

## MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

### Doctor Samidi Navaratne



The Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference (PeMSARC) is of utmost importance to our faculty and is being held for the third successive year in 2024. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate students, academics, and the wider medical community a platform to showcase research, exchange ideas, and foster collaborations. Notably, PeMSARC is special because it is collaboratively planned and executed by academic staff and medical students, providing students with invaluable experience in organizing a medical conference while nurturing closer ties with faculty members.

Medical science consistently shows that with adequate resources, groundbreaking advancements in treatment and disease prevention are possible. Undergraduate research, in particular, is vital to this progress, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of scientific inquiry in our students. Early engagement in research allows students to explore various facets of medicine, cultivate a passion for discovery, and contribute significantly to medical knowledge. This year, we have 42 undergraduate research presentations, and I have no doubt that the total experience of planning, implementing, and disseminating their research, as well as planning this conference, will not only inspire students to pursue research, think beyond conventional boundaries, and enhance their academic journey but also will prepare them for future roles as medical professionals, researchers, and innovators.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all authors, reviewers, and contributors for their scholarly work and to the Dean, organizing committee, and sponsors for their unwavering support. Your dedication ensures the sustainability of PeMSARC 24, making it a premier platform for research and innovation.

Thank you for being a part of PeMSARC' 24. I hope you find this conference inspiring and enriching.

Dr. Samidi Navaratna  
MBBS, DCH, MSc, MD  
Consultant Community Physician  
Senior Lecturer  
Conference Chair, PeMSARC 24