



Faculty of Nursing Newsletter 2022 Volume 1 Issue 2



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DISCLAIMER

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

Articles

Anticipated Role of a Nurse in the Genomic Era. Are we ready??

Nursing is a profession which indeed plays an indispensable role in the care of individuals, families, and communities in the healthcare workforce with a greater formal history of above 150 years. Nursing evolved gradually from its early age and expanded with multiple roles in the field of healthcare management with significant diversification, hand in hand with the rapid advancement of medical sciences. Currently, the scope of nursing practice has been broadly diversified in western countries encompassing the roles of clinicians, administrators, researchers, and educators, starting from nursing assistant to advanced practice nurse (APN) in the hierarchy.

The term '**Genomics**' has revolutionized the field of medicine with the completion of the human genome project in 2003, which was dedicated to decode the complete genetic make-up of a human being, predominantly all the genes in the human 'genome'. The term 'genome' represents the complete set of genetic information in a cell whereas the term 'genomics' is used to denote the holistic study of a selected subset or a complete array of genes in a genome together, including their interactions with each other, the environment, and other psychosocial and cultural factors (NHS-England, 2022). This fairly young discipline is quite different from "genetics", which mainly stands for the study of individual genes and their impact on disease caused by a defect of a single gene in the context of health.

Expansion of the scientific findings of genetics and genomics through advanced research has now influenced the redefining of healthcare literacy, especially with respect to disease diagnosis and treatment. In this regard, '**Pharmacogenomic**' approaches (The study of genomic variations associated with drug responses, especially drug efficacy and tolerability) have significantly influenced the globe to shift into patient-centered drug treatments triggering remarkable benefits in healthcare management. This approach ensures not only the administration of the correct drug to the correct patient but also the treatment with the correct drug with the correct dose for the specific disease type afflicting the specific individual, based on their genetic makeup (Cheek et al., 2015). Under the light of this background, essential genetic and

genomic competencies that need to be developed within the current nursing practice has now been identified, as nurses play a key role in the global healthcare workforce.

According to the American Nurses Association and National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom, nurses are expected to incorporate genetics and genomics in their practice and nursing educators are recommended to integrate genetics and genomic content into nursing curricula with the aim of providing an adequately prepared nursing workforce in healthcare management (Consensus Panel on Genetic/Genomic Nursing Competencies, 2009).

Collectively, several key recruitments of nurses in genomic healthcare were identified (kirk et al., 2011). As an essential member who plays a key role in a healthcare team of clinical or community settings, nurses are expected to collaborate with the other members of such teams in the adaptation of new practices, involvement in taking samples from patients, administration of drugs, managing infectious diseases, posing questions of patients to the healthcare team and participating in decision making on patient management, in the context of genomic medicine and personalized care, hand in hand with their routine practice. In addition, as nurses are the closest healthcare professionals to patients, they can communicate with patients regarding the importance of genetic or genomic testing in a specific disease condition and become aware of information on family history of their genetic conditions. On the other hand, nurses are also expected to answer the questions of patients on the genetic/ genomic background of their condition or refer to an expert clinician while empowering them to think positively on genomic healthcare and managing their lifestyle appropriately. Nurses are also likely to observe and identify the signs of genetic or genomic conditions of patients by carefully monitoring them. For an instance, developmental delay of a child or adverse drug reaction of a particular patient which can possibly be correlated with their genetics and genome are essential to be spotted early in providing high-quality patient care and safety. In line with this, nurses also can recognize patients who are eligible for future clinical trials pertaining to the discovery of new drugs and treatments/ therapeutics by new research. Collectively, nurses are anticipated to think 'genomics' which in turn encourage them to apply the knowledge of genetics and genomics with respect to the cases with no defined correlations between signs and symptoms or conditions of patients with their primary diagnosis or results of lab testing.

In Sri Lankan context, healthcare is considered as one of the main public services which is delivered free of charge by the government using the accumulated treasury funds by taxation. It is an island-wide service distributed through a broad network of hospitals and other healthcare institutions. In addition to that, a wide array of preventive healthcare programs along with maternal and child health programs also contribute a lot to the betterment of health conditions of the general public in Sri Lanka with substantial comparability with developed countries in the globe. Besides this major contribution, the private sector based on western medical practice also take part in healthcare delivery, fulfilling a significant proportion of national healthcare needs.

As integration of genomics in healthcare is still at its early age in the world, it is not unlikely to observe such interventions in insignificant proportion within the national healthcare system in Sri Lanka. However, several initiatives have already been taken to establish a proper genomic healthcare network in Sri Lanka, especially in urban areas in the country (Sirisena et al., 2019). Currently, academics in university medical education play a significant role in including genetics and genomic medicine to routine clinical practice. As a result of this effort, genetics and genomic healthcare facilities are now available at several academic units in some universities, specialized clinics in selected national-level government hospitals and several private hospitals, encompassing diagnosis and treatment for a wide range of genetic disorders and infectious diseases, which include genetic counseling services (basically deals with how genetic conditions might affect clients or their family) and prenatal diagnostic services (determination of the health and condition of an unborn fetus employing a variety of techniques). Medical Genetics and Genomics have already been recognized as a specialty that should be developed in the country by the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. Moreover, 'clinical genetics' has been formally recognized as a medical subspecialty with board certification of Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM). Different programs which aim to increase the literacy on medical/ clinical genetics and genomics among healthcare professionals have also been conducted and are yet to be organized as continual professional development (CPD) programs in the country. On the other hand, basic components of medical and clinical genetics have been included in the undergraduate medical curriculum in many state universities and in some of the postgraduate level medical courses in the country.

According to the recently published research studies, there is a significant prevalence of genetic disorders in the national population including birth defects and subfertility (Sirisena et al., 2019). In addition, some studies report the differences in drug responses in Sri Lankan population which are associated with its genetic diversity (Sirisena et al., 2019). However, the diversity was found to be significantly different from that of European population, suggesting the potential candidature of pharmacogenomics to be incorporated in drug prescriptions under national clinical settings.

In this background, it is essential to modify the national nursing practice to be eligible to take part in healthcare delivery in the genomic era, hand in hand with the development of clinical genetics and genomics in medical practice. It is an inevitable fact that once genomic medicine is well established in the country, nurses need to play a critical role in the management of patients with a spectrum of genetically diverse rare disorders, differential drug responses to the same disease, and inherited diseases as the substantive members of the national healthcare workforce. Therefore, as an initiative, it is important to identify the knowledge gap in nursing profession in Sri Lanka in the context of genetics and genomics, compared to that in the globe and fill the gap adequately with required skills that must be inculcated. In this regard, conducting CPD programs for the nurses in current practice as well as incorporate course modules related to healthcare genetics and genomics into the nursing curricular at undergraduate and diploma levels are much appreciated. In addition to this, supporting nursing graduates to pursue their postgraduate training in foreign universities where nursing practice is supplemented with knowledge and skills related to genomics in nursing would be a better option, which in turn would help to assign them as trainers of the rest of the nursing community, once they return to the country. Furthermore, it may pave the way to build international research collaborations in the same line, while co-operating with the national experts in the field of genomics.

Finally, it is important to benchmark the quality of our nursing education and practice with international standards accompanied by the cutting edge scientific and technological advances, with the support of the up-to-date national health and education policy, because that will empower the plausible entrance of our nursing workforce into the genomic era.

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Sirisena, N D. et al. (2019) 'Genetics and genomic medicine in Sri Lanka'. Molecular Genetics & Genomic Medicine. 7: e744.

Written by:

Dr. D.A.S. Elvitigala

Head/Senior Lecturer

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University of Colombo

Academic Contribution

Webinar- Health Informatics

Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing participated as a resource person in a Professional Development webinar organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) on 31st August 2022 and delivered a lecture on “Health Informatics.”

THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES INVITES YOU TO AN EXPERT TALK ON:

HEALTH INFORMATICS

GUEST SPEAKER:
PROF. S.S.P. WARNAKULASURIYA
Professor and Dean Faculty of Nursing University of Colombo
Ph.D., Dip in Health and Information Systems, B.Sc. (Hons.) (BMS), PGDIP (Education), M.A. (Education), PhD (EdM)

31ST AUGUST 2022 03.30PM - 04.30 PM ZOOM

Scan the QR code to Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82389797751?pwd=ZlRFTVdCekdRVlpxXlIhQzRyZjIjRz09>
Meeting ID: 823 8979 7751 | Passcode: 694769

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES SLIIT UNI

Community Development Projects

World Alzheimer's Day

In order to commemorate the World Alzheimer's day which fell on 21st September 2022, Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Project Manager of the Neuro-care capacity building project, Faculty of Nursing participated in a discussion in the “Nugasewana” Rupavahini program on the 22nd September 2022.



This discussion highlighted the importance of preparing healthcare professionals for future challenges which have arisen due to the increased number of patients with dementia by emphasizing the aims of the neuro-care capacity building project of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo in developing healthcare professionals with new educational programs in this field.



The Neuro-care team of the Faculty of Nursing participated in an awareness program organized by the Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to commemorate the World Alzheimer’s day on 21st September and the International Day for Older Persons on October 1st 2022.

Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists

Caring for elders with dementia

Awareness program for caregivers organized by the Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists
To commemorate the World Alzheimer’s day on September 21st and International Day for Older Persons on October 1st 2022

All caregivers and allied health staff involved in care of elders with dementia welcome!

DATE | **TIME**
FRIDAY | **9.00 AM to**
SEPT 30 2022 | **12 NOON**

Venue
Main Hall of the National Institute of Mental Health, Angoda

WATCH LIVE STREAM ON
Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/SLCOP>

For details- 0112685088

9.00 AM
Introduction and vision of the Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists for provision of services for older persons
Dr. Kapila Ranasinghe, President, Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists

9.20 AM
Introduction to dementia
Dr. Narmada Gunathilake, Senior Registrar in Old Age Psychiatry, NIMH

9.40 AM
Managing behavioural problems in dementia
Dr. Anuradha Wickramasinghe, Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

10.10 AM
Cognitive stimulation strategies for elders with dementia at home
Ms. M. G. H. Priyanga, Occupational Therapist, Psychogeriatric Unit, NIMH

10.45 AM
Decision making in the care of elders with dementia and other related laws
Dr. Dewantha Ariyaratne, Consultant Psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya

11.05 AM
Nursing care of older persons with dementia at home
Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo

11.25 AM
‘Ma den mahalu vlye’ song and discussion
Dr. Randula Caldera, NIMH

Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, the Project manager of the Neuro-care capacity building project delivered a lecture on “Management of Dementia Patients at Home” for an invited audience consisting of healthcare professionals and relatives of patients and representatives of non-governmental organizations.



Research, Conferences and Workshops

1st International Nursing Conference (INC 2022)

The 1st International Nursing Conference (INC 2022) of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo was successfully held on the 20th October 2022 as a hybrid event with the participation of Senior Prof. H.D. Karunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo as the chief guest. Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, academic and non-academic staff and the invitees from nursing administration, clinical nursing practice and nursing academia also graced this event. The conference was conducted under the theme of “Co-creation of Better Health Care through Collaboration and Innovation”.



The fifth Annual Research Symposium of the Faculty of Nursing (5th ARS) was upgraded to the international level as “1st International Nursing Conference (INC 2022)”. INC 2022 consisted of a pre-conference workshop, a keynote speech, invited speeches and technical sessions. The pre-conference workshop of INC 2022 was conducted successfully on 19th October 2022 as an online event with around 70 participants.

The keynote speech of INC 2022 was delivered by the Professor. Jina Oh from Inje University, Rep. of Korea. The invited speeches were delivered by Prof. Wasana Ruaisungnoen, (Faculty of Nursing, Khon Kaen University,Thailand), Professor Anousone Sisoulath, (Faculty of Nursing Sciences, University of Health Sciences, Lao PDR) and Professor Sandeep Kumar (Department of Electronic and Communication Engineering, National Institute of Technology, Surathkal, India).This year the conference received a total of 47 abstract from nursing and health related disciplines from Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Laos, India and Philippines. After the reviewing process 34 abstracts were selected for the conference proceedings (eISSN - 2950-7189).

The conference dinner was held with the participation of the keynote speaker, the Dean and the academic staff of the Faculty of Nursing at the 'Imperial Monarch' Hotel, Sri Jayewardenepura on 20.10.2022. The financial assistance for this year's conference was rendered by KAATSU International University (KIU), Melsta Labs and INFORTEC International Asia Campus in the absence of treasury funds.



Submitted by:-

Dr. Thanuja Asurakkody

Chairperson- INC 2022

Senior Lecturer

Dept. of Fundamentals of Nursing

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

1. SNJ Pathirana, **D.A.S Elvitigala**, CM Nanayakkara, Prashanth Suravajhala, Sanath Rajapakse, GHCM Hettiarachchi, NV Chandrasekharan (2022). Identification and in-silico analysis of a novel restriction enzyme coding gene from *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica*. Gene Rep Vol 26, 101487



Gene Reports

Volume 26, March 2022, 101487



Identification and *in-silico* analysis of a novel restriction enzyme coding gene from *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica*

S.N.J. Pathirana ^a  , D.A.S. Elvitigala ^b, C.M. Nanayakkara ^c, Prashanth Suravajhala ^d, Sanath Rajapakse ^e, G.H.C.M. Hettiarachchi ^a, N.V. Chandrasekharan ^a

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^e Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya.

2. Madara Dilrukshi Wijesekara Samaranayake, Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini, Mendis Abeysekera, Ilmi Ganga Namali Hewajulige, Hewa Pathiranage Preethi Sudarshana Somasiri, Kariyawasam Ranaweerage Ranjith Mahanama, Dassanayake Mudiyansele Jayantha Bandara Senanayake, **Galbada Arachchige Sirimal Premakumara** (2022). Fatty acid profiles of selected traditional and new improved rice varieties of Sri Lanka. Journal of Food Composition and Analysis, 112 (2022) 104686.





Journal of Food Composition and Analysis

Volume 112, September 2022, 104686



Fatty acid profiles of selected traditional and new improved rice varieties of Sri Lanka

Madara Dilrukshi Wijesekara Samaranayake ^a  , Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera ^b, Ilmi Ganga Namali Hewajulige ^a, Hewa Pathiranage Preethi Sudarshana Somasiri ^a, Kariyawasam Ranaweerage Ranjith Mahanama ^c, Dassanayake Mudiyansele Jayantha Bandara Senanayake ^d, Galbada Arachchige Sirimal Premakumara ^{a, e}

3. Chanika D. Jayasinghea, Wanigasekera D. Ratnasooriya, **Sirimal Premakumara** and Preethi V. Udagama. (2022). Platelet augmentation activity of mature leaf juice of Sri Lankan wild type cultivar of *Carica papaya* L: Insights into potential cellular mechanisms. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 296 (2022) 115511. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2022.115511>.



Journal of Ethnopharmacology

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Platelet augmentation activity of mature leaf juice of Sri Lankan wild type cultivar of *Carica papaya* L: Insights into potential cellular mechanisms

Chanika D. Jayasinghe^a, Wanigasekera D. Ratnasooriya^a, Sirimal Premakumara^{b, c}, Preethi V. Udagama^a

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4. Peshala Gunasekara¹, S. M. Handunnetti, Sunil Premawansa, E. W. R. A. Witharana, Indra P. Ratnayake, Pradeep Kaluarachchi, Chandima Karunatilake, R. K. S. Dias, **G. A. S. Premakumara**, W. M. D. K. Dasanayake, Suranjith L. Seneviratne and Rajiva de Silva. (2022). Diagnosis of *Apis dorsata* venom allergy: use of recombinant allergens of *Apis mellifera* and a passive basophil activation test. *Clinical and Molecular Allergy* (2022) 20:11 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12948-022-00178-9>

Gunasekara et al.
Clinical and Molecular Allergy (2022) 20:11
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Clinical and Molecular Allergy

RESEARCH

Open Access

Diagnosis of *Apis dorsata* venom allergy: use of recombinant allergens of *Apis mellifera* and a passive basophil activation test



Peshala Gunasekara^{1*} , S. M. Handunnetti¹, Sunil Premawansa², E. W. R. A. Witharana³, Indra P. Ratnayake⁴, Pradeep Kaluarachchi⁵, Chandima Karunatilake⁶, R. K. S. Dias⁷, G. A. S. Premakumara⁸, W. M. D. K. Dasanayake⁶, Suranjith L. Seneviratne^{9,10} and Rajiva de Silva⁶

Abstract

Background: Allergy to *Apis dorsata* (Giant Asian Honeybee) venom is the commonest insect allergy in Sri Lanka and South East Asia. However, laboratory diagnosis is difficult as the pure venom and diagnostic reagents are not commercially available.

Objective: This study assessed the use of four recombinant allergens of *A. mellifera* venom and the passive basophil activation test in the diagnosis of *A. dorsata* venom anaphylaxis.

5. Abeysekera WKSM, Jayathilaka, S.I., Abeysekera WPKM, Senevirathne IGH, Jayanath NY, **Premakumara GAS**, Wijewardana DCMSI (2022). In vitro determination of anti-lipidemic, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidant properties and proximate composition of range of millet types and sorghum varieties in Sri Lanka. *Front. Sustain. Food Syst.* 6:884436. doi: 10.3389/fsufs.2022.884436

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In vitro determination of anti-lipidemic, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidant properties and proximate composition of range of millet types and sorghum varieties in Sri Lanka

Walimuni Kanchana Subhashini Mendis Abeysekera^{1*},
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Nileththi Yasendra Jayanath²,
Galbada Arachchige Sirimal Premakumara^{4,5} and

6. **Nayanamali MAA**, Athapaththu AMMP, Wazil AWM, Mahanama B, Basnayake D, Thangarajah BUEWDR, Nanayakkara N. Epidemiology, Risk factors and Major outcomes of Hospitalization requiring Post Kidney Transplant Infections in teaching Hospital Kandy: A pilot study, *Indian Journal of Transplantation* 2022;16;77-83

Original Article

Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Major Outcomes in Post Kidney Transplant Infections at National Hospital Kandy: A Cross-sectional, Pilot Study

M. A. Ayesha Nayanamali^{1,2*}, A. M. Muditha Piyumali Athapaththu¹, B. M. Duminda Bandara Basnayake¹, T. G. Nadeeka Shyamali Gunarathne⁴, Abdul W. M. Wazil¹, R. M. Buddhisha S. S. Mahanama¹, Brammah U. E. W. D. R. Thangarajah⁴, Nishantha Nanayakkara¹

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Abstract

Background: Postkidney transplant (PKT) infections are associated with significant morbidity and mortality, especially in the early posttransplant period. The type of infection, associated risk factors, and predicted outcomes of the infections are essential for targeted appropriate management. Scientific published data, especially in local settings, are lacking. This study was conducted to assess the epidemiology, risk factors, and major outcomes of PKT infections requiring hospitalization. **Methods:** This was a prospective observational study, conducted at the Nephrology and Transplant Unit, National Hospital Kandy, Sri Lanka, for a period of 2 months from December 1, 2018, to January 30, 2019. **Results:** A total of 38 infectious episodes were recorded in 35 kidney recipients. The most common type of infection was urinary tract infection (UTI) noted in 36.6% ($n = 14$) of cases. The most frequent organisms isolated were coliform (7.9%, $n = 3$). Seven potential risk factors including age, gender, comorbidities, source of kidney, induction modality, enhancement therapy, and months after renal transplant

7. Erandika NHG, Gunarathne NS, **Nayanamali A**, Muthukuda PS, Nanayakkara N. Relationship between knowledge and treatment satisfaction with psychological well-being among hemodialysis patients: a single-center study. *Int J Res Med Sci* 2022; 10:808-12

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Original Research Article

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.18203/2320-6012.ijrms20220969>

Relationship between knowledge and treatment satisfaction with psychological well-being among haemodialysis patients: a single center study

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8. **Medagedara, A.**, Pasan Hewavitharane, Rohana Chandrajith, Hemalika T. K. Abeysundara, R. O. Thatil, S. Thennakoon, Buddhisha Mahanama, N. Weerasuriya, A. Thilakarathne, and Nishantha Nanayakkara. "Comparison of biochemical characteristics between an endemic and a nonendemic area for CKDu Sri Lanka." *Environmental Disease* 7, no. 2 (2022): 47.

Original Article

Comparison of biochemical characteristics between an endemic and a nonendemic area for CKDu Sri Lanka

A. Medagedara^{1,2}, Pasan Hewavitharane¹, Rohana Chandrajith³, Hemalika T. K. Abeysundara⁴,
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Abstract

Introduction: Chronic kidney disease with uncertain etiology (CKDu) was first recognized in the 1990s in Sri Lanka. Considering the distribution of CKDu in the country, clusters of endemic and nonendemic areas can be identified. This study was carried out to compare the biochemical characteristics between CKDu endemic and nonendemic areas in Sri Lanka.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional study was carried out among randomly selected males between the age category of 30 and 60 years in selected villages of Wilgamuwa (endemic) and Hanguranketha (nonendemic), located in the dry and wet zone, respectively.

9. Basnayake DB, Erandika NH, Amarathunga HK, **Nayanamali AA**, Pathiraja J, Kandane-Rathnayake R, et al. Body composition in lupus nephritis patients. *Int J Res Med Sci* 2022; 10:2117-21

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Body composition in lupus nephritis patients

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10. NM Patterson, **SSP Warnakulasuriya**. Screen Time and Associated Health Problems Among Undergraduates of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. 2022. *Sri Lankan Journal of Nursing*, Volume (1), Issue (1). Pages :21-32

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Research Article

Screen Time and Associated Health Problems Among Undergraduates of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

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11. Gamage CKW, **Warnakulasuriya SSP**. Assertiveness and its Associations among Nursing Undergraduates in General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka. 2022.KDU Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies (KJMS).Volume (4),Issue (01),Pages:16-18



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ASSERTIVENESS AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS AMONG NURSING UNDERGRADUATES IN GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

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12. Ilankoon Mudiyansele Prasanthi Sumudrika Ilankoon,**Sudath Shirely Pathmasiri Warnakulasuriya** , **Gnanaselvam Kisokanth**. Blended Learning Approaches in Nursing Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Review. 2022.Education in Medicine Volume (14),Issue (02), Pages (103-109)

Blended Learning Approaches in Nursing Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Review

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13. **Menike, W.A.R.P.**, 2022. Psychosocial, Economic and Environmental Impact of COVID-19: Risks and Rewards. Sri Lankan Journal of Nursing, Vol. 1, No. 1 (pp. 33-41)

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Review

Psychosocial, Economic and Environmental Impact of COVID-19: Risks and Rewards

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Abstract

Background and Objective: Two thousand twenty was a significant year for the world, changing drastically every aspect of human life within a short period of time due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The pandemic affected human beings physically, psychologically as well as and socioeconomically. A noticeable reduction of environmental pollution and climate changes were reported during the worldwide lockdown in response to COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency. In spite of the panic created globally, the positive and negative elements resulting in risks and rewards have been discussed extensively. This narrative synthesis further presents suggestions to reorganize the social systems to save the earth during pandemic.

Methods: A thorough literature search was carried out during December 2019 – January 2021 period, using the PubMed, Researchgate and Google Scholar. Findings were presented as a

Workshop- New trends and challenges in healthcare and the role of the nursing education

Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya participated in a professional development workshop as the resource person at Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama and conducted a lecture and a discussion on “New trends and challenges in health care and the role of nursing education in addressing the challenges.”



International workshop- Neuro care project

The Neuro-care team of the Faculty of Nursing together with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo participated in an international workshop organized by the Tartu University Estonia in collaboration with the Neuro-care project of the Faculty of Nursing. The Project Manager, Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya, made a presentation on the action plan of the proposed Neuro-care conference which was held in Sri Lanka in February 2023.



International Affairs

Belt and Road Initiative High-end Forum

Professor Sudath Warnakulasuriya participated in the **Belt and Road Initiative High-end Forum** organized by the Confucius Institute, Faculty of Arts on the 9th of December 2022 to commemorate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Sri Lanka and conducted a session on “China Sri Lanka Educational Collaborations”.



Academic Programmes

Community Nursing Field Program

The Community Field Program of the 2016/2017 batch of nursing undergraduates was conducted in the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing under the guidance and supervision of the Dean, Professor S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya. This program was conducted from 1st June to 7th July, and 82 nursing students completed their Community Health Nursing Module which addressed the role and the responsibilities of nursing professionals in prevention of diseases and promotion of health and rehabilitation of the people in the community. The main objective was to highlight the need for integration of preventive and curative services.



This program was organized by the Head of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, Senior Lecturer W.A.R.P. Menike and the course coordinator Senior Lecturer Ms. N.A.R. Nettasinghe in collaboration with Dr. I. Katugampala (MOH Kahathuduwa) and Dr M.V. Saumya (AMOH Kahathuduwa), Senior Special Grade Nursing Tutor (Public Health) Ms. Jayasooriya and Special Grade Nursing Tutor (Public Health) Ms. K.K.I.D. Jayasena. During this program, the staff of both the MOH offices has actively involved in guiding both the students and the academic

staff of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing while supervising the students in achieving the objectives of the program.

During this Community Nursing Field Programme the students engaged in activities related to maternal and child health, environmental health, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, school health and maintenance of mental and physical health of the community. Further, the students visited special institutions and places related to the community welfare such as water purifications, homes for elders, orphanages and rehabilitation centers and took part in special campaigns for the control of specific diseases. They also participated in Health Education sessions to promote the knowledge of the community.

The Community Health Field Program enhances the opportunities for the students to engage in community-oriented learning and understanding socio-economic cultural patterns of community which affect their physical, mental, spiritual, and social wellbeing. Ultimately all nations of the world obligated to achieve “Sustainable Development Goals” declared by World Health Organization by enhancing primary healthcare of the community through “Millennium Development Goals”.

The final evaluation of the program was conducted in a zoom meeting at the end of the program. All the student groups presented what they had learned and what they had implemented in order to solve problems they identified. The service rendered by the staff of both MOH was appreciated at the meeting.



Submitted by:

Mrs. W.A.R.P. Menike

Head/Senior Lecturer, Department of Fundamentals of Nursing

Geriatric Care Nursing Placement of 2016/2017 Batch (1st Batch), Faculty of Nursing

For the first time, BSc nursing undergraduates of the Faculty of Nursing have successfully completed the Geriatric Care Nursing placement of two weeks duration from the 5th to the 15th of December 2022 at 'Moratuwa Social Service Elders Home, as a partial fulfillment of the subject of Geriatric Care Nursing. It is an elderly home which functions under Western Provincial Social Service Department with 165 elderly residents.



During this period, the undergraduates had an opportunity to work closely with the elderly people from a variety of socio- economic backgrounds. The students engaged in this project with great enthusiasm and provided a holistic care for sick and normal elderly residents. Apart from that, the undergraduates supported the ongoing activities of the elderly home such as giving assistance to colour wash the building.

The officials of the residential care facility were highly satisfied with the caring activities and the support given by the undergraduates of the Faculty of Nursing, and they expressed their gratitude to the Dean and the academics of the Department of Clinical Nursing of the Faculty for selecting their institution for placement of the undergraduates and they considered it great honor for them. In addition, some essential medicines for elderly residents were donated with the contribution of academic and non-academic staff members of the Department of Clinical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing. Prof. SSP Warnakulasuriya, Dean, Faculty of Nursing and Dr G. Kisokanth, Head, Department of Clinical Nursing participated in the event of donating the medicine.

Submitted by:

Ms. U.G. Nirmala Priyadarshani (Coordinator of the Geriatric Care Nursing Module)
Lecturer (Probationary)
Department of Clinical Nursing
Faculty of Nursing
University of Colombo

Achievements & Awards

Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence – 2019



Dr.Sirimal Premakumara, a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Basic Sciences and Social Science of the Faculty of Nursing was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence – 2019 at the Postgraduate Convocation held on the 29th of July 2022 at the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall.

Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence – 2020



Prof. Sudath Warnakulasuriya, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence – 2020 at the Postgraduate Convocation held on the 12th of October 2022 at the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall.

Dean's List Award



Prof. S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya, the Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo has taken the initiative to present the students with a 'Dean's List Award'. This award is given in recognition of the academic excellence of the students while motivating them to perform well in the future. In conjunction with the International Nursing

Conference, which was held on 20th October 2022, eight students from two batches received the Dean's List award.

Four students from 2016/2017 batch, Elango Shopijen, Nishani Chathurika, Kavishka Madushan and Udara Lakshini received the award admiring their excellent performances for 2018/2019 academic year. Another four students from the batch 2017/2018, Sheveena Tharindi, Shashini Ratnayake, Lakshani Danthanarayana, Shalomi Perera received the award in recognition of their excellent performances for 2019/2020 academic year. Students were gifted with certificates of appreciation.



Submitted by:

Shashini Malsha Ratnayake

2017/2018 Batch,

Faculty of Nursing,

University of Colombo

Achievements of the Freshers' Tournament 2022- Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo

❖ Carom

This tournament was held on the 27th of August 2022 at the indoor stadium, University of Colombo. The girls' team of 2020/2021 batch of the Faculty of Nursing won the championship.

- Sanduni Hansika 2021n00538
- Madara Madhuhansi 2021n00540
- Muthuni Pamodya 2021n00462
- Rashmi Mayangi 2021n00478
- Ishani Kaushalya 2021n00468
- Chathumini Kaveesha 2021n00541
- Shashi Narthana 2021n00504
- Piyumi Gajaweera 2021n00534



❖ Weightlifting

This event was held on the 29th of August 2022, at the indoor stadium, University of Colombo. The female students won the 55-59 weight categories and the 3rd place was secured by the boys.

Women's powerlifting (55-59 weight class)- First place

Hashini Anuththara (2021n00488)



Men's powerlifting (over 92 weight class)-Thirds place

Piyuma Fernando (2021n00449)



❖ **Boxing**

This event was held exclusively for the boys on the 31st of August 2022 at the indoor stadium, University of Colombo. The team of the Faculty of Nursing got the 3rd place.



- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| • Oshadha Nadeeshan | 2021n00489 |
| • Sivasangar Sarankan | 2021n00506 |
| • Thinal Laknila | 2021n00494 |
| • Piyuma Fernando | 2021n00449 |

❖ **Hockey**

This event was held on the 2nd of September 2022 at the outdoor stadium, University of Colombo. The girls' team of the Faculty of Nursing became the 2nd runner-up.



| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| • Muthuni Pamodya | 2021n00462 |
| • Pradusha Lakmini | 2021n00477 |
| • Gayathri Malsha | 2021n00487 |
| • Hashini Anuththara | 2021n00487 |
| • Shashini Niwarthana | 2021n00455 |
| • Thilakshi Hansika | 2021n00530 |
| • Piyumi Kanchana | 2021n00535 |
| • Shashini Dulanji | 2021n00465 |
| • Rashmi Mayangi | 2021n00478 |
| • Sanduni Hansika | 2021n00538 |

❖ Elle

This event was held on the 4th of September 2022 at the outdoor stadium, University of Colombo. The boys' team of the Faculty of Nursing became the 2nd runner-up.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| • Thanuja Thennakoon | 2021n00524 |
| • Piyuma Krishan | 2021n00449 |
| • Tharusha Dilshan | 2021n00451 |
| • Hasith Chamara | 2021n00437 |
| • Thinal Laknila | 2021n00494 |
| • Kavinda Bandara | 2021n00431 |
| • Udesh Neranjala | 2021n00490 |
| • Arul Jeewithan | 2021n00426 |
| • Isuru Lakshan | 2021n00536 |
| • Ravindu Thathsara | 2021n00522 |
| • Chathura Madushan | 2021n00460 |
| • Dhanuka Pabasara | 2021n00457 |
| • Thilina Dhananjya | 2021n00458 |
| • Isuru Theekshana | 2021n00429 |
| • Razny Ahmed | 2021n00423 |
| • Buddima Prabhath | 2021n00544 |
| • Oshadha Nadeeshan | 2021n00489 |
| • J. Swasthigan | 2021n00520 |



Inter-faculty tournaments- 2022 University of Colombo

❖ Hockey

It was held on the 4th of November 2022 at the outdoor stadium, University of Colombo. The girls' team of the Faculty of Nursing became the 1st runner-up.



- H.M.M. Sachini Herath 2019n00242
- G.K.H.A. Manathunga 2021n00488
- P.K. Gamage 2012n00535
- H.K.R.M. Lakshani 2021n00478
- T.W.S.D.K. Jayawardhana 2021n00465
- D.D.S.N. Dompaga 2020n00328
- M.D. Ruwanpathirana 2022n00381

University colors

Sport: Taekwondo

Name: Nandupa D.B.T.

Batch: 1ST Batch

Reg.no: 2017N00048



Sport: Rowing

Name: G.D.T.Garumanna

Batch: 1st batch

Reg.no: 2017N00017



Special events

2nd Oath Ceremony



The Oath Ceremony, also known as the Lamp Lighting Ceremony, formally recognizes the nursing students' entry into the nursing profession and their dedication towards this profession. The lamp symbolizes the light that a nurse becomes to her patients as well as the hope and comfort a nurse extends to those who suffer. The Oath Ceremony is held as a tribute to Florence Nightingale and this is an auspicious occasion in the life of a nurse. The nursing undergraduates usually take their oath after receiving their caps and the lamps.



The Oath and Lamp Lighting Ceremony of the 2nd Batch (2017/2018) of B.Sc. Nursing undergraduates of the Faculty of Nursing University of Colombo, Sri Lanka was held on the 17th of June 2022, in the Faculty Auditorium.

Professor S.S.P Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, welcomed the delegates. Senior Professor H.D Karunaratne, addressed the gathering as the Chief Guest and congratulated the undergraduates who were ready to dedicate themselves to the profession. The Guest of Honour, Mrs. A.M.A Abenayaka, the Director, Nursing Education, Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine delivered the ceremonial speech and highlighted the importance of the Oath Ceremony for the student nurses.



The Head of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, Mrs W.A.R.P. Menike felicitated Miss Florence Nightingale. Further she delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated all the staff and the invitees for their contribution in making this event a success. The student nurses graciously lit their lamps and took their "Nightingale Pledge" which illuminated the event. This Nightingale Oath is a statement that defines nursing and the principles established by the founding mother Florence Nightingale. The ceremony was graced by the dignitaries of the University of Colombo, members from other universities and the Ministry of Health, nursing staff of the hospital, and BSc nursing students of other batches.

Submitted by:

W.A.R.P. Menike

Head/Senior Lecturer

Department of Fundamentals of Nursing, Faculty of Nursing

3rd Oath Ceremony

The Oath and Lamp Lighting Ceremony of the 3rd Batch (2018/2019) of B.Sc. Nursing undergraduates of the Faculty of Nursing, the University of Colombo was held on the 6th of December 2022, in the faculty auditorium.



Professor S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya, the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, welcomed the delegates. Senior Professor H.D Karunaratne was the Chief Guest of the ceremony and he addressed the gathering congratulating the undergraduates who were ready to dedicate themselves to the profession. The special ceremonial lamp was lit by the Head of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing Mrs. W.A.R.P. Menike and Senior

Lecturer Mrs. N.A.R. Nettasinghe felicitated Miss Florence Nightingale, the Founder of Nursing.



The student nurses took the Nightingale Pledge which illuminated the event. The Ceremonial Speech was delivered by the Dean of the faculty, Professor S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya. This is the 3rd Oath-taking and dedication ceremony of nursing undergraduates of Faculty of Nursing. The ceremony was graced by the dignitaries of the University of Colombo, the nursing staff of the hospital and BSc nursing students of other batches. Further, the Head of the Department of Fundamentals of Nursing Mrs. W.A.R.P. Menike delivered the vote of thanks appreciating all the staff for their support and thanking the invitees for their participation in this important function.

Submitted by:

Mrs. W.A.R.P.Menike

Chairperson of the Oath Ceremony 2018/2019 Batch

Head/Senior Lecturer

Department of Fundamentals of Nursing

Publishing of the 1st Issue of the Faculty of Nursing Newsletter



The Faculty of Nursing published the 1st issue of the faculty newsletter on the 20th of October 2022 with the participation of the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Senior Prof. H.D. Karunaratne.



Submitted by:

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

**Members of the Library Committee- Faculty of
Nursing**

Prof. S.S.P. Warnakulasuriya

Dr. G. Kisokanth

Ms. M.G.A.S. Malkanthie

Ms. D.L.N.L. Ubhayawardana

Ms. K.I.D.F. Senanayake

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from you!***