

Message from the Vice Chancellor

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa

I am delighted to extend my wishes to the Peradeniya Medical School Annual Research Conference 2023 (PeMSARC'23). The commitment exhibited by the academic community of the Faculty of Medicine to expand the research culture is admirable.

International ranking systems, like those used by Times Higher Education, take into account a variety of factors, including an institution's research output, the quantity of published research citations, international research collaborations, and the commercialization of research. Despite being ranked among the top 5% of universities worldwide, the University of Peradeniya nevertheless falls behind in research. While citations have received high rates, the research has received low marks. Therefore, we need to find ways to develop a stronger research culture.

The university has recently taken a number of actions, including providing multidisciplinary research grants, funding for publications, educating staff members in grant application, and disseminating information about national and international grants. As university funds are not sufficient to conduct all the research that academic staff is capable of, we must make collective efforts to attract external grants. The newly established sub-office under the University Research Council has taken some initiatives in this direction and hopes you will use the opportunities created.

Hosting a research conference of this nature enhances the institution's reputation for academic excellence. I commend the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the PeMSARC'23 organizing committee for their efforts in putting together this event.

I look forward to witnessing the contributions to new knowledge that will emerge from PeMSARC'23.



M.D. Lamawansa, MS, FRCS (Edin), PhD
Chair Professor of Surgery
Vice Chancellor
University of Peradeniya