

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

### **Professor M.D. Lamawansa**

It is a great honor and privilege to share a message on the occasion of the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference (PeMSARC) 2024. This esteemed gathering highlights the remarkable dedication and innovation in health sciences and stands as a testament to our collective commitment to advancing research at the University of Peradeniya. The meticulous efforts of the Dean of the Faculty, alongside the diligent staff deserve our deepest appreciation.

The University of Peradeniya has a rich tradition of excellence in health sciences research, a legacy built by the tireless efforts of our faculty and students over generations. However, we recognize that our potential is far from fully realized. Unlocking this potential is crucial for our university's development as a postgraduate research university, a key part of our centenary development project.

The establishment of a multidisciplinary research laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine and the strong international collaborations being forged with institutions such as the University of Illinois and the Chinese Academy of Sciences will be pivotal in achieving the university's research goal. The newly launched initiatives to promote PhD student scholarships, multidisciplinary research grants, and research endowments will undoubtedly support the Faculty of Medicine in its pursuit of research excellence.

Historically, alumni and well-wishers have primarily supported student activities and welfare rather than research. I hope the Faculty of Medicine alumni will expand its focus beyond welfare, and to assist their faculty to excel in research. Consideration can be given to establish research endowments, either for students or staff.

I wish all participants a fruitful conference, filled with insightful discussions and collaborative opportunities. May this event inspire us all to reach new heights in our research endeavors. Thank you

Prof MD Lamawansa  
(MS, FRCS (Edin), PhD)  
Chair Professor of Surgery  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Peradeniya

