

Miscellanea

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.

General Paediatricians in the Professorial Unit of the University of Ceylon, and later, The University of Colombo

- Professor C. C. de Silva
- Professor Priyani E. Soysa
- Professor Jasmine Nanayakkara
- Dr. S. Nallainathan
- Professor Sanath P. Lamabadusuriya
- Dr. Sushila Fonseka
- Dr. David Weerasooriya
- Dr. Narada Warnasuriya
- Dr S. Vamadevan
- Dr. M. Selvaraja
- Professor Manouri P. Senanayake
- Professor Shama de Silva
- Dr. Udayanthi Mahamiththawa
- Dr. Ishani Rodrigo
- Dr. R. Ajanthan
- Professor Pujitha Wickramasinghe
- Dr. Jithangi Wanigasinghe
- Dr. Samanmali Sumanasena
- Dr. Nishani Lucas
- Dr. Sumudu Seneviratne
- Dr. Randula Ranawaka
- Dr. Ruwangi Dissanaike
- Professor D. G. Harendra de Silva

Box 1: General Paediatricians in Professorial Unit

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The list of General Paediatricians in the Professorial Unit of the University of Ceylon and later, the University of Colombo is shown in Box 1.

The list of General Paediatricians in the Ministry of Health Units is shown in Box 2.

General Paediatricians in the Ministry of Health Units

- Dr. Stanley de Silva
- Dr. Grace Barr Kumarakulasinghe (nee Sinnethamby)
- Dr. Stella G. de Silva
- Dr. E. H. Mirando
- Dr. M. H. M. Hamza
- Dr. M. C. J. Hunt,
- Dr. G. John V. Perera
- Dr. Rajes Rajakariar
- Dr. Benjamin S. David
- Dr. H. M. P. Perera
- Dr. Aleric E. Jayasinghe
- Dr. Sumi Jayaweera
- Dr. D. A. Sonnadara
- Dr. Kamalika Abeyaratne (nee Wickramasuriya)
- Dr. D. R. Karunaratne
- Dr. G. N. Lucas
- Dr. Maximus Fernandopulle
- Dr. E. A. Nimal Fonseka
- Dr. B. J. C. Perera
- Dr. D. D. Sarath de Silva
- Dr. D. H. Karunatilaka
- Dr. Shanthamali de Silva
- Dr. Ira Senanayake
- Dr. Jeevani Sarathchandra
- Dr. Kalyani Guruge
- Dr. Padmakanthi Wijesuriya
- Dr. Pushpa M. G. Punchihewa
- Dr. Samantha Waidyanatha
- Dr. T. Sekar
- Dr. Devan Mendis
- Dr. Ramya Ediriweera
- Dr. Kumudu Weerasekera
- Dr. Kala Somasunderam

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.

- ❖ Dr. G. John V. Perera (Galle Paediatric Unit in 1953)
- ❖ Dr. J. A. K. Perera (Kandy Paediatric Unit in 1953)
- ❖ Dr. S. J. Cyril Perera (Ragama Paediatric Unit in 1955)
- ❖ Dr. Priyani E. Soysa (Jaffna Paediatric Unit in 1956 and Ratnapura Paediatric Unit in 1960)
- ❖ Dr. H. M. P. Perera (Kurunegala Paediatric Unit in 1956)
- ❖ Dr. M. H. M. Hamza (Kalutara Paediatric Unit in 1956 and Badulla in 1958)
- ❖ Dr. Philline Peiris (Chest Hospital Paediatric Units, Welisara and Kandana in 1958)
- ❖ Dr. Benjamin S. David (Batticaloa Paediatric Unit in 1960)
- ❖ Dr. Terrence Perera (Anuradhapura Paediatric Unit in 1962)
- ❖ Dr. M. C. J. Hunt (Colombo South Hospital Paediatric Unit in 1965)
- ❖ Dr. Kamalika Abeyaratne (Gampaha Paediatric Unit in 1966)

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.

- Rheumatologists**
- Dr. L. P. D. Gunawardene
 - Dr. Monica Perera
 - Dr. Vijeraghavan
 - Dr. Themiya Vidyasagara
 - Dr. Antoinette Herath
 - Dr. Lilani Weerasekera
 - Dr. Nihal Gunatilleke
 - Dr. Saman Jayanetti
 - Dr. S. H. Monica de Silva
- Radiologists**
- Dr. J. P. A. Jayasundera
 - Dr. A. W. Atukorale
 - Dr. I. N. A. Gooneratne
 - Dr. Tamara Rajapakse
 - Dr. Kishani Pathirana
 - Dr. Jerard Fernando
 - Dr. Nayana Samarasinghe
 - Dr. Y. Ubaitullah
- Pathologists**
- Dr. M. Watson
 - Dr. S. Wijesekera
 - Dr. Merrill Perera
 - Dr. Neil Fernando
 - Dr. Terrance Samarasinghe
 - Dr. Kusuma Amaratunga
 - Dr. Shiromi Perera
 - Dr. Sandini Gunaratna.

Box 4

- Haematologists**
- Dr. Sudharma Vidyathilaka
 - Dr. Mala Jayatilleke.
- Chemical Pathologists**
- Dr. Iresha Jasinge
- Microbiologists**
- Dr. Velayuthapillai
 - Dr. Kumudu Karunaratne
- Plastic Surgeons**
- Dr. Romesh Gunasekera
- Neonatologists**
- Dr. Ramya de Silva
- Paediatric Dermatologists**
- Professor Jayamini Seneviratne

Box 5

- Paediatric Surgeons**
- Professor Milroy Paul
 - Dr. M.V.P. Peiris
 - Dr. P.R. Walpita
 - Dr. S.F. Wickramasinghe
 - Dr. F.A. Sandrasagara
 - Dr. Gamini Karunaratne
 - Dr. Michael Abeyaratna
 - Dr. S.N. Perera
 - Dr. Y. Kulasekera
 - Dr. R.J. Dias.
 - Dr. Supun Hennanayake
 - Dr. Ananda Lamaheewage
 - Dr. Dharmasri Jayewardhene
 - Dr. Chandima Suriyarachchi
 - Dr. Malik Samarasinghe
 - Dr. Sanjaya Abeygunawardene
- Paediatric Cardiologists**
- Dr. S. Narenthiran
 - Dr. Duminda Samarasinghe
 - Dr. Shehan Perera
 - Dr. Ruwan Morawakkorale
- Paediatric Neurologists**
- Dr. Jithangi Wanigasinghe
 - Dr. Pyara Ratnayake
 - Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya

Box 6

- Paediatric Nephrologists**
- Dr. Vindya Gunasekera
 - Dr. Randula Ranawaka
- Paediatric Endocrinologists**
- Professor Shamy de Silva
 - Dr. Navoda Atapattu
 - Dr. Sumudu Seneviratne
- Paediatric Cardio-thoracic Surgeons**
- Dr. Iresh Wijemanne
 - Dr. Gamini Ranasinghe
 - Dr. Mahendra Munasinghe
 - Dr. Kanchana Singappuli
 - Dr. Y. K. M. Lahie
 - Dr. Priyanga Ratnayake
- Paediatric Intensivists**
- Dr. Sunil Wijesuriya
 - Dr. Srilal de Silva
 - Dr. Nalin Kitulwatte
 - Dr. Manjula Hewageegana

Box 7

<p>Child Psychiatrists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Anula Nikapotha • Professor Hemamali Perera • Dr. Buddhi Karunatilaka • Dr. Swarna Wijetunga. • Dr. Sudarshani Seneviratne, <p>Orthopaedic Surgeons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Udai de SILVA • Dr. Marius de Almeida • Dr. Nandana Dassanaik • Dr. Sunil Wijesinghe
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Box 8

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

<p>Administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. L. O. Abeyaratne and Dr. Stanley de Silva in the 1950s. • Dr. Bertie Silva, Dr. L. N. Jayasuriya and Dr. D. R. Karunaratne in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. • Dr. Wimal Jayantha, Dr. Mahanama Rajamanthri, Dr. Rathnasiri Hewage, Dr. Linton Pathmasiri and Dr. Kumara Wickramasinghe during the last few decades.
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Box 9: Administrators at LRH

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

<p>Neonatologists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Street Maternity Hospital – Dr. Saman Kumara • Colombo South Teaching Hospital - Dr. Rajiv Sathanandaraja • De Soysa Maternity Hospital – Dr. Nalin Gamathige and Dr. Nishani Lucas • Teaching Hospital Kandy – Dr. Nalika Menike • Teaching Hospital Ragama – Dr. Ranmali Rodrigo • District Hospital Gampaha – Dr. Shyama Basnayake <p>Paediatric Surgeons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Hospital Karapitiya – Dr. S Kasthuri and Dr. Janath Liyanage • Teaching Hospital Kandy – Dr. M Jeevanandan • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. K. S. U. Kiriwaththuduwa and Dr. G. D. L. P. Jayawardene • Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura – Dr. V. H. Vithana • Teaching Hospital Jaffna – Dr. H. C. M. Hettiarachchi <p>Paediatric Cardiologists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. Lasantha Mahanama and Dr. Sunethra Irugalbandara • Teaching Hospital Karapitiya – Dr. Mangala Gunatilleke • Teaching Hospital Kurunegala – Dr. Dimuthu Weerasooriya • Teaching Hospital Jaffna – Dr. I. R. Ragunathan • Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura – Dr. Charith de Silva

Box 10

<p>Paediatric Neurologists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Hospital Karapitiya – Dr. Gamunu Hewavitharana • Teaching Hospital Kandy – Dr. Jagath Munasinghe • Colombo South Teaching Hospital - Dr. Saraji Wijesekera • Teaching Hospital Kurunegala – Dr. Sanjaya Fernando • Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura – Dr. Chryshanth Dalpatadu <p>Paediatric Nephrologists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. Enoka Perera • Teaching Hospital Karapitiya – Dr. Harshani Dharmawardene • Teaching Hospital Peradeniya – Dr. Shenal Thalagahagoda <p>Paediatric Intensivists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. M. A. M. Faizal <p>Paediatric Endocrinologists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. Nimasiri Ginige <p>Paediatric Psychiatrists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specialized Children's Hospital, Peradeniya – Dr. Rasika Perera
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Box 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.