

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. YASITHA AROSHA ILLANGASEKERA MBChB (Sheffield, UK), PhD (Sheffield-Hallam, UK)

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Current Position

Senior Lecturer Gr II, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Undergraduate Qualifications

University of Sheffield Medical School, UK	Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)	Sept. 1997- July 2002
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Postgraduate qualifications

Sheffield Hallam University, UK	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	March 2016
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Title of thesis: Genetic Polymorphisms and Lifestyle Factors Associated with Overweight & Obesity in Sri Lankans

Medical Council Registration

Sri Lanka Medical Council (Reg No:22393) – Full Registration with License to Practice

General Medical Council, UK (Reg No:6051485) – Full Registration with License to Practice

Employment history

Grade and Specialty	Employer	Period
Visiting Researcher (On sabbatical leave)	Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom	Nov 2024 – Nov 2025
Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology	Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	Mar 2016 – Present
Clinical Fellow in Emergency & General Medicine rotation	Kings Mill Hospital Sherwood Forest Hospitals Foundation Trust, UK	Aug 2009 – Aug 2010
Lecturer in Pharmacology	Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology Faculty of Medicine University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka	May 2006 – Mar 2016
Senior House Officer in Care of the elderly	Tickhill Road Hospital Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	Feb 2005-July 2005
Senior House Officer in Respiratory Medicine/Diabetes/General Medicine	Doncaster Royal Infirmary Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	Aug 2003-Feb 2005
Pre-registration House Officer in General Medicine/Surgery	Doncaster Royal Infirmary	Aug 2002 –Aug 2003

Faculty positions served

1. Head Dept. of Pharmacology
Faculty of Medicine Peradeniya April 2017- July 2020
2. Head e-Library
Faculty of Medicine Peradeniya Dec 2016 – July 2019
3. Senior Student Counsellor 2019 - 2022
4. Faculty Tier 1 representative to Central Quality Assurance Cell for University Institutional Review 2022/23

University positions (current)

1. Faculty Representative - University Strategic Planning Committee 2026-30
2. Criterion coordinator for Criterion 6 (Learning environment, student support and progression) – Faculty Quality Assurance Cell
3. Editorial board member – Sri Lanka Journal of Medicine
4. Editorial board member – Hantana Vision University Research Magazine

Visiting Lecturer in Pharmacology positions (Current)

1. BSc nursing degree course, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya
2. Dept. of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
3. BSc (Hon) in Biomedical Sciences Course, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
4. Dept. of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sabaragamuwa

Research Interests

Pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine

Neuropharmacology and Obesity

Diabetes & Endocrine pharmacology

Research Competencies and Skills

- Research design and methodology
- Literature review, critical appraisal and reference management
- Subject recruitment and obtaining informed consent, ethical considerations
- Data and biological sample collection
- Laboratory skills – DNA extraction, real-time PCR, ELISA
- Data management and statistical analysis methods
- Technical writing and reporting
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Workshops and training courses attended (selected)

1. Workshop on the use of Generative Artificial intelligence in teaching and research
2. Certificate courses in laboratory techniques and molecular biology
3. Certificate course in research competencies
4. Certificate course in Educational Technology for Teachers in Health Sciences

Areas of academic interests

Teaching, learning pedagogy.

Development of undergraduate co-generic skills

Utility of Generative Artificial Intelligence in teaching and research

Professional Membership

Life Member: Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Life Member: The Kandy Society of Medicine

Publications

Supun Manathunga, **Yasitha Illangasekera**. Retrieval Augmented Generation and Representative Vector Summarization for large unstructured textual data in Medical Education. August 2023 DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2308.00479

Illangasekera Y.A. Obesity, Leptin gene and the Environment. *Hantana Vision Research Magazine* 2022 September; Vol 8 Issue 1, pg 9-10.

Illangasekera, Y.A., Kumarasiri, P.V.R., Fernando, D.J. *et al.* Association of the leptin receptor Q223R (rs1137101) polymorphism with obesity measures in Sri Lankans. *BMC Res Notes* **13**, 34 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-020-4898-4>

R.S. Thalagahagoda , A.H.H.M. Jayaweera , **Y.A. Illangasekera** , A.S. Abeyagunawardena. The effect of alternate-day corticosteroids on linear growth in childhood nephrotic syndrome. *Asia Pac J Paediatr Child Health*. 2019 Mar;2:34-44

Abeyagunawardena AS, Thalagahagoda RS, Dissanayake PV, Abeyagunawardena S, **Illangasekera YA**, Karunadasa UI, Trompeter RS. Short courses of daily prednisolone during upper respiratory tract infections reduce relapse frequency in childhood nephrotic syndrome. *Pediatr Nephrol*. 2017 Aug;32(8):1377-1382. doi: 10.1007/s00467-017-3640-5. Epub 2017 Mar 24.

Illangasekera YA, Kumarasiri RP, Fernando DJ, Dalton CF. Association of FTO and near MC4R variants with obesity measures in urban and rural dwelling Sri Lankans. *Obes Res Clin Pract*. 2016 Mar 2. pii: S1871-403X(16)00009-0. doi: 10.1016/j.orcp.2016.02.003.

Uvindi JAMD, Illesinghe HP, Bandara HBCT, Madhushani SDA1, Kasundara MD, **Illangasekara YA2**. Knowledge, attitudes and practice among health care professionals in reporting adverse drug reactions in selected primary, secondary and tertiary care units in Kandy district. Proceedings of the 47th annual academic sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine, 5th-7th Feb, 2024. Pg . Abstract No. 16

Y.A Illangasekera, C.F Dalton, G.D.D.J Bandara , D.M.S.N.B Dassanayake, O.RGamage. Association between Genetic Polymorphisms of the Organic Cation Transporter-1 and Response to Metformin Therapy in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes. Proceedings of the *Peradeniya University International Research Symposium and Exposition 2024*; Peradeniya. 29th-40th August 2024. Abstract Pg 262.

Illangasekera YA, Manathunga SS. Personalising student learning: A case study using large language models for effective extraction of textbook information. *Proceedings of the 46th annual academic sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine*, 7-9th February 2024. Pg 8. Abstract No. 078

Illangasekera OR, Samaranayake TSP, **Illangasekera YA**, Tennakoon S. Screening for microvascular complications in elderly patients with diabetes attending a divisional hospital in Kandy district -Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 8th Scientific Conference of the Sri Lanka Association of Geriatric Medicine*. 15th-16th June 2023. Pg 45. Abstract No. OP09

Illangasekera YA, Manathunga SS. Utility of machine learning in medical research. *Proceedings of the 45th annual academic sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine*, 9-11th February 2023. Pg 7. Abstract No. OP 78

Aberanu J, **Illangasekera YA**. Knowledge, attitudes and practices related to self-administration of insulin among patients presenting to the diabetic clinic in National Hospital Kandy. *Proceedings of the 45th annual academic sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine*, 9-11th February 2023. Pg 3. Abstract No. OP 20

YA Illangasekera, DB Ekanayaka, DMNSB Dasanayake, D Yapa, OR Gamage. Medical students' perception on the availability of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) resources. *Colombo Conference on Medical Education 2019*, 14-15th November, Sri Lanka. Abstract PP31

YA Illangasekera, GDDJ Bandara, DMSNB Dasanayake, AMIRK Athauda. Evaluation of a soft skills training program conducted for medical undergraduates. *Colombo Conference on Medical Education 2019*, 14-15th November, Sri Lanka. Abstract PP23

Illangasekera YA, Kumarasiri RP, Fernando DJ, Dalton CF. Association of the leptin receptor Q223R (rs1137101) polymorphism with obesity measures in Sri Lankans. *Peradeniya University International Research Sessions 2019*; Peradeniya Sept 2019, Abstract 23.

Illangasekera VLU, Senanayake Y, Atapattu T, **Illangasekera YA**, Kumarasiri PVR. A descriptive study of factors affecting cardiac risk in a diabetic population. *Proceedings of the 40th Annual Academic Sessions of the Kandy Society of Medicine*, 15th-17th Feb 2018; Pg 42, Abstract OP31.