of Science 50(3) 2021: 293–296

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/cjs.v50i3.7911>

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Mortality pattern of chronic kidney disease of uncertain etiology in Girandurukotte, Sri Lanka

T.W. Hettiarachchi¹, M.A.A. Nayanamali^{2*}, T. Sudeshika³, W.B.N.T. Fernando^{1,4}, Z. Badurdeen¹, S. Nanayakkara⁴, S. Wijetunge⁷, L. Gunaratne⁵ and N. Nanayakkara²

¹Center for Education, Research and Training on Kidney Diseases (CERTKID), Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

²Nephrology and Transplant Unit, National Hospital, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

³Department of Fundamental Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

⁴Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

⁵Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna, Galle, Sri Lanka.

⁶School of Dentistry, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, NSW, 2006, Australia.

⁷Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

⁸Renal Care Unit, Divisional Hospital Girandurukotte, Sri Lanka.

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9. Basnayake DB, Wazil AWM, Nanayakkara N, **Nayanamali A**, Deepani R A, Chathurani I, Thennakoon KT, Erandika NH, Wijayawickrama B, Devagiri DK.(2021). Maternal and fetal outcomes in pregnant patients with lupus nephritis. *International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences*, Vol 9, No 3 (2021). <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2320-6012.IJrms20210863>

International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences

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Original Research Article

Maternal and fetal outcomes in pregnant patients with lupus nephritis

Duminda B. Basnayake^{1,2*}, Abdul W. M. Wazil¹, Nishantha Nanayakkara^{1,2}, Ayesha Nayanamali^{1,2}, Ruwina A. Deepani¹, Inoka M. Chathurani¹, Kushan T. Thennakoon¹, Naduni H. Erandika^{1,2}, Buddhika A. Wijayawickrama^{1,2}, Dulani K Devagiri¹

¹Department of Nephrology and Renal Transplant, National Hospital Kandy, Sri Lanka

²Centre for Research, National Hospital Kandy, Sri Lanka

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*Correspondence:

Dr. Duminda B. Basnayake,

E-mail: bmdbbasnayake@yahoo.com

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5. Celebrations

5.1 International Nurses' Day Celebrations 2021

Florence Nightingale, known as “The Lady with the Lamp” is the founder of modern professional nursing. She was a strong lady who could bring a reputation for the nursing community becoming an icon in Victorian culture during the Crimean war. In order to pay tribute to her uttermost contribution to the field of nursing, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has declared 12th May as the International Nurses’ Day as it is the birth anniversary of the Lady Florence Nightingale. All nursing professionals around the world proudly celebrate International Nurses’ Day every year.

This year International Nurses’ Day is very significant for the Sri Lankan nursing community—due to two reasons. One reason is that today nursing is becoming one of the most demanding professions in Sri Lanka and globally as all sectors have identified the value of nursing significantly with this global Covid-19 pandemic. During this pandemic, their extraordinary contribution and inspiration have proved their dedication towards nursing. The second reason is, the nursing education sector of Sri Lanka has reached a landmark as Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya (Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo) has become the 1st Nursing Professor in Sri Lanka.



The Faculty of nursing as the only faculty for nursing in Sri Lanka, proudly commemorated the International Nurses’ Day on 13th May 2021 under the theme declared by the ICN for the year 2021 “Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A Vision for Future

Healthcare” via zoom conferencing. Respectable invitees, academic staff members and students participated in this event.

At the beginning, the theme of International Nurses’ Day was highlighted by playing a short video. Then Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing warmly welcomed the invitees; Senior Prof. Chandrika Wijeratne, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Ms. R.A.D.R. Priyadarshanie, Chief Nursing Officer of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Ms. A.N. Saputhanthri, Chief Nursing Officer of the Sri Jayewardenepura Teaching Hospital and other academic and non-academic staff members and the students.

This was followed by a short video which contained the life story of Florence Nightingale and her contribution to the field of nursing in order to pay tribute to her.

After that, Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya briefly explained the significance of International Nurses’ Day by appreciating the far sighted vision of Madam Florence Nightingale and her great contribution to nursing education in introducing scientific aspects which have resulted in all the significant changes in nursing education, health care services in hospitals and the communities. Further, in his speech, he commended –the real professional behavior and the great enthusiasm and courage with which the of-nursing community in Sri Lanka and the whole world has faced the global Covid-19 pandemic while blessing supreme Nibbana to the fallen heroes and wishing a speedy recovery to those who are under treatment.

After that a song cover named “Suwawiruwa” voiced by the students of the Faculty of Nursing was played in order to acknowledge the healthcare workers fighting at the frontline of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Next a speech competition was conducted as part of the International Nurses’ Day Celebrations 2021. The 1st round of the speech competition was held in the previous week and the best speakers of each batch were selected from a very tight competition and those 3 competitors presented very interesting and informative speeches on this day in front of the attendees.

Then, the Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. Chandrika Wijeratne addressed the gathering. First and foremost, she expressed her appreciation and gratitude for organizing such a well-planned event and acclaimed the wonderful work of the nursing population in Sri Lanka and the world over in the current crisis of Covid-19. Further she elaborated that the voice of great Lady Florence Nightingale probably supports this great work as she was also born during a period of pandemic 200 years ago. Moreover, the vice-chancellor highly appreciated the growth of the faculty and congratulated the three students who made-very interesting speeches.

After the speech of the Vice Chancellor, a song cover (Heal the world) voiced by the students of the Faculty of Nursing was presented. Next Dr. Gnanaselvam Kisokanth, Head of the Department of Clinical Nursing, Mrs. Ranjani Nettasinghe, Head of the

Department of Fundamental Nursing and Dr. Sirimal Premakumar, Head of the Department of Basic Sciences delivered their International Nurses' Day messages to the students. Then, the winners of the Speech Competition were announced. The first, second and third places were secured by Ms. K.S.I.Perera from 2017/2018 batch, Ms. L.L.N. Alwis from 2018/2019 batch and Ms. K.A.D.S. Kaushalya from 2016/2017 batch respectively. All three winners were presented with cash awards and certificates.

The celebration was concluded with the vote of thanks made by Ms. Dilhara Dissanayake one of the organizing committee members of this event. This event was organized by Ms. Sachintha Lokuyaddage and Ms. Ayesha Medagedara, Lecturer (Probationary) from Department of Fundamental Nursing and Ms. Dilhara Dissanayake and Ms. Nirmala Priyadarshani, Lecturers (Probationary) from Department of Clinical Nursing under the guidance and supervision of Prof. Sudath Warnakulasooriya, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing. Further the organizing committee sincerely thanked Ms. Nishadie Gunathilake, IT officer of the Faculty of Nursing for providing technical support and KAATSU International University for providing financial support to make this event a success.

Submitted by:

Sachintha Lokuyaddage (Member of the organizing committee)

Lecturer (Probationary)

Department of Fundamentals of Nursing

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

5.2 3rd Anniversary Celebration

The Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, the first ever Nursing faculty in Sri Lanka is at the forefront of producing talented nurses with knowledge, attitudes and skills. The Faculty of Nursing, which was established on January 8, 2018, celebrated its 3rd anniversary on 8th of January 2021. Presently, 262 students belonging to three batches are pursuing their higher education in the faculty.



An alms giving ceremony including dry rations, medicines and essential items was organized by the Faculty of Nursing Students' Association in commemoration of the third anniversary of the faculty. This was held at the Wathurawila Forest Hermitage in the Mapalagama area in the Galle District with the objective of giving some relief to the needy in the prevailing Covid 19 pandemic.

Submitted by:

Ms. Pawani Gamage

2017/2018 Batch

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

5.3 Christmas Celebration 2021

Christmas is a season mingled with love, kindness, and peace. Regardless of age, almost everyone loves to celebrate this season to commemorate the birth of Lord Jesus. Even amidst this pandemic situation, the precious message of Jesus Christ which emphasizes love and kindness is shared with each other by the future Nightingale generation in the Faculty of Nursing.



Therefore, to celebrate Christmas the 2018/19 batch of the Faculty of Nursing organized the event "Sparkles Leap Tonight" with the guidance of the Student Union. This event was held on the 23rd of December at the auditorium of the Faculty of Nursing.



With the guidance of the Student Union, the 2019/2020 batch arranged a Christmas Celebration “Frosty Fest 2021” to bring forward the realistic meaning of Christmas. Frosty fest was blended with birth story of Jesus, Christmas carols, games, drama, prayers, dances and special Christmas project. It was held virtually via zoom due to Covid – 19 pandemic. Those events were aimed at healing the beaten hearts due to this pandemic while spreading peace and bringing happiness to people.



Submitted by:

Ms. H.M Sithmini Nuwanthika

2019/2020 Batch

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

6. Achievements & Awards

6.1 Best oral presentation- 2nd International Conference on Public Health and Well-being- 2021.

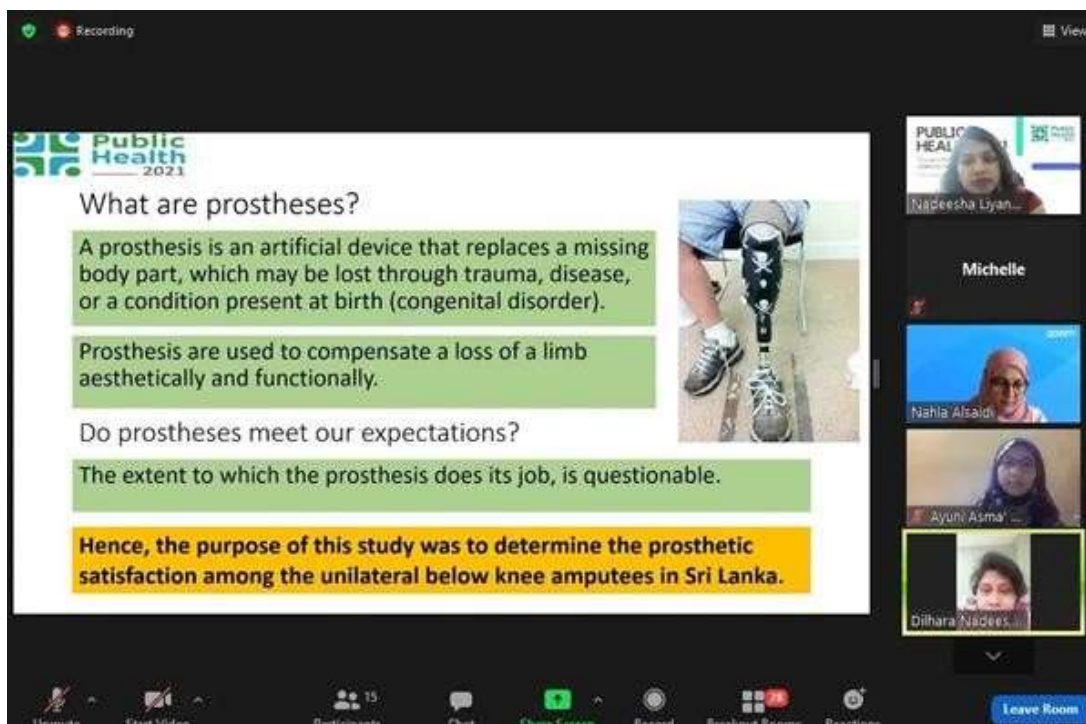
“iConferences” is an academic /professional conference organizer who provides the most engaging networking platform to create and share knowledge. “iConferences” creates the best platform to network with peer experts, share newest innovations and ideas, collaborate with future research projects and find better publication opportunities through special issues. iConferences is creating platforms for different disciplines like Science, Health and Medicine, Women and Gender Studies, Poverty, Social Sciences and IT. Their platform also includes the unique experience of cultural diversification with many engaging opportunities.

The 2nd International conference on Public Health and Wellbeing, 2021 hosted by iConferences was held on 21st and 22nd of January 2021 via a virtual platform in

collaboration with the Department of Community Health, Faculty of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Putra Malaysia, joining as the academic partner. The conference had many sessions, namely Public health in the era of pandemic (session 1); Health policy (session 2); Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs (session 3); Health education (session 4); and Risk, youth and drugs (session 5). Researchers from USA, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Kenya, Japan, Malta, Pakistan, Zambia and Sri Lanka presented the findings of their studies during these sessions.



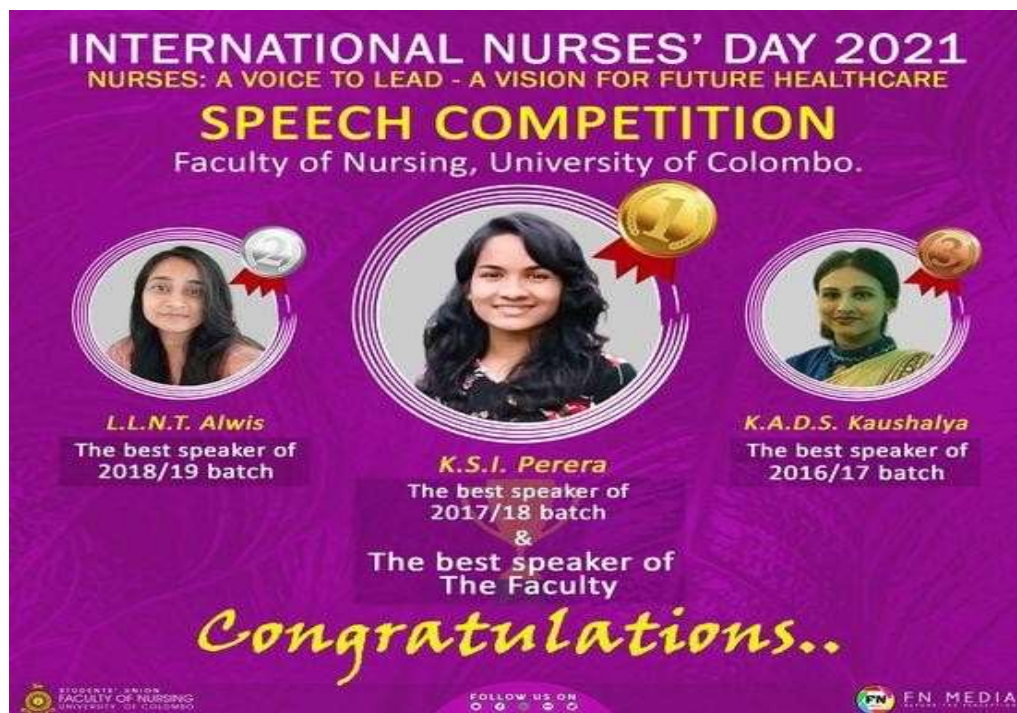
Ms. KMD Nadeeshani, a Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Clinical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo presented her abstract in the 3rd session, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs, under the title "Prosthetic satisfaction among below knee amputees in Sri Lanka" in the presence of many other researchers from all around the world. Her presentation was selected as the best presentation in the session and she was awarded with the session's best presentation award. Furthermore, the abstract was published in the proceedings of the conference.



Ms. K.M.D. Nadeeshani
Lecturer (Probationary)
Department of Clinical Nursing
Faculty of Nursing

6.2 Undergraduates' Speech Competition

This speech competition was held on the International Nurses day which was commemorated on 13th May 2021 via zoom. Participants from all 3 batches participated in the competition delivering speeches on the theme 'A voice to lead-A vision for future healthcare'. Initially the best speakers from all 3 batches were selected and the best speaker of the faculty was selected among them by a panel of judges consisting of the Vice chancellor, Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, the Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, and the Heads of the departments. The winners were gifted with monetary awards.



Submitted by:

Ms. Shalomi Perera

2017/2018 Batch

Faculty of Nursing

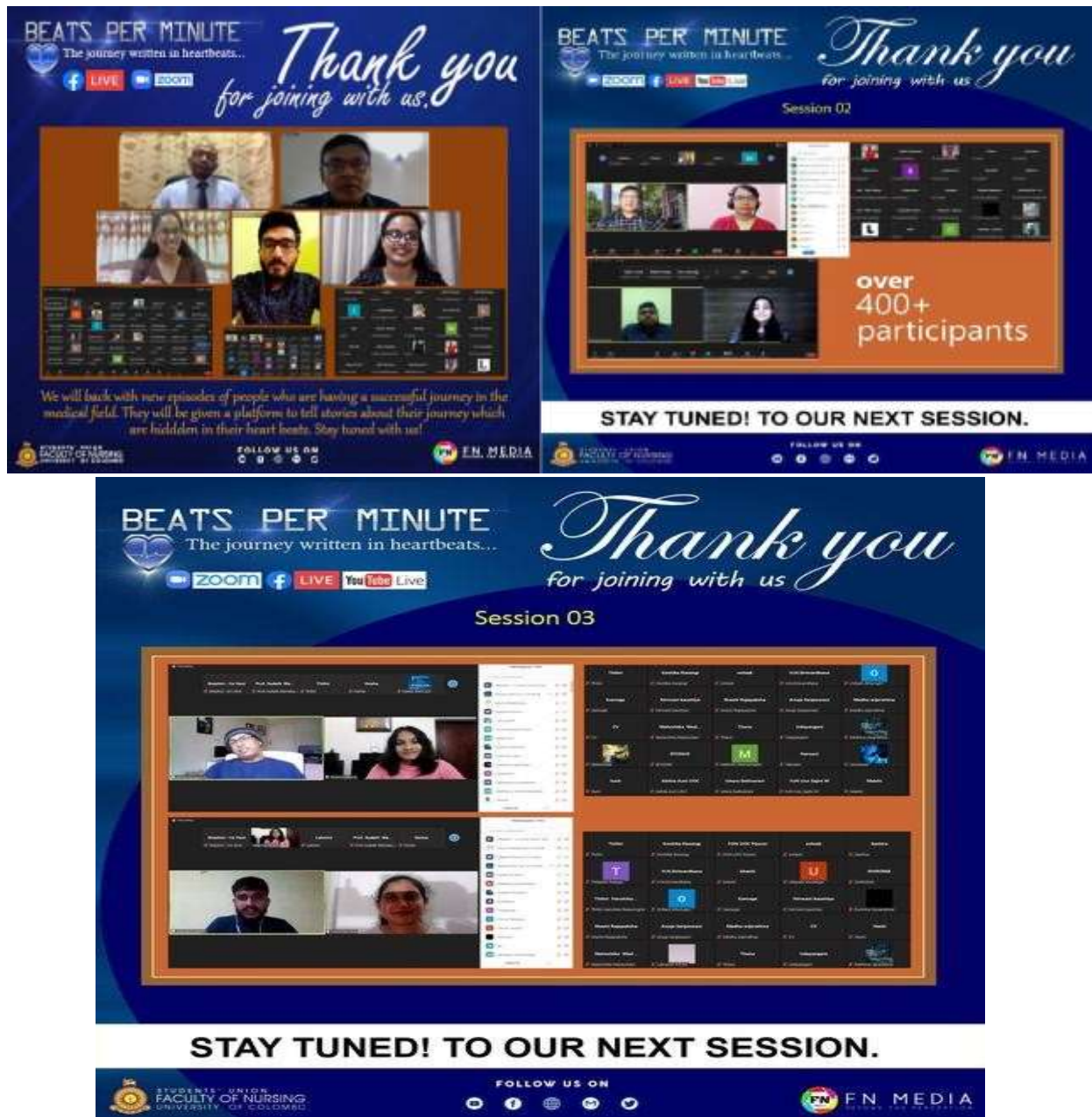
University of Colombo

7. Events Organized by the Students

7.1 Beats Per Minute

Nursing is a profession that develops with experiences. So, a new program was initiated to enhance the experience of our undergraduate students with the cooperation of leading personalities in the field of nursing. This programme is called

„Beats per Minute“. The main aim of holding this programme is to empower the young nursing generation by giving them an opportunity to share the valuable experiences of senior nurses in the field. We believe that these shared experiences will be a good motivation to the future generation of nurses and will be an added advantage to build their career in the field of nursing. During the year 2021 three such episodes were done via zoom.



Submitted by:
 MS. Shashini Malsha Rathnayake
 2017/2018 Batch
 Faculty of Nursing
 University of Colombo

7.2 “Caffein Suwadethi Ahasak”

Under the supervision of the art subcommittee of the faculty union a program named “Caffein Suwadethi Ahasak” was organized which was telecasted through zoom with the participation of senior artist and lecturer Mr.Prasannajith Abhesooriya on 1st October 2021.



Submitted by:

Ms. Shyamindi Mahadanaarachchi

2018/2019 Batch

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

7.3 Rasogha

Art speaks what words are unable to explain. It's like a drop of water to the world full of thirst. Among different kinds of art, folk art is an artistic expression of the people. With the guidance of the Student Union, Faculty of Nursing, university of Colombo 2019/2020 batch organized **Rasogha** "The heartbeat of the village to the Colombo fantasy" to convey the beauty of village folk arts. The event was held virtually on 17th October via zoom due to Covid – 19 pandemic. Rasogha was a combination of folklore, sports, dance, music, drama and commentary which was tremendously enjoyed by the audience. The main purpose of the event was to bring forward the unique artistic value of the village folk arts which is fading from the current generation. The event ended successfully, filling the hearts of the audience with warm and proud feelings of our valuable culture.



Submitted by:
 Ms. H.M Sithmini Nuwanthika
 2019/2020 Batch
 Faculty of Nursing
 University of Colombo

7.4 Faculty Theme Song

A theme song leaves a lasting impression on the audience and it has a motivational effect on them as well. Further, it plays a key role in delivering important information to the audience. Moreover, it is a good method to enhance the awareness about the relevant subject among people. In view of all the above benefits, the Music Circle of the Faculty of Nursing decided to create a theme song for the faculty and launch it to the social media parallel to the 4th anniversary celebration of the faculty.

The lyrics of the theme song were written by Dr. Rathna Sri Wijesinghe and the melody was composed by Mr. Nawarathna Gamage, a well-known professional musician. The audio soundtrack of the song was recorded on 5th of July 2021 at the Inwave music studios, Nugegoda. The second phase of audio recordings was completed on 28th November 2021 at the same music studios with the participation of 20 members of Music Circle who were selected in an audition conducted by Mr. Nawarathna Gamage. The mixing and mastering processes was also done with the assistance and the guidance of Mr. Nawarathna Gamage at Inwave music studios on 30th November 2021.



Submitted by:

Ms. G.V H.H Sewwandi

2017/2018 Batch

Faculty of Nursing

University of Colombo

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