

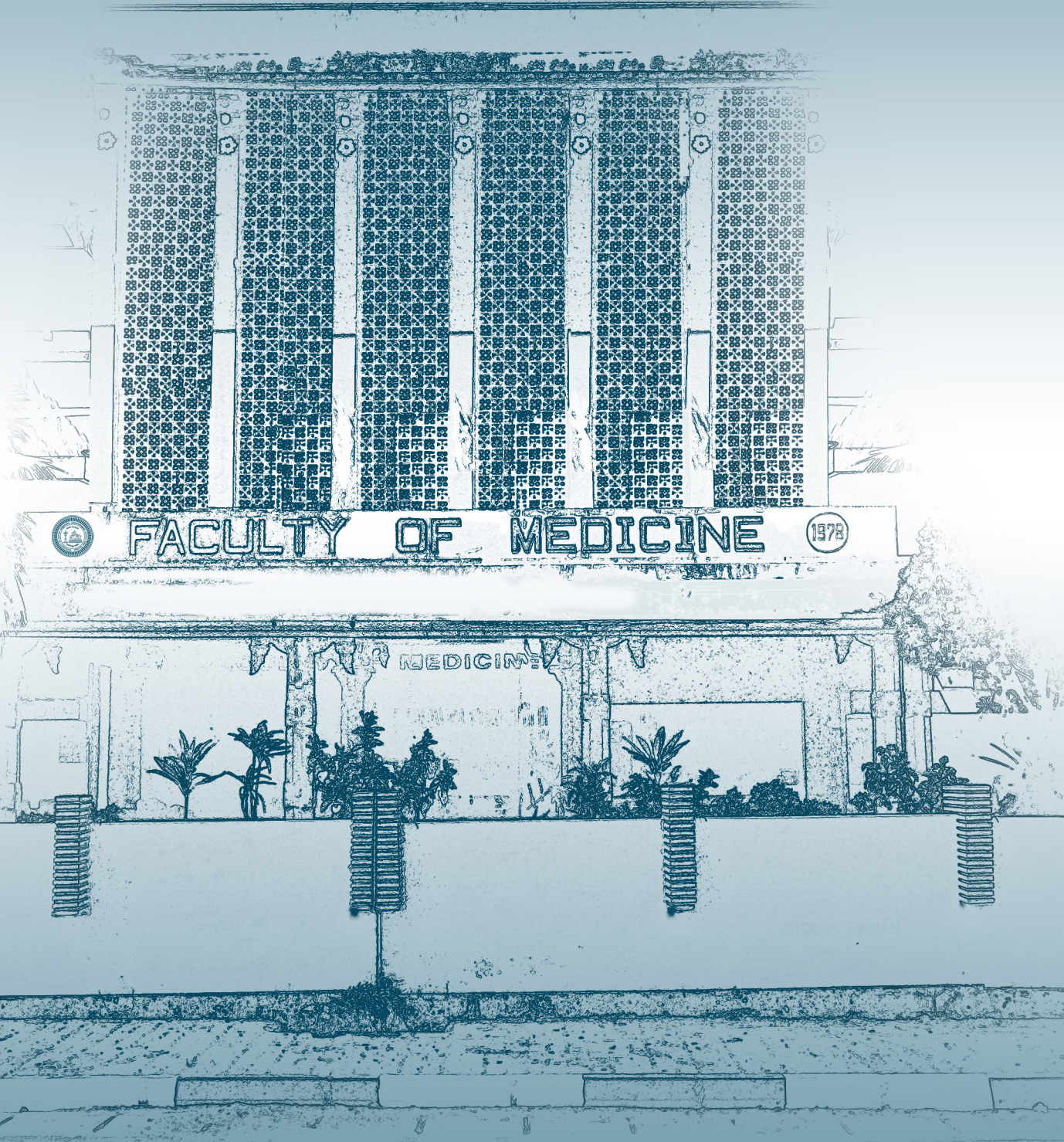


Volume 2, Issue 1

January, 2023

HORIZON

The Bulletin of Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna



Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

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Layout editors:

Ms. Ann Anobiya Alstan

Mr. R. Viththakan

Contact Us:

*Faculty of Medicine,
University of Jaffna
Adiyapatham Road,
Kokuwil.
Sri Lanka*

Email: newsletter@med.jfn.ac.lk

Message from the Dean

I welcome you to Volume 2 of the “Horizon” - the quarterly magazine of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna. This issue covers the highlights of the events at the faculty in the year 2022. In the past three years we have experienced unprecedented challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis.



Despite the challenges, the faculty has achieved numerous progressions. The genuinely inspirational dedication of the faculty, both the staff and students, helped us to move our programs forward and create a great educational experience. The team spirit constructed during the crisis should be strengthened with modern skills and facilities. Health is considered an essential component of human capital. As a leading institution in creating highly competent health professionals, the faculty will continue to contribute to achieving universal health coverage and providing access to affordable, high-quality health care.

We have added new, cutting-edge elements to our undergraduate curriculum, including essential clinical and research skills. The faculty also concentrates on developing transdisciplinary interprofessional research projects for the advancement of the community, and provides an efficient and cost-effective healthcare system that could contribute to economic development.

Our future strategy is ensuring that our faculty remains well-positioned to maintain its phenomenal growth including being a fascinating world-class faculty, expanding our reputations, and continuing to renew our teaching, research, and community outreach activities, and to elevate these activities to the international level.

We look forward to keeping you posted on our progress on these vital fronts and the astonishing achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni.

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran
Dean
Faculty of Medicine
University of Jaffna

EDITORIAL

Striking the right balance

In today's world, we are witnessing a fast transformation in almost every aspect of our life. The needs, morals, values, expectations, and the philosophy of existence are changing very fast, and this trend does not leave medical education aside. Though we adopt a number of latest evidence and novel technologies, we are continuously struggling to maintain the core of medical education, producing value-based doctors (with, of course, adequate knowledge, skills, and professionalism). This is partly influenced by those who choose medicine as their career and their motives and purposes. It is also influenced by the institutions which deliver medical education. In contrast to the rapid change in the outside world, there are only minimal changes happening in the medical institutions, in terms of their environment, education, assessments, and examination systems. This creates an irony, which negatively influences the desired outcome.

The present scenario leaves us in a quandary. On one side, we need to be flexible and adapt to the changes in order to survive and grow; on the other side, since our medical discipline is considered a life-saving profession (although in reality, many other disciplines are also saving the lives of the people!) that directly deals with the sufferings of fellow humans, we are forced to maintain the basic human values and medical standards, without which we can no longer function as healers.

In general, most students opt medicine either as a result of parental pressure or due to the fact that they conceptualize medicine as a prestige symbol. It is evident that when they enter into the real medical world, most of them are not aware of the demands of the profession they themselves have selected. In reality, the medical career is much different from the other, sometimes high earning, careers. It demands a huge amount of time, energy, and personal effort. Without knowing this fundamental truth many students perceive the career as stressful, and act accordingly. Facing a number of stressful situations and dealing with them aptly are two important components of medical education and training.

However, the medical institutions should not take these stress inoculation exercises lightly and make sure that the unwarranted, old fashioned, and regimental approaches are not used to test their students' capacity for tolerance and coping with adversities. It is observable that the present-day students (who are representative of our communities and societies) are more feeble and possess very low frustration tolerance.

When we get into a deadlock, it is important that we break the noxious cycle and find a way out. One simple technique is to teach and learn how to start enjoying the career and our life. Everything on Earth will have a good number of redeeming qualities. It is important that we invest in those qualities and take them further into our life.

We would do well to remember that change is inevitable and adapting to the change and moving with life is a necessity. Instead of complaining about people and systems, and developing a mutual blaming culture, we can use our energy to work together and find new ways of creating a minimally stressful teaching-learning environment of medical education.

In a medical education institution, one of the simple things the students can easily do is to make sure that they make their student life enjoyable without losing track of their tasks and academic performances. Similarly, the academics and clinicians can become stress-free by entrusting students towards adult learning while continuing their modeling. The role of the institution is to facilitate these processes within its capacity and mandate.

Prof. Sambasivamoorthy Sivayokan
Prof. Thirunavukarasu Kumanan

DEVELOPMENTS

Inauguration of Student Wellbeing Centre

Dr. S. Kumaran - Clinical Coordinator, Student Wellbeing Centre, University of Jaffna, and Dr. B. Balagobi - Coordinator, Student Wellbeing Centre, Faculty of Medicine, initiated a novel approach of establishing a Student Wellbeing Centre at the Faculty of Medicine as a focal point to develop coping skills among the students, provide remedial actions in stress management, and facilitate the students to improve their learning skills. The Student Wellbeing Centre was officially inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, on March 14, 2022.



Curriculum Revision



With the view of moving towards a module-based curriculum, two curriculum revision workshops were conducted in September and

December 2022, aimed at modifying the Phase II to module-based curriculum by 2025, strengthening clinical teaching during Phase II, and formulating assessment methodology during the shift to a modular system. Professor Shalini Sri Ranganathan, Professor in Pharmacology, was invited for the second workshop and she shared the experiences with the module curriculum of Faculty of Medicine, Colombo.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between London South Bank University (LSBU) and the University of Jaffna on July 19, 2022 to enter into a co-operative relationship for the specific purpose of exploring the potential for collaborative research and activities involving medical devices and prosthetics. Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna, and Prof. Michael Berthaume of LSBU signed the MOU on behalf of their institutions.



Opening of Senior Common Room

At the initiation of the Faculty of Medicine Teachers Association (FMTA), the Senior Common Room was opened on September 7, 2022.



Meeting with representatives from the Singapore Health Services Pvt. Ltd.

Representatives of Singapore Health Services Pvt. Ltd. visited the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna on November 15, 2022. They discussed with the Dean and academic staff about establishing a Research Centre and expanding the collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna and Singapore Health Services.



EVENTS

Arrival of 44th Batch

Medical programme for the 44th batch (2020 A/L) was inaugurated on January 24, 2022 at Hoover Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, in which 190 students were enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna for the academic year 2021/2022.



Annual Staff Get Together - 2022

At the initiation of the Human Resource Development Committee, the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna had its first staff get together on January 26, 2022. The events included musical chairs, tug of war, and musical programme, and ended with dinner. Both academic and non-academic staff enthusiastically participated in the events and showcased their talents. This get together would be a regular annual event in future.



Undergraduate Research Symposia (URS)

Fourth URS

The 4th Undergraduate Research Symposium jointly organised by the Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Jaffna, was held on February 03, 2022, under the theme “Unite for the well- being of the University Community”. Keynote addresses were delivered by Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah - Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna, Prof. S.S.P. Warmakulasuriya - Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Colombo, and Dr. Miyuru Chandradasa - Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Awards were given to the best three abstracts.



Fifth URS

The 5th Undergraduate Research Symposium of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, was held on December 05, 2022 under the theme “Wisdom through Research”. Prof. Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar, Professor in Health Data Science and Public Health at the Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham, was the Chief Guest. Awards were given to the best three abstracts presented in this symposium.





Medicos Week

Medicos' Week was organised by the 40th batch of students in the early part of 2022. The inauguration ceremony was held on February 26, 2022. The activities of Medicos' Week included field and track sports, indoor and outdoor games, and talent contests such as poetry, debate, music, dance and drama competitions. It concluded with an awarding ceremony on May 08, 2022 in which students from all the batches participated in cultural events.



Workshop for Mentors

A workshop for mentors was organised by the Mentoring Programme committee on March 09, 2022. Mentors from the faculty and extended faculty actively participated in the workshop. The event was coordinated by Dr. Ramya Kumar, Coordinator of Mentoring Programme.



Research Conference of Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna - 2022

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna hosted the Research Conference of Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna (RCFMJ) 2022 as a part of the 4th International Conference of the University of Jaffna (JUICE) with the focus on "Shaping the Medical Sciences in the New Normal".

The events of RCFMJ 2022 were supported by National and International Stakeholders, particularly Singapore Health Services, WHO country office Sri Lanka, Global Research Group in Atrial Fibrillation at University of Birmingham, UK, and FAIMED foundation. Sessions were conducted in hybrid mode.

Pre-conference workshop

A pre-conference workshop on "Challenges in Common Neglected Tropical Diseases in Northern Province of Sri Lanka and the way forward" was conducted for the Medical Officers of Health and medical officers working in the Northern region at Thinnai Hotel on August 04, 2022. Over 100 medical officers participated in this workshop.



Free paper sessions

Hybrid free paper sessions, which included 19 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations, were conducted on August 05, 2022. Awards were given for the first three oral presentations and for the best poster presentation.



Main conference

Hybrid free paper sessions, which included 19 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations, were conducted on August 05, 2022. Awards were given for the first three oral presentations and for the best poster presentation.



Medicos' Nite 2022

Medicos' Nite, the farewell for the 38th batch students, was organised by the 39th batch students on September 18, 2022.



General Convocation of the University of Jaffna

The 36th General Convocation of the University of Jaffna was held on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of October 2022 at the Indoor Stadium, University of Jaffna. At the convocation, 108 students were awarded the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and 01 student was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Medical Science.



Commemoration of the 200th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Samuel Fisk Green

American Ceylon Medical Missionary and Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, jointly organised the commemoration of the 200th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Samuel Fisk Green on October 10, 2022 at Hoover Auditorium.



Workshop on programme review

A follow up workshop on programme review was conducted on October 18, 2022 to plan the actions and strategies for Programme Review 2023.



Certificate course on leadership and management for healthcare providers

Professor Arri Coomaraswamy from the University of Birmingham, UK conducted a one-day University of Birmingham Certificate Course on Leadership and Management for Healthcare providers on November 20, 2022. Thirty four healthcare providers attended the course.



Sports Week

The Sports Week organised by the 41st batch students in November 2022 included a number of indoor and outdoor games. The inauguration ceremony of the Sports Week was held on November 26, 2022.



Fertility awareness day and Book launch



Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Surgery jointly organised the subfertility awareness programme and launched a book on subfertility titled “குழந்தையின்மை விளக்கங்களும் தீர்வுகளும்” on December 02, 2022 at Hoover Auditorium. The book was written by Dr. S. Raguraman and Dr. B. Balagobi. Several renowned persons graced the event and delivered their address. Dance, songs, and drama were performed by the students and volunteers from the community to create public awareness on subfertility and solutions.

“தாயாகிய தனித்தவம்” Book Launch

Book launching ceremony of “தாயாகிய தனித்தவம்”, a book on motherhood was held on December 07, at Nurses Training College of Jaffna Teaching Hospital. The Book was written by Dr. K. Guruparan. The Chief Guest for the occasion, Dr. J Ganeshamoorthy launched the book.



CULTURAL EVENTS

Pongal 2022

Pongal day was jointly organised by the 41st and 43rd batches on January 14, 2022. The Dean, Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran, Late Prof. S. Balakumar, and Prof. B. Kumarendran participated in the event. Games were also organised on this day, in which the students enthusiastically participated.



Vesak 2022

Vesak festival was organised by the 44th batch students on May 16, 2022. A “Dansal” was jointly organised by the 41st and 44th batches.



Karthigai vilakeedu

The 44th batch of students organised “Karthigai vilakeedu” on December 07, 2022 and lighted clay lamps within the faculty premises.



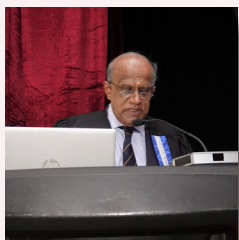
Olivizha 2022

“Olivizha” the Christmas celebration, under the theme “UT CAELUM” was organised by the 44th batch on December 08, 2022 at the Hoover Auditorium.



MEMORIAL LECTURES

Dr. Nadarajah Sivarajah Memorial Lecture



Dr. Nadarajah Sivarajah Memorial was held on February 26, 2022 at the Hoover Auditorium. The memorial lecture on “Some ethical tents for public health

policy” was delivered by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon, WHO Director General’s Special Envoy on COVID-19 for South East Asia.



Dr. Arunasalam Sivapathasundaram Memorial Lecture



Dr. Arunasalam Sivapathasundaram Memorial was held on March 21, 2022 at the Hoover Auditorium. The memorial lecture on “Curing

incurable: Development of genetic-based therapies for thalassemia” was delivered by Professor Sachith Mettananda, Professor of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.



Prof. Chellathurai Sivagnanasundram Memorial Lecture



Prof. Chellathurai Sivagnanasundram Memorial Lecture was held on March 30, 2022 at the Hoover Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine. The memorial lecture

on “Community-Based Medical Education: Prospects and Challenges” was delivered by Dr. R. Surenthirakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, and Senior Lecturer in Community and Family Medicine.



Dr. M. Ganeshratnam Memorial Lecture



Dr. M. Ganeshratnam Memorial Lecture 2022 was held on December 05, 2022 at Hoover Auditorium. The memorial lecture on “Surgery beyond the Scalpel” was

delivered by Dr. Satish Kumar Goonesinghe, President, The College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka and Consultant Urological Surgeon.



OVERSEAS EVENTS

Annual General Meeting of JMFOA - Australia

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, was invited as the Chief Guest to the Annual General Meeting JMFOA – Australia, held on October 01, 2022 at Crown Plaza, Hunter Valley, New South Wales, Australia.

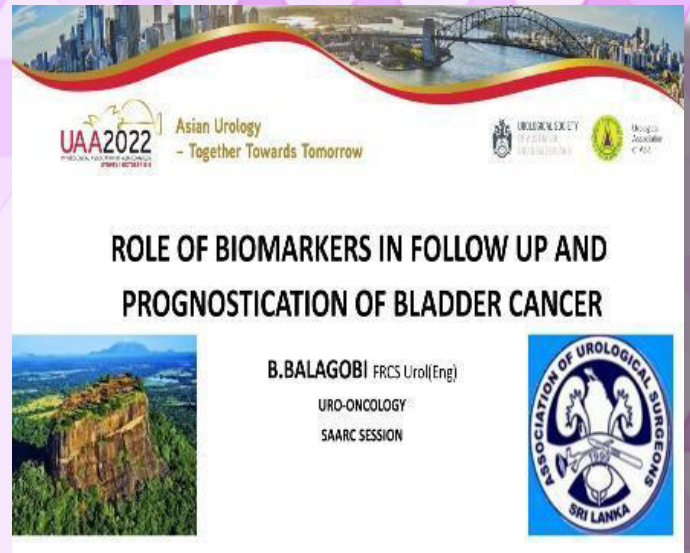


Nineteenth Urological Association of Asia Congress



Dr. B. Balagobi, Senior lecturer and Consultant Urological Surgeon was invited to deliver a guest lecture on “Role of biomarkers in follow up and prognostication of bladder cancer” at the UAA 2022,

19th Urological Association of Asia Congress held on October 01-05, 2022 in Sydney, Australia.



Annual General Meeting of JMFOA-Canada

The JFMOA - Canada invited Prof. Gitanjali Sathiadas, Chair Professor of Paediatrics as the Chief Guest for the occasion and presented her with a token of appreciation recognizing her 15 years of dedicated service and ongoing commitment at the Annual General Meeting held on November 14, 2022 in Toronto, Canada.



ACTIVITIES

Activities organised by SWWC and PPDS

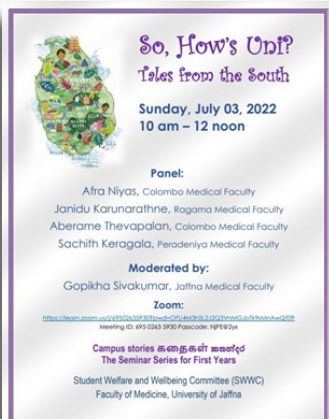
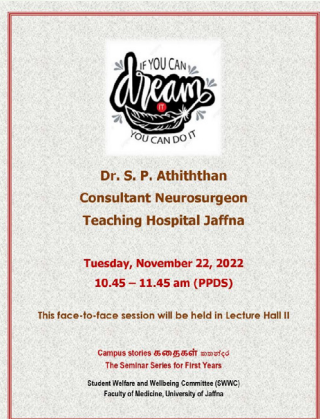
Preclinical Quiz competition

A Quiz competition on preclinical subjects was jointly organised by SWWC and Personal Professional Development Stream (PPDS) for the 44th batch on March 28, 2022 to encourage the student learning.



Campus stories கதைகள் கைநீட்ட series

A Motivational Seminar Series organised by the Student Welfare and Wellbeing Committee (SWWC) where people from diverse backgrounds share their experiences with the new batch of students with the aim of raising awareness among them about the realities of life as a medical student and facilitating interactions. In 2022, two such seminars were conducted in July and November 2022 via Zoom for the 44th batch students.



Healthy Diet Programme

Under the healthy diet programme, an organic garden has been set up within the Faculty premises by the students and staff of the Faculty of Medicine in July 2022.



As a part of the Healthy Diet Programme, a group of students conducted a workshop on cost-effective healthy diet for stakeholders on July 22, 2022 at the Student Wellbeing Centre.



Debate

A debate on “Virtual teaching is an effective mode of medical education in Sri Lanka, Agree/ Disagree?” was organised as a part of the activities of PPDS for the 42nd Batch students on September 30, 2022.



Symposium

A symposium on “Drug abuse and Wellbeing - Multilevel Perspective and Multiple responses” was jointly organised by PPDS and SWWC on December 09, 2022. Prof. S. Srisatkunarajah, the Vice Chancellor, University of Jaffna was the chief guest for the occasion. The speakers of the symposium were Ms. Ambika Satkunanathan (Former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka), Mr. A. A. Anandarajah (Honorable Magistrate, Magistrate court, Jaffna), Dr. T. Umaharan (Consultant Psychiatrist, Base Hospital, Tellippalai), and Dr. S. Kumaran (Coordinator, PPDS, Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna).



Jaffna Health City Project

The Department of Community and Family Medicine (DCFM) has been involved in the Jaffna Health City Project since 2019. In 2022, the following activities were carried out by DCFM under the Jaffna Health City Project.

Workshops on waste management were conducted in schools within the Jaffna Municipal Council area



A Training of Trainers workshop on Zero Plastic was conducted to a volunteer group on August 12, 2022



Improving Physical activities in the School

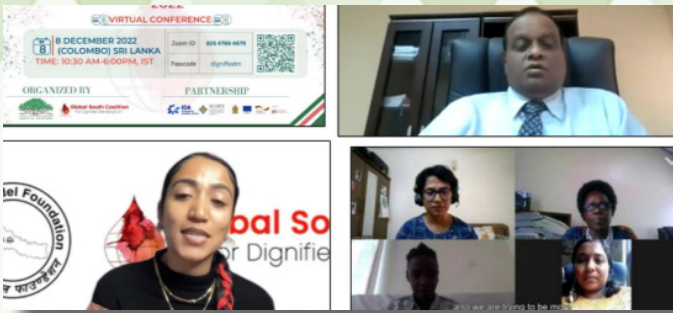
The DCFM initiated the cycling promotion activities in the school surroundings.



Improving WASH facilities in schools

In support of Infection Prevention Control (IPC), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Climate-smart schools projects, the DCFM conducted workshops and Training of Trainers sessions on Menstrual Health and Hygiene in schools in May and July 2022. Prof. R Surenthirakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna was the chief guest for a virtual conference held on December 8, 2022 marking the 4th International Dignified Menstruation Day in which Dr. Rajeev Ganeshamoorthy, an MD trainee attached to the Department of Community and Family Medicine, University of Jaffna presented an invited paper on “Dignified menstruation among adolescent girls in selected schools, Jaffna Zonal Education”.





Public Awareness Programme on Body Donation

The Head of the Department of Anatomy, Dr. Sivananthini Udhayakumar, gave an interview on IBC Tamil “Akalankam Show” to create public awareness about body donation which was aired on November 12, 2022. She has also penned an article on Body Donation, which was published in “Kaalaikathir”.



Workshop on child safeguarding



Prof. M. G. Sathiadas was a resource person at the workshop on child safeguarding organised by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians in June and September 2022.

Opening of the early intervention unit

The early intervention unit was opened in July 2022 at the Teaching Hospital Jaffna with the help of Jaffna Hindu College scouts and Eagle scouts’ project by the scouts from the USA.

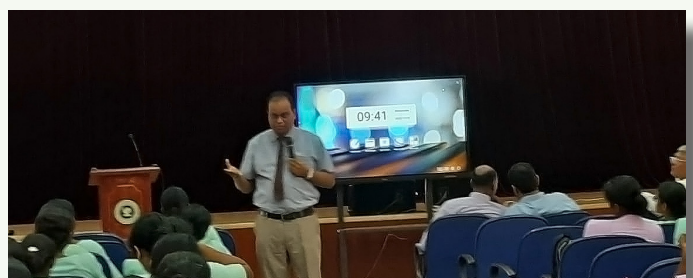


Diabetes awareness programme

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, along with Dr. R Gajanthan, Consultant Physician, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna, conducted a diabetes awareness programme organised by the Jaffna Diabetic Association on November 16, 2022 for the Trainee Teachers at College of Education, Kopya.

Mentoring workshop for Department of Education officials

Prof. M. G. Sathiadas conducted a mentoring workshop with the support of the Staff Development Centre and UNICEF for Directors and ISAs from the education department of the Northern Province. This workshop was conducted in August 2022.



HALL OF FAME

Promotions

Chair Professor

The following faculty members have become Chair Professors in their respective disciplines in 2022.

Prof. B. Kumarendran has become Professor of Community Medicine.



Prof. T. Kumanan has become Professor of Medicine.

Prof. M. G. Sathiadas has become Professor of Paediatrics.



Professor

Prof. R. Surenthirakumaran has been promoted to Professor in Community Medicine.



Deputy Registrar



Mr. N. Arumugathash, Senior Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna has been promoted to Deputy Registrar of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna in May 2022.

Awards and Prizes

Awards for the First and Second Examinations for Medical Degrees

The following awards for the First and Second Examinations for Medical Degrees were awarded to the 41st and 39th batch students, respectively, at the Faculty Board Meeting held on the 8th of June, 2022.



1. Awards for the First Examination for Medical Degrees for 41st batch (2017/2018)

Awards	Recipients
Prof. R .Kanagasuntheram Gold Medal for Anatomy for havinwwg the highest marks among those who obtain distinction in Anatomy at the First Examination for Medical Degrees.	Shageepana Pathmanathan
	Mohamed Gazzali Hassan Fathima Aqkeela
Murugesar Thambiah Gold Medal for Biochemistry for having obtained the highest marks among those who obtained Distinction in Biochemistry at the First Examination for Medical Degrees	Mohamed Gazzali Hassan Fathima Aqkeela
Charles Kanagasuntharam Memorial Gold Medal for having obtained the highest marks among those who obtained Distinction in Physiology at the First Examination for Medical Degrees.	Mohamed Gazzali Hassan Fathima Aqkeela
Subramaniam Mahadeva Scholarship for the highest competency at first examination for Medical Degrees.	Mohamed Gazzali Hassan Fathima Aqkeela
University prize for the best Performance at the First Examination for Medical Degrees.	Mohamed Gazzali Hassan Fathima Aqkeela

2. Awards for the Second Examination for Medical Degrees for 39th Batch - 2015/2016

Awards	Recipients
University prize for the best Performance at the Second Examination for Medical Degrees	Karunanithy Dinoshiga
Dr. Palasuntheram prize for Microbiology	Prapakaran Pravinth
Kandiah Rajaratnam Scholarship for Parasitology	Sunthareswaran Vithyasahar
Chelliah Ponnammah Memorial Prize for Pathology	Mohamed Sadikeen Mohamed Sahir
Dr. Vaithianathar Nadarajah Memorial Prize for Community and Family Medicine	Karnanithy Dinoshiga
	Anandarajah Lukshayan
	Thushyanthi Vivekaanathan
	Walpola Gamaralalage Nipuna Chinthaka Somasiri
	Thevanayagam Thushara
Prof. N. Saravanapavananthan Memorial Award	Keerthana Kasilingam
Chemical Industries (Colombo) Ltd., award in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Karunanithy Dinoshiga
Valvai Valliyammal Sinnaratnam Memorial Prize	Karunanithy Dinoshiga
	Keerthana Kasilingam
Myliddy Swaminathan Sri Baskaran Prial Award	Karunanithy Dinoshiga

Research awards

At the Faculty Board Meeting held on the 9th of February, 2022, the following students of the 38th batch were awarded the Covinthapillai Candiah Research Award

1. T. Gohulan, C. Keerthana, and J. Sabras, for the research titled “Fall risk status and its associated factors among elderly patients attending the medical clinics at Teaching Hospital clinics at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna”
2. U. Thadshayeni, C. Sowmiyarajan, and M. I. Hameedha, for the research titled “Satisfaction with radiology services and associated factors among adult patients at the radiology unit of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital”
3. S. Santhirakanth, M. Hetharany, and P. G. S. K. Wijeweera, for the research titled “Association of available healthcare resources and training provided for PHMs on cervical screening coverage in Jaffna district”



Along with them, T. Laxchana, was awarded the Dr. Murugananthan award for the Best Research in Mental Health for the study titled “Relationship between socialization activities and quality of life among the elderly population in Thirunelveli East PHM area”.

Research awards for the 39th batch of students were presented at the 5th URS held in December, 2022.



Velauthar Sothinagaratnam Memorial Award for the best research in community medicine in the field of microbiology was awarded to M. Ajithjerome, S. Pranavan, G. Sureska,

C. J. J. Jeyala, and R. M. P. G. Gunasiri for the research titled “The clinical and epidemiological features of patients with liver abscess attended to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna from August 2018 to August 2020”.

Covinthapillai Candiah Research Award was presented to

1. K. Mahinthan, M. Kamsika, M. Thuvaraha, H. D. C. J. Piyarathna, A. M. M. R. Amarakoon for the research titled “Influence of socio demographic factors on the degree of burden and the coping mechanisms among the primary caregivers of people diagnosed with dementia at the mental Health Unit, Teaching Hospital Jaffna.”
2. V. Sharmila, A. Kogilan, K. Mithula, U. L. S. R. Perera, H. P. V. H. Herath for the research titled “Equity of clinical outcomes following femoral neck fracture among patients treated with proximal femoral nail Autorotation and Dynamic hip screw implants at the Teaching Hospital Jaffna”
3. V. Yathushan, K. Dinoshiga, N. Sugirthan, K. Seerdini, and D. M. T. Udenaka for the research titled “Prevalence and factors associated with exclusive breastfeeding among mothers attending child welfare clinics in jaffna MOH area”

Prof. A. Sinnathamby Award for the best proposal in reproductive health related topics in community medicine was awarded to R. Athithyan, M. T. K. C. Fernando, L. Kinoshia, D. N. P. W. Sirimanne, and T. Thushara for the research proposal titled “Prevalence of common menstrual problems and their association with psychological stress among the female medical students of University of Jaffna.”

Dr. Muruganathan Award for Best Research in Mental Health was awarded to K. Mahinthan, M. Kamsika, M. Thuvaraha, H. D. C. J. Piyarathna, A. M. M. R. Amarakoon for the research titled “Influence of socio demographic factors on the degree of burden and the coping mechanisms among the primary caregivers of people diagnosed with dementia at the mental Health Unit, Teaching Hospital Jaffna.”

Awards for the Final Examination for Medical Degrees

The following awards for the Final Examination for Medical Degrees were awarded to the 38th batch students at the 36th General Convocation of the University of Jaffna held in October 2022.

Dr. S. Subramaniam Gold Medal for Surgery was awarded to Sivarajalingam Vaishali, Antaney Vinsan Mariyanayagam Ann Vinsala, and Konara Mudiyanseleage Buddhi Dhramasena.



Medical Institute of Tamils U.K. Gold Medal for Clinical Component of Paediatrics was awarded to Sivarajalingam Vaishali, Sivanesan Achuthan, Keerthana Raveendranathan.



Dr. Ramanathan Gold Medal for Medicine and Nainativu Muththar Ramalingam Ambalavanar Memorial Award were awarded to Kathirkamanathan Sithamparapanan, Pavalakanthan Pirathees.



St. George Memorial Gold Medal for Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People in the UK Gold Medal for the Clinical Component of Obstetrics and Gynaecology were awarded to Mangalakumar Vinosanth.



Dr. Muruganathan Gold Medal for Psychiatry was awarded to Thanabalasingam Gohulan.



Dr. Gunanandam Gold Medal for Clinical Component of Surgery was awarded to Ketheeswarnathan Thadshajini.



Dr. S. Ramachandran Gold Medal for Clinical Medicine was awarded to Jeyarajah Shythaky.



Sivanesan Achuthan also received **Dr. V. T. Pasupati Gold Medal for Paediatrics** and **Dr. Ranjani Thiranagama Memorial Award**



Kathirkamanathan Sithamparapanan also received **Dr. Vaithianathar Nadarajah Memorial Prize, Second Batch (1979) of Medical Students Gold Medal, Nanthi Gold Medal, and Dr. William Paul Award.**



Other Awards for Students

The Centre for Gender Equity and Equality of the University of Jaffna in collaboration with the Organisation for Elangai Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR Ceylon), organised an essay competition on Eliminating Violence Against Women, in which S. Gopika of the 41st

batch, and S. Bhavana of the 39th batch won the 2nd and 3rd places, respectively. The Faculty Board appreciated the above students on the 12th of January, 2022.



At the Faculty Board Meeting held on the 9th of February, 2022, the Board presented the awards to N. Priyadharshini and P. Pulorjen, who secured the first and second places, respectively, at the COVID-19 Prevention E- Poster Competition conducted by the Health Promotion Committee.



Young Gynaecologist Award

Dr. S. Raguraman, Senior lecturer and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist was awarded the SAFOG Young Gynaecologist Award at the Silver Jubilee SAFOG Congress in association with 55th Annual Scientific Conference of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologist held from September 30 to October 3, 2022 at Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo.



AMR quiz



The Student team of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, were the Runners up in the Quiz competition on

Antimicrobial Resistance, which was organised by Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists and WHO, and conducted among the Medical Faculties on November 21, 2022. The student team, which included N. Aburajan, V. Thishanthini, P. Neeranjali, S. Abithan, and S. Sashiwarni, were guided by Dr. Valarmaty Ambalavanar, Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, and Dr. Rajanthi Ramachandran, Acting Consultant Microbiologist.



President of the Jaffna Medical Association

Prof. S. Rajendra, Professor in Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna, was elected as the President of Jaffna Medical Association in its 81st year. The President induction ceremony was held on March 16, 2022.



IN REMEMBRANCE***Prof. S. Balakumar***

We cherish the memory of Prof. S. Balakumar, the former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna and the Head of the Department of Biochemistry. He has made invaluable contributions to the faculty, ever since he joined the faculty in November 2001 until his demise on April 12, 2022.

Mr. N. Kanthaverl

Mr. N. Kanthaverl who served as a Clerk in the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna, passed away on September 05, 2022. The Faculty remembers and appreciates the services of Mr. N. Kanthaverl.

Mr. Balachandran

The faculty affectionately recalls Mr. Balachandran, who served as Works Aide since January, 1997 and passed away on April 13, 2022.

Dr. S. Kugathanan

We fondly remember Dr. S. Kugathanan, former Eye Surgeon who passed away on September 13, 2022. Before his retirement, Dr. S. Kugathanan served with utmost commitment and dedication for over 20 years at the Teaching hospital Jaffna, and was a part of the extended faculty of the Faculty of Medicine, Jaffna.

Mr. K. Jegatheeswaran

The faculty fondly remembers Mr. K. Jegatheeswaran, a Health Service Labourer attached to the Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine, since August 1999, who passed away on October 13, 2022.

CONTACT US:

**Faculty of Medicine,
University of Jaffna
Adiyapatham Road,
Kokuvil.**

Sri Lanka

Email: newsletter@med.jfn.ac.lk

