

## **Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at NHSL, Colombo**

### **1.1. Preliminaries**

The inaugural meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine was held at the surgical lecture theatre on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo. The meeting commenced around 3.15 pm. As this was the first meeting, following the National anthem, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Lalith Wijeratne, Consultant Rheumatologist and Chairperson of the Specialty Board in Elderly Medicine at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM), Colombo.

Dr. Wijeratne described the evolution of the specialty of Geriatric Medicine in Sri Lanka, the pioneers in the field who have contributed to bring this specialty to limelight and how the PGIM Colombo initiated the Diploma Course in Elderly Medicine. He further enlightened the gathering about the proposed MD in Elderly Medicine specialty which is due to be started later this year.

### **1.2. Constitution of the Sri Lanka Association in Geriatric Medicine**

Following the welcome address, the next item on the agenda was to discuss the Constitution of the Sri Lanka Association in Geriatric Medicine. It was presented by Dr. Antoinette Perera who went through the constitution word by word and finally it was approved by the audience proposed by Dr. Selvie Perera and seconded by Dr. Aindralal Balasuriya.

### **1.3. Election of Office Bearers**

The next item on the agenda was to elect the office bearers of the Association.

Post	Office bearer	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Dr. Dilhar Samaraweera	Dr. Antoinette Perera	Dr. Lalith Wijeratne
Secretary	Dr. Achala Balasuriya	Dr. Lalith Wijeratne	Dr. Shiromi Maduwage
Vice President	Dr. Priyankara Jayawardena	Dr. Shiromi Maduwage	Dr. Achala Balasuriya
Assistant Secretary	Dr. Dilanka Thilakarathna	Dr. Harendra Sandanayake	Dr. Niroshi Bandusena
Treasurer	Dr. Aindralal Balasuriya	Dr. Dilhar Samarawera	Dr. Antoinette Perera
Council Member	Prof. Sarath Lekamwasam	Dr. Aindralal Balasuriya	Dr. Lalith Wijeratne

Council Member	Dr. Antoinette Perera	Dr. Achala Balasuriya	Dr. Shiromi Maduwage
Council Member	Dr. Shiromi Maduwage	Dr. Aindralal Balasuriya	Dr. Dilhar Samaraweera
Council Member	Dr. Barana Millawithana	Dr. Selvie Perera	Dr. Lasantha Ganewatte
Council Member	Dr. Lalith Wijeratne	Dr. Dilhar Samaraweera	Dr. Sarangi Keerthipala
Patron	Dr. Selvie Perera	Dr. M.K. Ragunathan	Dr. Lalith Wijeratne

Since there were no additional names for any of the posts, all were elected without voting.

#### **1.4. Association Logo and the Address**

Then it was time to select a logo for the association. There were several logos designed by Dr. Shanaike Prasad Karunaratne and after explaining the meaning of the logos, the following logo was accepted by all as the suitable logo for the association.



Dr. Lalith Wijeratne informed that he was successful in getting a room at the Sri Lanka Medical Association. Hence, the address of the Association is as follows.

Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine  
 "Wijerama House"  
 6, Wijerama Mawatha  
 Colombo 7.

The e-mail address of the Association is [srilagm@gmail.com](mailto:srilagm@gmail.com)

### **1.5. Presidential Address**

Then it was time for the Presidential Address by the newly elected president, Dr. Dilhar Samaraweera. The President thanked the members for electing him as the First President of Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine (SLAGM). He said that the SLAGM has to improve the quality of life of elderly people in Sri Lanka by engaging in services, research and academic activities by enhancing knowledge about Geriatric Medicine and should be an avenue for all those who are interested in this field to come together to work for the common interest. He also stated that the Association will start an academic programme as part of a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme and facilitate research activities for the young doctors interested in publishing their research related to elderly care by publishing a journal in the near future.

### **1.6. Any other matters**

Dr. M.K. Ragunathan, Consultant Physician said that he, as the President of the Ceylon College of Physicians and as the Chairperson of the Board of Study in Medicine at the PGIM wish to extend his congratulations to the Association and wished good luck for the future.

Dr. Barana Millawithana, a young Physician working at Wathupitiwala Hospital thanked the audience for selecting him as a Council Member. He has done postgraduate studies in Geriatric Medicine in the UK in and expressed his wish to serve the elderly people of this country.

### **1.7. Vote of Thanks**

Finally, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Achala Balasuriya, Secretary of the Association and everyone was invited for the refreshments.

Dr. Achala Balasuriya

Secretary/ SLAGM