A snapshot of the pioneering personalities in the Paediatric Scenario in Sri Lanka

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The Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH) for Children is the premier, exclusively paediatric hospital, in Sri Lanka. It was opened in 1910 and named after the former First Lady, Lina Ridgeway, the wife of the former British Governor of Ceylon, the name used to describe this resplendent island at that time. LRH is now, arguably, the largest Children's Hospital in the world with a bed strength of over 1100.

LRH paved the way for the development of Paediatrics in the country. It is with a tremendous sense of nostalgia that I wish to record, in the chronological order of assumption of duties, the Specialist Consultant Paediatricians who were in charge of the different units of LRH over many a decade and set up a platform for the development of paediatrics in the country. This document is an addendum/appendix to the chapter on the “History of Paediatrics in Sri Lanka” of the book History of Medicine in Sri Lanka, Second Edition, published by the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

Box 1: General Paediatricians in Professorial Unit

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Box 2: General Paediatricians in Ministry of Health Units

Following the establishment of the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, steps were taken to establish paediatric units in the rest of the country. The pioneers that set up Paediatric Units in the hospitals of the rest of the country are shown in Box 3.

Box 3: Pioneers that set up Paediatric Units in the hospitals of the rest of the country

Then came the stage of ultra-specialty development at LRH. Pioneers in those ventures are listed in Boxes 4-8.

**Box 4**

Rheumatologists
- Dr. L. P. D. Gunawardene
- Dr. Monica Perera
- Dr. Vijayagahawa
- Dr. Themiya Vidyasagara
- Dr. Antoinette Herath
- Dr. Lilani Weerasekera
- Dr. Nihal Gunattilleke
- Dr. Saman Jayasetti
- Dr. S. H. Monica de Silva

Radiologists
- Dr. J. P. A. Jayasundera
- Dr. A. W. Atukorala
- Dr. L. N. A. Gooneratne
- Dr. Tamara Rajapakse
- Dr. Kishani Pathirana
- Dr. Jerard Fernando
- Dr. Nayana Samarasinghe
- Dr. Y. Ubahinimal

Pathologists
- Dr. M. Watson
- Dr. S. Wijesekera
- Dr. Merrill Perera
- Dr. Neil Fernando
- Dr. Terrance Samarasinghe
- Dr. Kusuma Amaranthunga
- Dr. Skaromi Perera
- Dr. Sandini Gunaratne.

**Box 5**

Haematologists
- Dr. Sudharma Vidyathilaka
- Dr. Mala Jayatilleke.

Chemical Pathologists
- Dr. Iresha Jasinge

Microbiologists
- Dr. Velayuthapillai
- Dr. Kumudu Karunaratne

Plastic Surgeons
- Dr. Romez Gunasekera

Neonatologists
- Dr. Ramya de Silva

Paediatric Dermatologists
- Professor Jayamini Seneviratne

**Box 6**

Paediatric Surgeons
- Professor Milroy Paul
- Dr. M.V.P. Peris
- Dr. P. R. Wijitara
- Dr. S. F. Wickramasinghe
- Dr. F. A. Sandrasagara
- Dr. Gununi Karunaratne
- Dr. Michael Abeyaratne
- Dr. S. N. Perera
- Dr. Y. Kulasekera
- Dr. R. J. Dias.
- Dr. Supun Hemamayake
- Dr. Ananda Lamahewage
- Dr. Dhamanasi Jayawardhane
- Dr. Chandima Siriyanachchi
- Dr. Malik Samarasinghe
- Dr. Sanjaya Abeygunawardene

Paediatric Cardiologists
- Dr. S. Narendran
- Dr. Duninda Samarasinghe
- Dr. Shehan Perera
- Dr. Ruwan Morawaikkorale

Paediatric Neurologists
- Dr. Jithangi Wanigasinghe
- Dr. Pyara Ratnayake
- Dr. Anuruddha Padenshi

**Box 7**

Paediatric Nephrologists
- Dr. Vindya Gunasekera
- Dr. Randula Ranawaka

Paediatric Endocrinologists
- Professor Shamya de Silva
- Dr. Navoda Atapattu
- Dr. Sumudu Seneviratne

Paediatric Cardio-thoracic Surgeons
- Dr. Iresh Wijemanne
- Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe
- Dr. Mahendra Munasinghe
- Dr. Kanchana Singhappuli
- Dr. Y. K. M. Lalhe
- Dr. Priyanga Ratnayake

Paediatric Intensivists
- Dr. Sunil Wijesuriya
- Dr. Srilal de Silva
- Dr. Nalin Kithulatte
- Dr. Manjula Hewagegana

Box 9: Administrators at LRH

The administrators who played a pioneering role at LRH from the 1950s up to date are shown in Box 9.

The list of Board Certified Specialists outside LRH are shown in Boxes 10 and 11.

The author wishes to tender his apologies, in advance, if any name or names have been inadvertently left out and assures the readership that it is solely unintentional.