

## Message from the Dean

### Professor P.S.K. Nanayakkara

It gives me immense pleasure to send this message to the 4th Research Conference of the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Congress (PeMSARC) 2025. Over the years, this conference has grown into a hallmark event in the Faculty calendar, fostering a vibrant culture of research, critical thinking, and academic excellence among our students and staff.

Research is an integral pillar of our Faculty, and I am delighted to see the increasing enthusiasm and commitment of our undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff in this domain. The formal recognition of student research within our curriculum has further encouraged scholarly activities, nurturing a generation of inquisitive minds ready to explore, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to science and society.

PeMSARC provides an invaluable platform that brings together students, academics, and researchers, creating opportunities to showcase their findings, share knowledge, and ignite new ideas. I am particularly pleased that, once again this year, selected student research will be published in the Book of Proceedings, and outstanding research contributions will be recognized with awards — an incentive that continues to uplift the standard of research and academic inquiry at our Faculty.

We are truly honoured to have Professor Vasanthi Thevanesam, Professor Emeritus in Microbiology and Consultant Microbiologist, former Head of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, as our Chief Guest. A distinguished academic and clinician, Prof. Thevanesam's contributions to the fields of infectious diseases, medical microbiology, and antimicrobial research have been immense. With her extensive work on leptospirosis, rickettsia, mycobacteria and melioidosis etc she continues to guide postgraduate research and national-level scientific advancements. Her presence as the chief guest will undoubtedly inspire our young researchers to pursue excellence and innovation.

We are truly honoured to have Professor Anuja Premawardhena gracing this year's congress as our Keynote Speaker, Cadre Chair and Senior Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Professor Premawardhena is an distinguished alumnus of Faculty of Medicine Peradeniya, an excellent clinician and an academic, whose illustrious career spans both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. With his extensive contributions to general medicine and his role as an examiner for the MD (Medicine) and MRCP (UK) examinations, Professor Premawardhena has been instrumental in shaping the future of medical education and training in Sri Lanka. His presence today will undoubtedly inspire our students to achieve higher goals in their research and clinical careers.

We are also privileged to have the guidance and support of our Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M.T. Madujith in all our academic activities. His unwavering support for research and academic innovation has been a continuous source of inspiration for our faculty community.

I firmly believe that platforms such as PeMSARC not only celebrate academic achievements but also lay the foundation for the future — empowering students to embrace a research-oriented mindset, build resilience in scientific pursuit, and contribute solutions to real-world challenges. I wish the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Congress 2025 every success and extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers and congratulations to all participants and supporters.



**Prof. P.S.K. Nanayakkara**  
(MD, MBBS, MA, B.Ac., MAcF)  
Dean  
Professor in Anaesthesiology  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Peradeniya