

**Development of the
Department of Paediatrics
From 1964 to 2011**

The Remarkable Journey...

The Department of Paediatrics of the Faculty of Medicine has evolved from its humble beginnings in 1964 to encompass broader and bigger dimensions in the 21st century. The beginning, early struggles and progress of this remarkable journey are worthy of remembrance. The past and present staff of the department, both academic and non academic have contributed to the success of this journey and brought the department to its present status.

The present academic staff consists of 3 Professors, 3 Senior Lecturers, 2 Lecturers and 3 Temporary Assistant Lecturers who provide paediatric services at local, national and international level. Our undergraduates are outstanding in their performance and a team from our faculty that was groomed by our department won the prestigious Annual Inter Medical Faculty Paediatric Quiz organized by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians for the 3rd consecutive year by defeating contestants from five other medical faculties in the country. They brought the trophy to the faculty in 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and were runners up in 2008. The postgraduates who passed out our department have reached to the highest levels in the field of Paediatrics and are performing well as university academics and Consultant Paediatricians throughout the country and overseas.

The Department has a special interest in Paediatric Nephrology and is forging ahead in saving the lives of children stricken by end stage renal failure. This is the only unit providing paediatric renal transplantation services to the country. In addition to providing clinical services to the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya, the Department has been providing social support to the needy children in the Paediatric Ward through the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital Children's Welfare Fund. A child with chronic kidney disease who was being treated at the Professorial Paediatric Unit, Teaching Hospital Peradeniya won the First Prize at the World Flag Drawing Contest of the World Congress on Paediatric Intensive Care in 2007.

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena the present Head of the Department has brought international repute to the department, the faculty and the university by being listed among the top Leading Health Professionals of the World for 2011.

The journey was not smooth and an incident worth recording in the annals of the department is the turbulent period that the department faced in 2003 as a result of a Neonatologist being appointed to be in charge of the Neonatal Unit of the Teaching Hospital Peradeniya by the Ministry of Health to oversee the work of this unit which has been diligently managed by our department since its inception. We were reluctantly drawn into a legal battle to oppose this decision which jeopardized both the undergraduate and postgraduate training programmes. It is with great pride that we note that the court was unanimous in accepting our proposal to share the unit and ensure that undergraduate teaching was not compromised.

Academic Staff

Prof. C.C. De Silva (1964 -1965)

Prof. Herbert. A. Aponso (1964 – 1993)

Dr. N.P.S. Gunaratne (1968 -1974)

Prof. W.J. Gomes (1969 – 1973)

Dr. D. Ramadas (1969 – 1980)

Dr. L Jayasena (1971 – 2004)

Prof. Ananda Wijekoon (1978 to date)

Dr. S. Vijeratnam (1981 – 1983)

Dr. N.A. Nathavitharana (1981-1983)

Dr. Kanthi Karaliyadde (1984- 1990)

Prof. Chandra Abeysekera (1991 to date)

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena (1994 to date)

Dr. Nandanee Wickramasinghe (2002 to 2009)

Dr. Heshan Jayaweera (2008 to date)

Dr. Rasnayake Mudiyanse (2008 to date)

Dr. Thushara Kudagammana (2010 to date)

Dr. Shenal Thalgahagoda (May 2011 to date)

Dr. Pathum Dissanayake (May 2011 to date)

Heads of the Department

Prof. C.C. De Silva (1964)

Dr. Herbert A. Aponso (1965-1969)

Prof. Gomes (1969-1973)

Prof. Herbert. A. Aponso (1973- 1990)

Dr. Lali Jayasena (1990-2000)

Prof. Ananda S.B. Wijekoon (2000-2002)

Prof. Chandra Abeysekera (2002-2008)

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena (1st Jan 2010 to date)

Non-Academic Staff

Mr. M.A. Sidique - Laboratory Technician (1964)

Mr. N. Rajakaruna - Laboratory Assistant (1966-1975)

Mr. E.G. Cyril - Lab Attendant (1964-1997)

Miss Vanitha Atigala - Department Clerk (1966-1978)

Mr. K.G. Sumanadasa - Driver (1966)

Mrs. C.K. Rajanayake - Senior Staff Technical Officer (1976 to date)

Mrs. C.S. Herath - Staff Technical Officer (1979 to date)

Mr. M. Weerasinghe - Clerk (1978-1982)

Mr. Piyaratna Banda - Labourer (1976-1993)

Mrs. Padmalatha Menike - Senior Staff Assistant (1981 to date)

Mr. B.M. Seelaratna - Laboratory Attendant (1993 to date)

Mr. S. L. Sampath - Labourer (1998 -2001)

Mr. N.H.U. Wijeratna - Labourer (2001 to date)

Formative Years

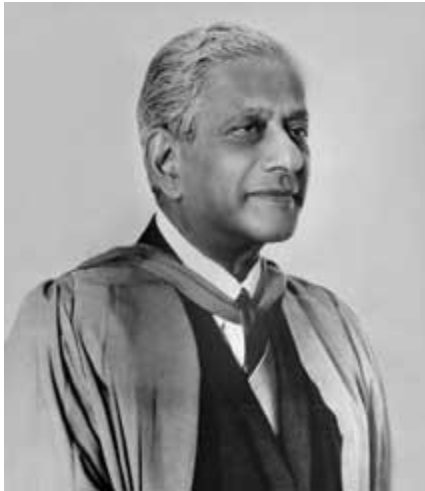
From the beginnings of medical education in Sri Lanka until the year 1949, Paediatrics was taught by the Professors of Medicine and Surgery. In 1949, Professor C.C. De Silva was appointed as the first Professor of Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ceylon, Colombo. However, until 1974 Paediatrics was considered a sub-discipline of Medicine and the child was considered a miniature adult. At the final examination for the MBBS, Paediatrics was granted 25% of the marks in Medicine and the examination was structured in the same format as for Medicine.

“One of the achievements worth recording in the annals of the history of the Department of Paediatrics, Peradeniya is the successful campaign spearheaded by Prof. Herbert Aponso in 1974 to obtain equal recognition for Paediatrics as a discipline on par with other major specialties. The foresight and far thinking policy of the University of Peradeniya to give Paediatrics its rightful place in the medical education curriculum, set the trend for the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo to accept the same the following year while establishing a precedent for all future medical colleges to follow.” Extract of an article by Prof. Herbert Aponso

Founding of the Department and its first ever Head

The second Medical School in Sri Lanka was started in the salubrious climate of Kandy in 1961 and the Department of Paediatrics of this Medical School started 3 years later in 1964.

Prof. C.C. De Silva (1964)



Prof. C.C. De Silva was the first Head of the Department of Paediatrics, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. He was the first Professor of Paediatrics in Sri Lanka and the first Head of the Department of Paediatrics, University of Colombo. He founded the Department of Paediatrics in Colombo and took up the challenge of taking the discipline of Paediatrics to the second Medical Faculty in Peradeniya. This paved the way for Paediatrics to be a Department of the Medical Faculty in Peradeniya in 1964. He selected Dr. Herbert Aponso, a Senior Lecturer at the Colombo Faculty to be the Senior Lecturer – in - Charge of the Department of Paediatrics in the new Medical School. Although this was a challenging and difficult task, Dr. Aponso had the courage to work in a new surrounding to make the Peradeniya Medical Faculty as good as their own or even better. Prof. C.C. de Silva first made weekly visits and later monthly visits until the Paediatric Department in Peradeniya was established. Unfortunately he retired early in 1965 to take up a post overseas.

Prof. C. C. De Silva's contribution to Paediatrics both in the academic and clinical fields are too numerous to mention. Prof. C.C. De Silva was awarded a Doctorate in Science by the University of Peradeniya for the services rendered to the university and the academic community at large and it can be truly said that it was Prof. C.C. De Silva who put Sri Lanka in the world map of Paediatrics. He passed away peacefully a few weeks before his autobiography was released.at the age of 83 on 20th May 1987 The many pupils who came under the influence of Prof. De Silva were highly inspired by the training and clinical skills they learnt from him and went onto pass their knowledge to many future generations. Thus, Prof. De Silva's contribution to Paediatrics is inestimable and is kept alive in Sri Lanka.

The Founder Member and First Acting Head...

Prof. Herbert A. Aponso (1964 – 1993)



Dr. H.A. Aponso accepted the challenge to set up the Department of Paediatrics in Peradeniya in 1964 and was the sole teacher in this discipline for the first four batches of medical students at Peradeniya from 1964-1968. He was the Acting Head of the Department from 1965 – 1969 and the Head of the Department since 1975 until his retirement in 1993. In 1969 he was appointed leader (a designation that was changed to Associate Professor) in 1994. He was promoted to the post of Professor of Paediatrics in 1977. He has the honour of being the only academic staff member to have the longest tenure of service in the Department of Paediatrics. His contributions to the Department and students are immense. He is highly respected by thousands of past and present students in Sri Lanka and throughout the world.

He had a unique style of teaching and paid special attention to the social aspects of medicine. He was invited to help in the organization of the health service in the “System C” Mahaweli Development Project in Girandurukotte. He was also able to establish a Center for Intersectoral Community Health Studies at Peradeniya with the assistance of scientists from other faculties. He was able to develop Health Programmes with the International Community Health Studies, University of Connecticut and the University of Antwerp. Many were able to do Guided

Research Studies and one student was even able to obtain a Ph.D due to this. He was a Visiting Professor in the University of Connecticut (USA) from 1984-1987 and received the Distinguished Scholars Award in that University in 1984. He has been a member of the WHO Expert Committee (Geneva) on Acute Respiratory Tract Infections.

Prof. Apponso has done much to improve the conditions of the Paediatric Ward. When he took over in 1964 he realized that children were only served $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the adult portion of the diet. He was able to remedy this as was the practice at LRH. Also mothers were not allowed to stay in the ward with their ill children. Prof. Apponso took immediate steps to change this situation and provided mothers with chairs to stay near their children.

There was a shortage of incubators for sick children in the Neonatal Unit. He was able to obtain some from Canada and also get a local manufacturer to construct a low cost incubator style Perspex cot.

Perhaps the greatest contribution made by Prof. H.A. Apponso was to successfully campaign and obtain the approval of the University of Peradeniya to recognize Paediatrics as a mainline subject on par with other major disciplines in 1974. This created a precedent for Colombo to follow same the next year.

He coauthored a book "Your Child, Your Family". This book was authored by Prof. Apponso with contributions from over 80 medical and non-medical specialists. It is now in its 4th edition. With five co-authors. He was instrumental in initiating the Perinatal Meetings and the Kandy - Peradeniya Weekly Grand Ward Rounds. This created a very strong bond between the two Paediatric Units and the Consultants, and the Junior Doctors had an enjoyable and a productive time. Later these turned out to be very advanced clinical discussions with benefits for patients/parents, postgraduate trainees and consultants.

When the Peradeniya Hospital was built, he initiated the construction of a village kitchen with an open hearth adjacent to the Paediatric Ward that had a garden plot with vegetables and greens. Through this novel project he encouraged mothers to prepare kola kanda from leaves obtained from that garden which was sold for a nominal fee. This kitchen was also patronized by medical students and mothers in the ward.

He has held several prestigious posts. He has been the Chairman of the Medical Exhibition in 1992 and the President of the Sri Lanka Paediatric Association 1976/ 1977. He has delivered the Prof. C.C. De Silva Memorial Oration in 1990 on “Looking beyond the Disease Palace” and Professor Senaka Bibile Oration on “ The.Social Aspects of Paediatrics”

He retired from the university in 1993 after having rendered a yeoman service to the Faculty for 30 years but continued to do a weekly ward class for undergraduate students for yet another 15 years.

Prof. Aponso was like a father to all the staff members of the department and the Paediatric Ward and the students. He created a peaceful working environment in the department and made it one of the most peaceful departments in the faculty without any internal conflicts. The subsequent heads followed the same path and the department continues to be a very peaceful place to date.



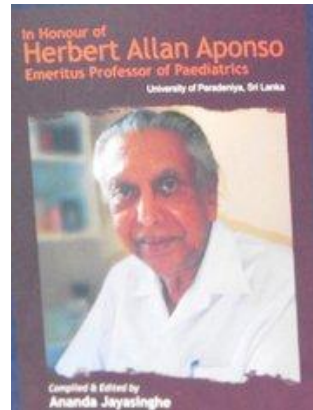
Chairing a Session –PeMSAA



Last grand ward round - 1993



Presentation –SLCP Congress 2007



Tribute to a great teacher

by Dr. Ananda Jayasinghe

Other Academic Staff Members...

Dr. Naomal P.S. Gunarathna (1968-1974)



I joined the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ceylon, Peradeniya as it was then called, as a Senior Lecturer in December 1968. In doing so, I resigned from the Ministry of Health after serving as Paediatrician, Base Hospital, Gampaha and earlier as Paediatrician, District Hospital, Kuliyaipitiya. I also lost the right of doing channel practice as the University staff did not have the right to do private practice those days. I was however

very excited about my new appointment. I had to work with Professor Win Gomes who had just been appointed as Professor of Paediatrics. Dr. Herbert Aponso who had been with the Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya as a Senior Lecturer since 1964, had gone abroad on sabbatical leave. I was the only Senior Lecturer and soon began to enjoy teaching medical students and looking after patients in the Professorial Paediatric Ward of the General Hospital in Kandy. There was no Teaching Hospital in Peradeniya those days. I also gave lectures and conducted tutorials at the Faculty of Medicine in Peradeniya.

In 1970, I was chosen for a WHO Fellowship on nutrition for 3 months at the National Institute of Nutrition in Hyderabad, India. We did a lot of field research in addition to lectures and presented these at regular intervals.

As a result of my stay in Hyderabad and a two week stay at the Vellore Teaching Hospital in South India, I became interested in Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid Deficiency. With the help of a grant from the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Professor Tommy Wickramanayake of the Biochemistry Department and I decided to do estimations of Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid assays. from 1974 to 75, Professor Wickramanayake presented these results at the sessions of the Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science.

Medical Education was at the forefront of the activities of the Faculty at Peradeniya when I joined. A Medical Education Unit was created at that time. Medical teacher training courses were organized from time to time and I participated in one such course in 1973, when not only teachers from our two medical faculties but doctors from other countries also participated. I left the Faculty with regret in mid 1974 to take an assignment abroad.

(The above article is based on the authors own words)

Professor W. J. Gomes (1969 – 1973)



After Prof. C.C. De Silva's retirement, Dr. Herbert A. Aponso was initially appointed as the Acting Head until the appointment of Prof. W.J. Gomes from the University of Colombo in 1969. He was the second Head of the Department and served for a period of five years and left to take up an appointment overseas in 1973.

Dr. D. Ramadas (1969 – 1980)

Dr. Ramadas was appointed as a Senior Lecturer 1969 and served for a period of 11 years. His main research interest was on diarrhoeal diseases and haemolytic uremic syndrome. He has presented papers on these topics in various clinical forums and research gatherings. He left in 1980 to become the first Professor of Paediatrics and the first Head of the Department of Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

Dr. Lali Jayasena (1971 – 2003)



Dr. Lali Jayasena worked as a Demonstrator in the Department of Pharmacology from 1969 to 1970 before joining the Department of Paediatrics as a lecturer in 1971.

She was awarded a Colombo Plan Scholarship to do her postgraduate training at the Department of Child Life and Health at the Sheffield University under Prof. R.S. Illingworth, and also worked as a Clinical Assistant in Paediatrics at the University of Edinburgh and St. Mary's Hospital Manchester, UK. She was promoted as Senior Lecturer in 1976 and has served as the Head of the Department from 1990 to 2000. She has been the first Consultant – in - Charge of the Neonatal Unit that was opened in 1981 at the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya and continued to look after neonates until her retirement in 2003. She was nominated to be the acting Director of the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital for a brief period and has also been the Acting Dean of the Medical Faculty intermittently. She has been a member of the Board of Study in Paediatrics of the University of Colombo from 1990 to 2004. She has been involved in research for a long time and has received two prizes at the KSM Annual Sessions and the University Research Sessions. Her areas of interest were toxocariasis and childhood nephrotic syndrome and acute glomerulonephritis,

Dr. Jayasena has been a popular teacher and a committed paediatrician. She has carried out all her duties in an exemplary manner and been an inspiration to many postgraduate trainees who have gone through her hands to become eminent consultants both locally and overseas.

Prof. Ananda S. B. Wijekoon (1978 to date)



Dr. Ananda Wijekoon joined the Department as a Lecturer in 1978 and was promoted to the grade of Senior Lecturer in 1985 and became the Professor of Paediatrics in 2003. He served the Department as Head from 2001 -2002 and gave up this position to become the Dean of the Faculty from 2002 - 2005. He has also been a Visiting Professor, University of Connecticut Medical School, USA in 1985 and the first Professor of Paediatrics of the Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu, Nepal in 2002. He obtained the fellowship of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians in 2003.

He is a very popular teacher with an excellent sense of humor. He can teach any complex topic in a very simplified and down to earth manner that is easy to comprehend. Thus, all his students that include undergraduates and postgraduates admire his teaching skills. His special area of interest is childhood nutrition and the indigenous use of herbs in the treatment of juvenile diabetes mellitus.. He has done a lot of research in this area and published many research articles and made many presentations on this topic at local and international gatherings. He delivered the SAARC Oration on “Foetal Life, Childhood Nutrition and Adult Health” in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2008. He has been the President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians 2003 / 2004.

He also has a special interest in Medical Education and his greatest contribution was formulating the Beyond 2004 Curriculum. As the Dean he introduced an integrated learner oriented broad-based curriculum that uses the latest methods of acquiring knowledge and skills amidst many setbacks. He also established the Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) and the Curriculum Coordinating Centre (CCC) to support the new curriculum. He also set up the first Electives/Selectives Programme in the faculty and negotiated with the GOSL through the UGC to

get an enhanced quota of foreign students. He was instrumental in establishing digital phones and internet facilities to all the units and departments and initiated the E-library and the Technical Resource Centre and the Skills Lab. He works closely with the Medical Education Unit and contributes as a Resource Person to all faculty Teacher Training Workshops. He introduced the faculty emblem based on the university logo and also designed a faculty tie to coincide with the Medical Exhibition.

He has a very lively personality and his laughter echoes through the corridors of the department when he is around . He always keeps social gatherings and parties alive by singing and jokes. There is never a dry moment when he is around.



Active participation at a Scientific Forum



Delivering the Keynote Address –SLCP 2004

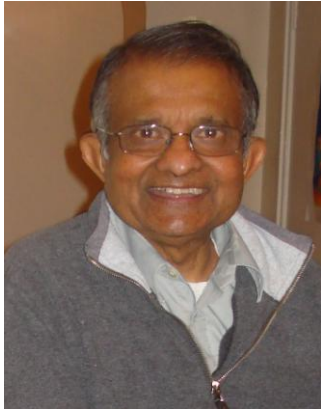


Entertaining by singing songs



Neonatal Clinic -THP

Dr. S. Vijerathnam (1981-1983)



Dr. Vijeratnam joined as Senior Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics on 16th Feb 1981 and served for a period of two years. He played a very active role in the life of the Department and has served as a Member of the Board of Study of the PGIM, University of Colombo. He left the Department in 1983 for personal reasons.

Dr. K.A. Nathavitharana (1981-1983)



Dr. K. A. Nathavitharana a graduate of the University of Peradeniya, joined the department as a lecturer in 1981 and served for a period of two years before leaving the department in 1983 for his postgraduate studies. He decided to stay on in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Srikanthi Karaliyadda (1984-1990)



Dr. Kanthi Karaliyadde was appointed as a Lecturer to the Department of Paediatrics in 1984. She had her postgraduate training in Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh and the Department of Child Life and Health University of Edinburgh. She was promoted as Senior Lecturer on 1st Sept 1985 and served the Department of Paediatrics for 6 years before going overseas for personal reasons.

Many are the memories that come tumbling back when reminiscing on the days at Peradeniya. I was born and bred in Kandy, and was an undergraduate at Peradeniya Medical school from 1965-1970. Our generation of doctors have probably lived through some of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in the practice of medicine and life in general and have much to look back on.

My first appointment as an intern house officer was in the Paediatric Professorial unit in Kandy Hospital, from Sept. 1970 to March 1971. This experience was a huge learning curve in more ways than one... The nuts and bolts of the clinical practice of paediatrics were learnt, and more importantly it was a 'toughening up' process to face the big wide world in the years to come. Working in paediatrics in the early 70's I found extremely traumatic; especially the shock of the many life and death situations one was exposed to and had to deal with, often single handed late at night as the most junior member of the team. Many children were admitted moribund late at night, and the desperate attempts to put in an IV line via a saphenous vein 'cut down' or do a LP on a dying child are still vivid in my memory. Cannulae were unheard of but occasionally, we had the luxury of a scalp vein needle! The wailing of mothers in the corridors still rings in my ears 41 yrs. on.... We had wards for neonatal tetanus (with about 8-12 'tiny tots' with 'risus sardonicus' on any given day), Diphtheria and polio, and kids with kwashiorkor and marasmus were housed in the outer veranda of the ward!!

Paradoxically, my love of paediatrics blossomed during this time.

My immediate boss, Dr Neomal Guneratne (Snr. Lecturer) was a hard task master but a charming man... He unfortunately contracted Diphtheria from the ward and ended up having all the known complications but thankfully survived. Prof. Gomes was a quiet man who knew 'everything about everybody' and many were the stories oft related probably with no malice.... Dr Ramadas our debonair registrar was especially good to us interns (he was courting Gnani Ponnaih one of our batch mates!!). Prof. Aponso was I believe abroad on sabbatical leave at the time.

My next lap in the Paediatric Professorial unit (as a mother of three!) was in the splendour of the brand new Peradeniya Hospital as a post-graduate trainee, following which I was appointed Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Paediatrics in 1985 which post I held until 1990. We were much better staffed and more importantly, the health service in the rural areas had improved dramatically (thanks to ORF and immunisations amongst other developments). The number of paediatricians had more than doubled, and the number of patients almost halved. Children rarely came moribund with dehydration; tetanus, acute polio and diphtheria were diseases of the past.

Prof. Aponso was head of dept. at the time, and had his feet firmly on the ground and stuck to basics in his management of patients. The rural kitchen and garden, 'kola kenda' and community projects were not forgotten in the era of nebulisers, neonatal special care, 3rd generation Cephalosporins . At 85 years of age, his life and work was felicitated recently, and many were the accolades paid to a wise man, and professional who extended his boundaries of service beyond clinical practice, to the community at large.

I had the privilege of participating in a few projects with eminent and dedicated professionals such as Prof. T.W. Wikramanayake (Tommy); Food beliefs and practices among Srilankans, Temporary food avoidances by women (J. of the National Science Council of Srilanka -1982; 10 (1) 171-173) and Weaning Practices among Sinhalese(J of the National Science Council of Srilanka-1982;10 (2) 248-251), and with Prof. Senerath Dissanayake, Salivary Immunoglobulin A in Vitamin A deficiency, (Ceylon Medical Journal 1979; 69-70).

Together with Dr Lalitha Katugaha and Dr Chris Uragoda, I undertook a study to assess the tuberculin sensitivity in children after BCG vaccination at birth (Tubercle 1987, 68;33-38)).We concluded that BCG at birth in Srilankan children was unlikely to mask the diagnostic value of the Mantoux test, and were chuffed when our presentation won the Nicholas Attygalle Memorial Prize at the centenary celebrations of the SLMA! We also studied the clinical profile and epidemiology of childhood tuberculosis in the Central Province, over a five year period from 1983-1988.

1983 was the bleakest and most traumatic time for us all, but especially for the many friends and colleagues of Tamil ethnicity. This led to the departure from the shores of Srilanka, of many eminent and dedicated professionals, including Dr Rajan Vijeratnam, who was a much loved and respected Senior Lecturer in the department of paediatrics at the time.

My experience as a student counsellor during the JVP uprising in the late 80's I recollect with mixed feelings. Most of these students were passionate about 'righting the wrongs' in society, but things did get terribly out of hand, climaxing with the closure of Peradeniya hospital when the doctors were banned from going to work. It was a hectic and traumatic time. This extreme situation although short lasting, left an indelible mark in many people's minds and lives. The university was more closed than open for 2-3 years, affecting the careers of thousands of students. This was the time our family decided to leave the shores of Srilanka with our teen age children... We have a tremendous amount of respect for those who battled it on and helped steer the ship.

My lasting memory of the dept. of Paediatrics at Peradeniya in the 80's is the pervading friendly atmosphere, and the genuine care and empathy shown to children and their families by the team; probably the best lesson in paediatrics for budding doctors!

Prof. Chandra Abeysekera (1991 to date)



Dr. Chandra Abeysekera joined the Department of Paediatrics as a Senior Lecturer in 1991 after serving in the Ministry of Health for 17 years. She was promoted to the grade of Professor in Paediatrics in 2008 and served as the Head of the Department for six years from 2002 to 2008. As the Head of the Department she has done much to upgrade the stands of administration and streamlined the functioning of clinics. Very often she has risen to the occasion to take charge of problems and issues that rise from time to time in the department and very resourcefully and diplomatically solved them with great efficiency. She obtained the Fellowship of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians in 2004 and became the President of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians in 2006/2007. As the President she undertook the daunting and challenging task of taking knowledge of paediatric care to the peripheries for the benefit of Medical Officers serving in the out stations. She helped to start a Nurses Congress for the first time with the SLCP sessions in 2007. This Annual Nurses Congress has since then become a very much looked forward to event. .

Her main research interests include childhood UTI, chronic renal disease and diarrhoeal diseases in children. She delivered the Prof. C.C. De Silva Memorial Oration on “Urinary Tract Infections in Children” in 2004. She won the prize for the Best Research Paper of the SLCP in 1999 and 2004 respectively, and has also been the coauthor for the Best Research Paper of the International Paediatric Nephrology Association Scientific Congress in 2004 and SLMA sessions in 2003.

She is the Chairperson of the Central Province Emergencies and Life Support Group and has assisted in organizing many Workshops in the Central Province to disseminate information on Life Support to Medical Officers and Para Medical Staff.

She is the Coordinator for the Formulation of the Management Guidelines of Health Sector Development Project, SLCP on Nephrotic Syndrome and a member of the SLCP committee for drawing up guidelines for UTI.

She has been the coordinator of the first ever Paediatric Renal Transplant Programme launched in Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya in 2004 and was instrumental in helping to successfully organize this programme that continues to be of immense service to children who suffer from renal failure in all parts of the country. She has served as a Member of the Board of Study in Paediatrics from 1993 to date

She is a very popular teacher and has won the admiration and respect of all whom she has come into contact with. She has also helped to groom the Medical Faculty Team to win the Paediatric Quiz organized by the SLPA for three consecutive years.



With the Winners of the Paediatric Quiz 2011



Delivering the Key Note Address –SLCP2007



Paediatric Clinic –Teaching

— Appreciating the services of a guest speaker- SLCP

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena (1994 to date)



Dr. Asiri Abeyagunawardena joined the Department of Paediatrics as a lecturer in 1994 and was promoted to the grade of Senior Lecturer and Professor in Paediatrics in 1998. He had his postgraduate training in the United Kingdom and was the Clinical Research Fellow in Clinical Paediatric Nephrology for two years from 2000 to 2002 at the Institute of Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London under Dr Richard Trompetor and did research on childhood nephrotic syndrome. After returning to Sri Lanka in 2002, he became actively involved in setting up paediatric nephrology services in Sri Lanka. He was one of the key founder members who was instrumental in setting up the first ever Paediatric Renal Transplant Programme at the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. Due to his pioneering work, many children with nephrotic syndrome and chronic kidney disease from all parts of the country are now being referred to his Renal Clinic at Peradeniya.. He was appointed as the convener for developing a training programme on paediatric nephrology and was subsequently appointed as the course coordinator and a postgraduate trainer in paediatric nephrology of the PGIM, University of Colombo

His main research interest is childhood nephrotic syndrome and he has presented and published many research papers in both the local and international forums, and refereed journals on this subject. He has won several local and international awards for his pioneering work. He has been the winner of the Research Grant of the Institute of Child Health University College, UK for research on Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome in 2000. He has delivered several orations on this topic and has been the orator of the Prof. CC De Silva Memorial Oration in both 2002 and 2009 and delivered the Senaka Bibile Memorial Oration in 2005. He serves on the official review panel for the International Journal of Paediatric Nephrology. He was appointed Fellow of the

Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health in the year 2007. He has been an Invited Speaker and Resource Person in both local and international forums and was a Member of the Guideline Committee appointed by the Health Sector Development Project of the SLCP to formulate management guidelines for childhood with UTI and nephritic syndrome. He has been the Secretary of the SLCP and a resource person at many workshops at both local and national level.

He was appointed as the Head of the Department in 2008 and continues in this position to date. He has brought international repute to the country and the department by being listed among the top Leading Health Professionals of the World for 2011.



Serious discussion with the teachers



Secretary - SLCP 2003



Paediatric clinic



Paediatric clinic- Teaching

Dr. Nandane Wickramasinghe (2002 - 2009)



Dr. Nandane Wickramasinghe joined the Department of Paediatrics in 2002 as a Senior Lecturer. She was working as a Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics, University of Ruhuna prior to joining our department. She provided her services to the department for 7 years prior to leaving for personal reasons in 2009.

She was a very committed Paediatrician and a teacher. She worked tirelessly as Secretary to the SLCP in 2007/08. During this period of time she arranged many workshops, seminars and Sattelite Meetings to disseminate knowledge at the provincial level. She has been a resource person at several workshops for life support courses. She was a very popular teacher loved by the medical students. Her main interest was neonatolog and she initiated the Asthma Clinic of the Paediaric Unit of Peradeniya.



Appreciated for the services



Secretary SLCP 2007

Dr. Rasnayake Mudiyanse (2009 to date)



Dr. Rasnayake Mudiyanse has served as a Consultant Paediatrician in many hospitals in Sri Lanka prior to joining the Department of Paediatrics in 2009. He counts 27 years of service in the Ministry of Health. His main interests are thalassaemia and its prevention, dengue fever, paediatric emergencies and life support.

He is a very committed teacher who is keen in taking paediatric knowledge to the grass root level. He was instrumental in founding the Sri Lanka Association for Nurses in Paediatrics and successfully launched the First Paediatric Nursing Congress in conjunction with the annual sessions of the SLCP in 2008. He is the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Wayaba Thalassaemia Elimination Project and a Member of the National Thalassaemia Committee. He is the Course Organiser for Central Province Paediatric Life Support Course (CePELS).

He is an Instructor of the Sri Lanka Neonatal Life Support Group and the Sri Lanka Advanced Paediatric Life Support Group. He has organized several Life Support Courses for Medical Officers. He is a member of the National Dengue Management Committee. Through these committees he disseminates his expertise and help at national level for the benefit of the population. He has organized many programmes and been a resource person at many workshops nation wide. He has been in charge of the Birth Defect Unit of the Teaching Hospital, Kandy. He is widely experienced and knowledgeable on many aspects of paediatric care and has attended many conferences, seminars and workshops both locally and internationally. He has delivered several invited lectures and has presented research papers at local and international symposiums and conferences. He has translated a book published by the Thalassaemia International Federation into Sinhala and has written the CePELS Course Manual.

He is a very committed teacher who is loved by his pupils.



Delivering the Keynote Address

PeMSAA-2009



Instructor-CePELS

Dr. Heshan Jayaweera (2009 to date)



Dr. Jayaweera joined the Department of Paediatrics as Lecturer in April 2008. He had his postgraduate training in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, United Kingdom. While in UK he attended and contributed to regional study days of the Eastern Deanery and was actively involved in updating hospital protocols. He has successfully completed Courses in Advance Paediatric Life Support (APLS) and Neonatal Life Support (NLS) courses conducted by Resuscitation Council UK. His areas of interest are paediatric neurology, neonatology and infectious diseases.

He has conducted a MCQ course in Paediatrics for the final year undergraduates since joining the department. He has contributed to the CePELS Manual by writing the chapter on Drug Policy and has actively participated in postgraduate teaching sessions.

He is the Congress Secretary of the PeMSAA in the current year. He is a very committed Paediatrician and an excellent teacher. He has contributed in many ways towards the smooth functioning of the department.



Participation at a Scientific Meeting

Examining Patients in the Clinic

Dr. Thushara Kudagammana (2010 to date)



Dr. Kudagammana joined the Department of Pediatrics as a Senior Lecturer in 2010. He has served as a Consultant Paediatrician in many hospitals in Sri Lanka prior to joining the department as a Senior Lecturer.

His main research interests are asthma, childhood nutrition, paediatric respiratory and allergies. He has participated in workshops and courses that include advanced paediatric life support, neonatal life support, leadership and management for doctors in the UK and workshops on neonatal ventilation. He has been a regular resource person at Advanced Paediatric Life Support Course conducted by the College of Paediatricians. He is a Certified APLS Instructor, Instructor in Neonatal Life Support, Instructor in Central Province Paediatric Life Support, Certified Instructor and Coordinator of the 5 day course on Essential Newborn Care for Health Workers. He is a Regular Resource Person in CME Programmes for the health care staff, Council Member and Social Secretary of the Kandy Society of Medicine, He was actively involved in the development of the PBU of the General Hospital, Hambantota and transformed it into a fully functioning Neonatal ICU.

Currently he is the Coordinator of the Postgraduate Teaching Programme in the Unit and has been organizing Paediatric Grand Ward Rounds, Radiology Meetings and Journal Meetings for the benefit of trainees. He is a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and is supervising a MPhil degree of a lecturer studying there .

He is actively involved in research and has presented his work in many scientific gatherings. He is a very committed teacher who is loved by his students.



Performing Clinical Duties



Resource Person



Peripheral Clinic

Dr. Shenal Thalgahagoda (2011 to date)



Dr. Thalgagoda joined the department as a Lecturer in 2011 and is specializing in paediatric nephrology. He is currently undergoing training in nephrology in the University of Manchester under the supervision of Consultant Nephrologist, Dr. Nicholas Webb,

Dr. Pathum Dissanayake (2011 to date)



Dr. Dissanayake joined the department in 2010 and is currently in the Sandwell Hospital UK undergoing his postgraduate training. His area of interest is neonatology.

Non-academic Staff...



Mr. M.A. Sidique -1964

Laboratory Technician



Mr. E.G. Cyril 1964-1997

Laboratory Attendant



Mr. P.W.N.S. Rajakaruna 1966 – 1975

Laboratory assistant



Miss. Vanitha Atigala 1966 – 1978

Department clerk



Mr. K.G. Sumanadasa 1966

Driver



Mrs. C.K. Rajanayake 1976 to date

Senior Staff Technical Officer



Mrs. C.S. Herath 1979 to date

Staff Technical Officer



Mr. M. Weerasinghe 1978 – 1982

Clerk



Mr. Piyrathna Banda 1976-1993

Labourer



Mrs. Padmalatha Menike 1981 to date

Senior Staff Assistant



Mr. B.M. Seelarathna 1993 to date

Laboratory Attendant



Mr. M.H.U. Wijerathna 2001 to date

Labourer

Mr. S.L. Sampath 1998 -2001

Labourer

The non – academic staff of the Department of Paediatrics has played a vital role in helping the Department to carry its daily functions and evolve into the fully fledged department that it is today.

The first Laboratory Technician of the Department was Mr. M.A. Sidique who joined in 1964. Next Mr. N. Rajakaruna served as Laboratory Assistant from 1966 to 1975 followed by Mr. E.G. Cyril who served the Department from 1964 to 1997. He is the only non – academic staff member who has served the department for the longest period of 33 years. He has the rich experience of having worked with all the Heads of the Department of Paediatrics and has assisted the Department in many ways. Very often he has gone out his way to carry out Department activities. He has particularly helped to set up Giradurukotte Health Camp in System C of the Mahaweli Project. During the period of his involvement, he transported doctors from the Peradeniya Hospital to the Health Camps in Giradurukotte and helped to set up the special clinics there.

Miss Vanitha Atigala was the Department Clerk from 1966 to 1978. Mr. K.G. Sumanadasa was the Driver of the Department in 1966.

Mrs. C.K. Rajanayake is the Senior Staff Technical Officer from 1976 to date. She is the Senior Staff Technical Officer in the Haematology section and has won a scholarship for specialized training for 9 months in Haematology at the Bispjeberg Hospital, Denmark in 1982 and undergone Training for 1 month at the Blood Bank in Colombo in 1982. Mrs. C.S. Herath is the Staff Technical Officer from 1979 to date. They have been released full time to the Laboratory, Teaching Hospital Peradeniya and currently work in the Haematology, Microbiology, Biochemistry and Clinical Pathology Sections of the Lab.

Mr. M. Weerasinghe was the Department Clerk from 1978 to 1982 and Mr. Piyaratna Banda served as Labourer from 1976 to 1993. He counts 17 years in service and has been a very dedicated and loyal worker. He has supported the staff by working in the Paediatric Clinic until his retirement.

Mrs. Padmalatha Menike is the only Senior Staff Assistant of the Department and solely shoulders many duties of the department by herself. She joined as trainee in 1982 and was promoted to the Grade of Senior Staff Assistant in 2007. She has followed an Advanced Course

in English and a Tamil Course for Professionals in the University of Peradeniya and several Information Technology Courses conducted by the University of Peradeniya including an NIBM Course in Colombo. She has word processed the first edition of the book 'Your Child, Your Family' by Prof. H.A. Aponso. She has worked as Secretary in the Collaborative Exchange Programme of the Department with the University of Connecticut, USA and been involved in several research projects of the Department in collaboration with the WHO, IDRC and CICHs. In addition to her duties she maintains accounts of the "Peradeniya Teaching Hospital Welfare Society Fund" and helps in all the social activities of the department. She helped in various ways to stage Medical Exhibitions and also in the organization of the SLCP Congresses in 2003 and 2007.

Mr. B.M. Seelaratna joined the department as Labourer in 1993. He was working in the Medical Education Unit before joining our department. He was promoted as Laboratory Attendant in 1998. He has lent his support to many Workshops, Satellite Meetings of the SLCP, clinical programmes and research projects organized by the department. He is very dependable and goes beyond his call of duty to expedite any work given to him.

Mr. S. L. Sampath worked as Labourer from 1998 -2001. Mr. N.H.Upali. Wijeratna as a joined Labourer in 2001 and serves the department to date. He helps in organizing workshops for the CePLES and has helped in conducting Satellite Meetings that organized by the SLPA during the tenure of Prof. Chandra Abeysekera in 2007.

The non academic staff of the Department has played a very prominent role in assisting the academic staff in carrying out their duties. They have organized welfare activities, workshops and the Annual New Year and Christmas Party of the Ward and been a source of strength and encouragement to the Department.



Assisting in the Medical Exhibition



Attending to Office Work



Participating in Social Gathering –SLCP Dinner 2007

Achievements...

1. Outstanding Performance at the **Inter Medical Faculty Paediatric Quiz** organized by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians since 2007

2007- Winners

Dr. S. H. Pathiratna

Dr.B.G.L. Samaranayake

Dr. A.M.M.K. Athapaththu

Dr. I. L. Wickramanayake

2008 - Runners up

Dr. R.A. Abeysekera

Dr. W.A.J.C Chandrakumara

Dr. Miss P.N. Dilrukshi

Dr. N.M. Nagodawithana

Dr. T.M.S.R.K Thennakoon



2009- Winners

Dr. A.G.A.K. Jayasinghe

Dr. W.A.R. Madurika

Dr. A.A. Rozario

Dr. W.S. Rathnaweera

Dr. D.C. Iddamalgoda

2010- Winners

Dr. Miss T.I. Kudagamage

Dr. Miss A.M. Wijesingha

Dr. Miss C.L. Dandeniya

Dr. M.A.D. Rangana

Dr. K.D.G.K. Dewapriya



2011- Winners

Dr. C.N. Kahathuduwa

Dr. M.H. Wategama

Dr. C.S. Dhanasekara

Dr. A.M.G.A.R. Bandara

Dr. S.L.A.D.C.B. Perera



2. Orations

- Prof. Herbert Aponso -Professor CC De Silva Memorial Oration of SLCP 1990
“ Looking beyond the Disease Palace”.
- Prof. Ananda Wijekoon - SAARC Oration in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2008.
“Foetal Life, Childhood Nutrition and Adult Health”
- Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena- Professor C C De Silva Memorial Oration of SLCP 2002 “The use of vsteroid sparing agents in steroid sensitive nephrotic syndrome: Review of 20 years experience in a tertiary care facility in England.”
- .Prof. Chandra Abeysekera- Professor C C De Silva Memorial Oration of SLCP 2004“Children with Urinary Tract Infections”.
- Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena - Professor Senaka Bibile Memorial Oration of KSM 2005 “Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome”
- Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena - Professor C C De Silva Memorial Oration of SLCP 2009 “Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome: Steroid sensitive,steroid resistant and beyond”

3. Initiated the first Paediatric Renal Transplantation Programme in 2003

4. Leading Health Professionals of the World 2011

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena, is listed among the top Leading Health Professionals of the World for 2011

5. Key Positions in the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians

- President 1976/1977 –Prof. Herbert Aponso
- President 2003/2004 – Prof. Ananda Wijekoon
- President 2006/2007 – Prof. Chandra Abeysekera
- Secretary 2003/2004 –Prof, Asiri Abeygunawardena
- Secretary 2006/2007 – Dr. Nandanee Wickramasinghe

Workshops/ Seminars undergraduate/postgraduate, conducted on a regular basis

- Radiology meeting in 1st Friday of every month
- Journal club every Friday
- Grand ward round together with Kandy and Sirimavo Bandaranayake Childrens Hospital twice a month
- CePELS –Central Province Paediatric Emergencies and Life Support Course once a year

Other workshops

- Workshop on Growth and Nutrition –in Collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science- August 2011

MPhil, PhD thesis supervised by staff

1. Prof. A.S.B.Wijekoon

- Examiner - MPhil on “Improving Child Health Through a Health Promotional Approach directed at families and communities using the existing field staff (PHM)”
Mr.M.D.Galamangada Guruge
- Examiner – MPhil – Mr.G.G.N.Duminda
- Supervisor- PhD – Dr. Damayanthi Nanyakkara – “Screening for Hypothyroidism”

2. Dr. Thushara Kudagammana

- Supervisor – MPhil on Assessment of Functional Motor Disability in Children with Cerebral Palsy - Lecturer – Allied health Sciences

Areas of research interests

Prof. A.S.B. Wijekoon

- ✓ General and Medical Education
- ✓ Medical curriculum development
- ✓ Food, nutrition, growth development and Child Psychology
- ✓ Childhood Nutrition and adult health
- ✓ Art, drama and music

Prof. Chandra Abeysekara

- ✓ Paediatric Nephrology
- ✓ Urinary Tract Infections in children
- ✓ Chronic Renal Failure
- ✓ Childhood Meningitis
- ✓ Diarrhoeal diseases in children

Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena

- ✓ Paediatric Nephrology
- ✓ Childhood nephrotic syndrome

Dr. Thushara Kudagammana

- ✓ Childhood nutrition
- ✓ Paediatric Respiratorology and allergies

Dr. R. Mudiyanse

- ✓ Thalassaemia management & prevention
- ✓ Dengue Fever
- ✓ Medical Education
- ✓ Paediatric emergencies and Life support

Dr.Heshan Jayaweera

- ✓ Paediatric neurology
- ✓ Neonatology

International contributions

Prof. Herber Aponso

- ✓ WHO Consultant in Paediatric Education in India (1974)
- ✓ Visiting Professor at the B J Medical College, Ahmedabad
- ✓ Visiting Professor in the University of Connecticut(USA)from 1984-1987
- ✓ Member of the WHO Expert Committee (Geneva) on Acute Respiratory Tract Infections

Prof. A.S.B. Wijekoon

- ✓ First Professor of Paediatrics, Nepal Medical College, Kathmandu, Nepal. 2002
- ✓ Member of the Steering Committee, Triangle Programme for Social Medicine and Science, Connecticut, Antwerp and Peradeniya.
- ✓ Visiting Professor, Dept. of Medical Anthropology, Univ. of Connecticut, US, 1984
- ✓ Examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate studies in medicine
 - Nepal Medical College and Kathmandu Medical College
 - Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Pakistan College of Paediatricians

Prof. Chandra Abeysekera

- ✓ Council member of the Asian Paediatric Nephrology Association
- ✓ Member of the International Paediatric Nephrology Association 2005.to date
- ✓ Member of the International Paediatric Transplant Association 2005 to date.
- ✓ Member of the Asian Paediatric Nephrology Association 2005 to date
- ✓ Collaborative research work with Tokyo University, Japan- 2005 to date

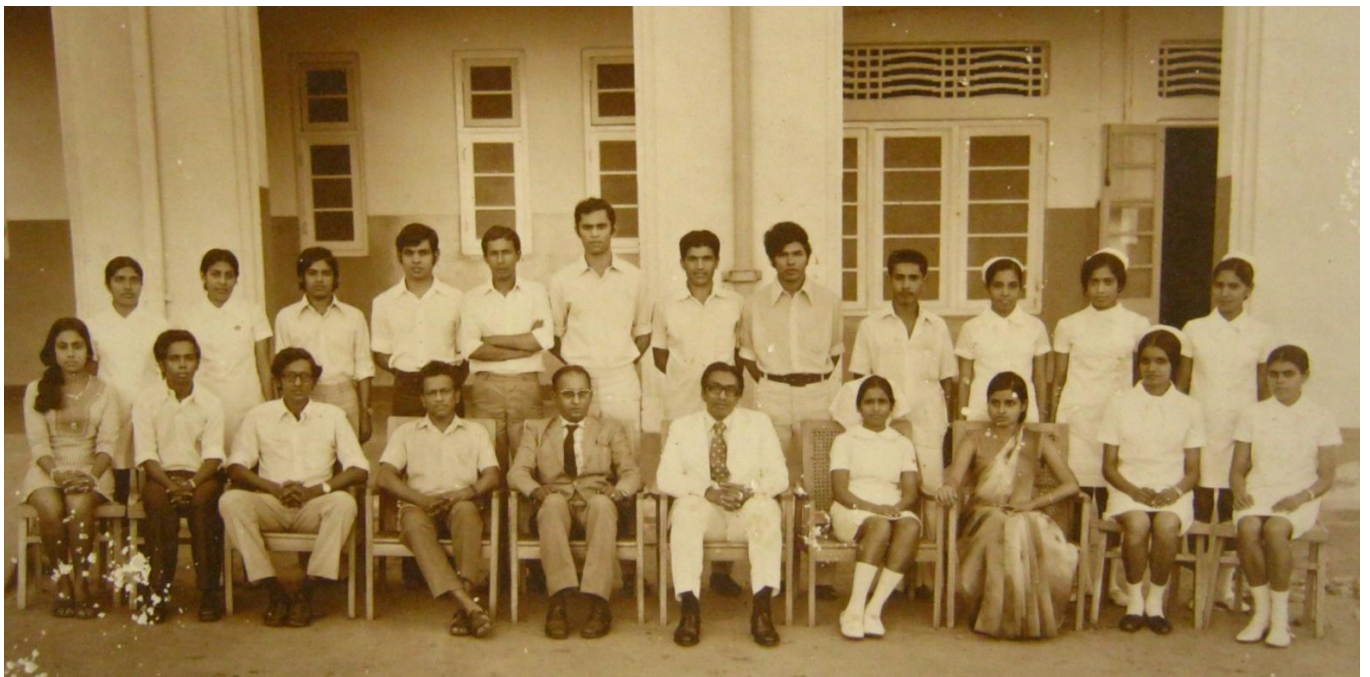
Prof. Asiri Abeygunawardena

- ✓ Member of the International Paediatric Nephrology Association– 2004 to date
- ✓ Member of the International Paediatric Transplant Association-2007 to date
- ✓ Member of the Indian Paediatric Nephrology Group-2005 to date
- ✓ Collaborative research work with the Institute of Child Health, University College London, UK-2002 to date
- ✓ Collaborative research work with Tokyo University, Japan- 2005 to date

- ✓ Collaborative research work with the European Society of Paediatric Nephrology-2006 to date
- ✓ Collaborative work with the University of USA



Staff-Department of Paediatrics -1964



Staff - Department of Paediatrics -1978



Farewell to Prof.Herbert Aponso-1993



Farewell to Dr.Lali Jayasena 2003



Staff of the Department of Paediatrics – 2011

Seated : from left ; Prof.Asiri Abeyagunawardena,, Prof.Ananda Wijekoon, Prof. Chandra Abeysekera, Dr. R.Mudiyanse.

Standing from left Mr. B.M. Seelaratne, Dr. Thushara Kudagamana, Mr. Upali Wijeratne, Mrs. Chandani Herath and Mrs. Padmalatha Menike.

The above information has been taken from scanty sources of records available in the Department Archives all records of past academic and non academic staff members. Therefore please bear with us if there are any lapses or shortcomings in the information given above.

