



RUSL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

**University Research Awards Committee
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
08th October 2025**

PROGRAMME

5.30 pm	Arrival of guests
5.40 pm	Traditional lighting of the oil lamp
5.45 pm	University anthem
5.50 pm	Commemoration of heroes
5.55 pm	Cultural event
6.00 pm	Welcome address – Chair, ISymRU 2025 (Prof. Subashinie Senadheera)
6.15 pm	Address by the keynote speaker (Mr. Rohan Pethiyagoda)
7.00 pm	Introduction to awards ceremony – Chair, Research Awards Committee (Prof. Kosala Weerakoon)
7.10 pm	Address by the Acting Vice Chancellor, RUSL (Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara)
7.20 pm	Address by the chief guest (Senior Prof. Nilanthi de Silva)
7.30 pm	Awards ceremony – Session I
8.10 pm	Cultural event
8.20 pm	Awards ceremony – Session II
8.50 pm	Cultural event
9.00 pm	Awards ceremony – Session III
9.10 pm	Vote of thanks - Committee member, Research Awards Committee (Prof. J S Kumari)
9.15 pm	National Anthem
9.20 pm.	Dinner



RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA (1996–2025)

The Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) was established as the 11th National University in Sri Lanka and was declared open on 31st January 1996, in accordance with Gazette Notification No. 896/2 and the University Act No. 16 of 1978. RUSL, located in the historic city of Mihintale, situated 14 km east of Anuradhapura, marks the inception of Sri Lankan social development as one of the most prominent centres in our history.

Currently, RUSL has six faculties: Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Management Studies, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Faculty of Technology. Through this, it is expected to produce virtuous, intellectual, and competent citizens to meet the needs of the 21st century.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



In the past, our university's focus on research led to its rise in university rankings. Our primary goal is to maintain quality and explore new research and innovations.

The honours, awards, and prizes presented today represent a golden moment for the university and add great value to the lives of our academics. We do this with the full understanding that everything that has happened in human history from the beginning to the present day has been a result of research-based change. We must continue to adapt to the ongoing changes and find solutions to new challenges. Therefore, it is also understandable that all these evaluations are responsibilities placed on the heads of modern researchers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the organisers and the university administration for their dedication to organising such a ceremony, which was not an easy task. As the Chancellor, I would like to offer my blessings to all those who worked hard and were involved in organising the awards ceremony based on research. I wish Rajarata



University of Sri Lanka, a high-level research institution,
which will soon celebrate its thirtieth anniversary.

Rev. Eathalwetunuwewe Gnanathilaka Thero
The Chancellor
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to all gathered here for the University Research Awards Ceremony. This event stands as a celebration of the spirit of inquiry, innovation and dedication that defines our

academic community.

Research is the foundation upon which universities build their reputation and contribute meaningfully to society. It is through the pursuit of knowledge and the application of new discoveries that we address national and global challenges, improve lives and shape a sustainable future.

Today, we recognise and honour the outstanding achievements of our researchers, whose dedication and creativity have brought distinction to our university. Your contributions not only enhance the academic excellence of this institution but also inspire future generations of scholars to push the boundaries of knowledge.

As we celebrate success, let us also reaffirm our collective responsibility to uphold the highest standards of integrity and innovation in research. I am confident that with the



continued efforts of our academic community, our university will further expand its role as a centre of excellence in research and contribute significantly to national development and global knowledge creation.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all award recipients. May your success inspire others and pave the way for even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Dr. Janaka Pushpakumara
Acting Vice-Chancellor
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST



It is both an honour and a privilege to be part of the Annual Research Excellence Awards Ceremony organised by the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Research is the backbone of knowledge advancement and societal transformation. It is through relentless curiosity, critical thinking, and dedication that new ideas are born, challenges are addressed, and lives are improved. The work being recognised today is a testament to the talent, hard work, and perseverance of the brilliant minds within this university.

I would like to congratulate all the award winners on your remarkable achievements. Your commitment to expanding the frontiers of knowledge not only uplifts the academic standards of your University but also inspires others to continue pursuing excellence with integrity and purpose. At the same time, I hope that you will receive your award with humility and see this recognition as a milestone, not a destination in your research career.



As we celebrate the spirit of inquiry, innovation, and academic excellence that drives meaningful progress in our society, I commend the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka for its commitment to research and innovation. May your university continue to be a hub for cutting-edge discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration, and societal impact.

Thank you, and once again, my heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees.

Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva
Vice-Chancellor
University of Kelaniya



MESSAGE FROM THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



If you read this year's budget estimates published by the Treasury, you will see national expenditure, totalling Rs 8.8 trillion, allocated among 338 'heads'. What is remarkable about these expenditure heads is that, for the most part, the concerned institutions are

impervious to science or that science is irrelevant to them. Worse, few of them are even aware of the others: they operate in silos.

That must change. *Beyond Boundaries* aptly reflects that need, and there are no better places to transgress boundaries than universities. But words are not enough: curriculums need to be broadened. Engineers need to learn evolutionary science and be inspired by design ideas from the natural world. Doctors and lawyers must learn statistical tools, such as Bayesian Inference, to better understand diagnostic evaluation and evidence, respectively. Economists and sociologists would both benefit from an improved understanding of societal behaviour through, for example, public goods games. Even as the advancement of science proceeds apace, demanding ever more specialisation, we



need to recognise that social benefits flow best when boundaries are violated.

I hope that this year's event will cut through some of those boundaries, widening the horizons of RUSL graduates, empowering them to transform the functions of those 'heads'. Meaningful national progress is otherwise impossible.

Mr. Rohan Pethiyagoda
Research Associate,
Ichthyology Section,
Australian Museum,
Sydney, Australia.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE



It is indeed a great privilege for me to warmly welcome all of you to the Research Awards Ceremony 2025 of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This occasion is a moment of pride, as we gather to celebrate the achievements of our dedicated researchers, whose work reflects both excellence in scholarship

and meaningful impact.

The Research Awards Ceremony is not only about recognition, but also about fostering a vibrant culture of inquiry, collaboration, and innovation that strengthens the research environment within our university. Each award presented today is a testament to the commitment and perseverance of our academic community, and it symbolises how individual contributions collectively enhance the reputation of RUSL as an institution that is rapidly emerging, both locally and globally, as a centre of research excellence.

I also wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to all applicants who came forward. Every submission reflects the



passion and dedication of our scholars and has contributed to the overall success of this initiative. The evaluation process was conducted with fairness, transparency, and academic integrity, ensuring that recognition is awarded on just and equal grounds.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees. May your accomplishments continue to inspire others to pursue impactful research, and may this event further strengthen our collective resolve to advance national development while contributing to the global body of knowledge.

Professor K G A D Weerakoon
Chairperson
Research Awards Committee
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prof. K G A D Weerakoon (Chairperson)	Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
Prof. J S Kumari	Faculty of Management Studies
Prof. S K N Gamage	Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities
Prof. L K W Wijayaratne	Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. K A S H Kulathilake	Faculty of Applied Sciences
Dr. H K S De Zoysa	Faculty of Technology



UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AWARDS ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara	Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
Prof. R M N C Swarnapali	Faculty of Management Studies
Prof. E M R K B Edirisinghe	Faculty of Applied Sciences
Dr. A M P Adikari	Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities
Dr. P D Kahandage	Faculty of Agriculture
Dr. P R H N G Thilakarathne	Faculty of Technology



RUSL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2025

Purpose:

These awards are to recognise, appreciate, encourage, and honour the academic staff members at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) who excel in research, innovation, and scholarly work. The Research Awards Ceremony is designed to inspire and motivate our researchers to pursue impactful, high-quality research that advances scientific knowledge and informs policy, while also strengthening the position of the university as a leading centre of innovation and academic excellence. Moreover, these recognitions will increase and encourage collaborative research activities within and outside the institute. Sixteen (16) awards will be presented to the eligible applicants at the university and faculty levels, as elaborated below.



Lifetime Award

1. RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award

Annual Awards

RUSL Excellence Awards

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher
2. Most Outstanding Young Researcher
3. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles
4. Top Ten Researchers with the highest h -index
5. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of citations
6. Best Inventor

Vice Chancellor's Awards for each faculty and the library

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher
2. Most Outstanding Young Researcher
3. Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff
4. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles
5. Top Ten Researchers with the highest h -index
6. Top Ten Researchers having the highest number of citations
7. Recognition for the indexed articles published in the preceding year
8. Recognition for the patented inventions within the preceding year
9. Department having the highest number of indexed journal articles published



LIST OF AWARDEES 2025

Lifetime Award

1. RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award

Prof. K G A D Weerakoon
(Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences)

RUSL Excellence Awards

1. RUSL Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Senior Researcher (≥ 40 years on the closing date of application)

Prof. K G A D Weerakoon
(Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences)

2. RUSL Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher (< 40 years on the closing date of application)

Dr. K I S Koralegedara
(Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences)

3. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles

Place	Name
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1 st	Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
2 nd	Prof. K G A D Weerakoon Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
3 rd	Prof. N K A Silva Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences



4 th	Prof. D Rathish Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
5 th	Dr. D L P Senarathna Faculty of Applied Sciences
6 th	Dr. H K S de Zoysa Faculty of Technology
6 th	Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana Faculty of Technology
6 th	Prof. T C Bamunuarachchige Faculty of Technology
6 th	Dr. K R E Padmathilake Faculty of Agriculture
6 th	Ms. S N S Dahanayake Faculty of Management Studies
6 th	Dr. W M S Fernando Faculty of Applied Sciences
6 th	Prof. G G N Duminda Faculty of Applied Sciences
6 th	Dr. R M I S K Senevirathna Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

4. Top Ten Researchers with the highest *h*-index

Place	Name
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1 st	Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
2 nd	Prof. K G A D Weerakoon Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
3 rd	Prof. D Rathish Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
4 th	Dr. E M U S B Ekanayake Faculty of Applied Sciences
5 th	Prof. N K A Silva Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences



5 th	Prof. R P I R Prasanna Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities
5 th	Prof. P N Yapa Faculty of Applied Sciences
8 th	Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
8 th	Dr. D L P Senarathna Faculty of Applied Sciences
10 th	Dr. R M I S K Senavirathna Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
10 th	Prof. N S Abeysinghe Faculty of Agriculture
10 th	Prof. S K N Gamage Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

5. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of citations

Place	Name
1 st	Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
2 nd	Prof. K G A D Weerakoon Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
3 rd	Prof. D Rathish Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
4 th	Prof. P N Yapa Faculty of Applied Sciences
5 th	Prof. N K A Silva Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
6 th	Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences
7 th	Prof. S K N Gamage Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities
8 th	Dr. K A S H Kulathilake Faculty of Applied Sciences



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|------------------|--|
| 9 th | Prof. R P I R Prasanna
Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities |
| 10 th | Dr. E M U S B Ekanayake
Faculty of Applied Sciences |

6. Best Inventor

Not awarded

Vice Chancellor's Award at each Faculty and Library

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher (≥ 40 years on the closing date of application)

Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. D A U D Devasinghe

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Prof. P N Yapa

Faculty of Management Studies

Not awarded

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

Not awarded

Faculty of Technology

Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana

2. Most Outstanding Young Researcher (<40 years on the closing date of application)

Faculty of Agriculture

Not awarded

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Not awarded



Faculty of Management Studies

Ms. K G P Senani

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

Dr. M G R S S Gunathilake

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

Not awarded

Faculty of Technology

Not awarded

3. Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff

Not awarded

4. Top Ten Researchers having the highest number of indexed journal articles

Faculty of Agriculture

Not awarded

Faculty of Applied Sciences

1st : Dr. D L P Senarathna

2nd: Dr. W M S Fernando

2nd: Prof. G G N Duminda

4th : Ms. H P Reyal

Faculty of Management Studies

1st : Ms. S N S Dahanayake

2nd: Ms. T D S H Dissanayake

3rd : Prof. J S Kumari

3rd : Ms. E W Biyiri

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

1st : Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe

2nd : Prof. K G A D Weerakoon

3rd : Prof. N K A Silva

4th : Prof. D Rathish



5th : Dr. R M I S K Senevirathna

6th : Prof. H T W Weerakoon

6th : Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara

6th : Dr. M G R S S Gunathilake

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

1st : Prof. S K N Gamage

1st : Prof. P S K Rajapakshe

1st : Dr. J M S B Jayasundara

1st : Dr. M M S A Marasinghe

Faculty of Technology

1st : Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana

1st : Dr. H K S de Zoysa

1st : Prof. T C Bamunuarachchige

5. Top Ten Researchers having the highest *h*-index

Faculty of Agriculture

1st : Prof. N S Abeysinghe

2nd : Dr. A J Fernando

2nd : Dr. K R E Padmathilake

2nd : Prof. M H J P Gunarathna

Faculty of Applied Sciences

1st : Dr. E M U S B Ekanayake

2nd : Prof. P N Yapa

3rd : Dr. D L P Senarathna

4th : Dr. W M S Fernando

4th : Prof. G G N Duminda

6th : Ms. K W Y R Kalamulla

Faculty of Management Studies

1st : Prof. J S Kumari

2nd : Ms. S N S Dahanayake

3rd : Ms. H H Dedunu

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

1st : Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe



2nd: Prof. K G A D Weerakoon
3rd : Prof. D Rathish
4th : Prof. N K A Silva
5th : Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara
6th : Dr. R M I S K Senevirathna
7th : Prof. H T W Weerakoon
7th : Dr. K I S Koralegedara
7th : Dr. W G S S Waiddyanatha

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

1st : Prof. R P I R Prasanna
2nd: Prof. S K N Gamage
3rd : Ms. J M G Lalani
3rd : Prof. P S K Rajapakshe
3rd : Dr. M M S A Marasinghe
3rd : Dr. A M P Adikari
3rd : Prof. E M S Ekanayake
3rd : Dr. J M S B Jayasundara
3rd : Mr. P Siriwardhana

Faculty of Technology

1st : Prof. T C Bamunuarachchige
1st : Dr. H K S de Zoysa
3rd : Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana

6. Top Ten Researchers having the highest number of citations

Faculty of Agriculture

1st : Dr. K R E Padmathilake
2nd : Prof. N S Abeysinghe
3rd : Dr. A J Fernando
4th : Prof. M H J P Gunarathna
5th : Ms. K G S Nirmanee



Faculty of Applied Sciences

- 1st : Prof. P N Yapa**
- 2nd : Dr. K A S H Kulathilake**
- 3rd : Dr. E M U S B Ekanayake**
- 4th : Ms. K W Y R Kalamulla**
- 5th : Dr. W M S Fernando**
- 6th : Dr. D L P Senarathna**
- 7th : Prof. G G N Duminda**

Faculty of Management Studies

- 1st : Prof. J S Kumari**
- 2nd : Ms. S N S Dahanayake**
- 3rd : Ms. H H Dedunu**
- 4th : Ms. T D S H Dissanayake**

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

- 1st : Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe**
- 2nd : Prof. K G A D Weerakoon**
- 3rd : Prof. D Rathish**
- 4th : Prof. N K A Silva**
- 5th : Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara**
- 6th : Dr. K I S Koralegedara**
- 7th : Dr. R M I S K Senevirathna**
- 8th : Dr. W G S S Waiddyanatha**

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

- 1st : Prof. S K N Gamage**
- 2nd : Prof. R P I R Prasanna**
- 3rd : Dr. A M P Adikari**
- 4th : Ms. J M G Lalani**
- 5th : Dr. M M S A Marasinghe**

Faculty of Technology

- 1st : Prof. T C Bamunuarachchige**
- 2nd : Dr. H K S de Zoysa**
- 3rd : Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana**



Library

Not awarded

7. Recognitions for the indexed articles published in the preceding year

Faculty of Agriculture

1. **Prof. N S Abeysinghe**
2. **Prof. M H J P Gunarathna**

Faculty of Applied Sciences

1. **Ms. B R C M Basnayaka**
2. **Ms. N Dissanayake**
3. **Mr. H Gunarathna**
4. **Mr. H H M I D Herath**
5. **Mr. K M R K T Herath**
6. **Mr. J A K S Jayakody**
7. **Ms. K W Y R Kalamulla**
8. **Ms. P Kandegedara**
9. **Mr. K Kirambakanda**
10. **Ms. T Nirath**
11. **Ms. P P Panduwawala**
12. **Mr. R P U Prasad**
13. **Ms. D Prashadika**
14. **Ms. H P Reyal**
15. **Mr. M K D D Sandaruwan**
16. **Mr. S M M T Senarathna**
17. **Mr. E M C P Senevirathne**
18. **Ms. B M C Somasiri**
19. **Ms. D Soysa**
20. **Mr. A V Weerakoon**
21. **Ms. I Wijerathne**
22. **Dr. E M U S B Ekanayake**
23. **Dr. R S K H S Ferdinandez**



24. **Dr. E Y Fernando**
25. **Dr. W M S Fernando**
26. **Dr. D K Hettiarachchi**
27. **Dr. C Sarathchandra**
28. **Dr. D L P Senarathna**
29. **Dr. S A Senevirathne**
30. **Prof. G G N Duminda**
31. **Prof. E M R K B Edirisinghe**
32. **Prof. H M A M C Herath**
33. **Prof. W M Sriyani**
34. **Prof. P N Yapa**

Faculty of Management Studies

1. **Ms. E W Biyiri**
2. **Ms. S N S Dahanayake**
3. **Mr. K T L U S Dayangana**
4. **Ms. T D S H Dissanayake**
5. **Mr. J A P M Jayasinghe**
6. **Ms. K G P Senani**
7. **Prof. D M C Dassanayake**
8. **Prof. J S Kumari**

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

9. **Mr. S P Gunarathna**
10. **Ms. S D Gunasekara**
11. **Ms. S C Illepperuma**
12. **Ms. H N Kaludewa**
13. **Mr. R Kanapathy**
14. **Ms. C N Kappagoda**
15. **Ms. R Keragala**
16. **Dr. T C Agampodi**
17. **Dr. S B Agampodi**
18. **Dr. P R S R J Bandara**
19. **Dr. M G R S S Gunathilaka**
20. **Dr. N K Jayakody**



21. **Dr. J M D D Jayasundara**
22. **Dr. R M S I Rajapakse**
23. **Dr. S G T Rathnasekara**
24. **Dr. R D N C Sarathchandra**
25. **Dr. A M A H M S Senanayake**
26. **Dr. W S M K J Senanayake**
27. **Dr. R M I S K Senavirathna**
28. **Dr. W G S S Waiddyanatha**
29. **Dr. A W Wanniarachchi**
30. **Dr. M Weerasinghe**
31. **Dr. M R P Weerawansa**
32. **Dr. W M Y L Wijekoon**
33. **Prof. D Rathish**
34. **Prof. N K A Silva**
35. **Prof. Y P J N Warnasekara**
36. **Prof. H T W Weerakoon**
37. **Prof. K G A D Weerakoon**
38. **Prof. W A N D Wickramasinghe**
39. **Senior Prof. S H Siribaddana**

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

1. **Ms. J M G Lalani**
2. **Mr. P Siriwardhana**
3. **Dr. A M P Adikari**
4. **Dr. J M S B Jayasundara**
5. **Dr. M M S A Marasinghe**
6. **Prof. E M S Ekanayake**
7. **Prof. S K N Gamage**
8. **Prof. R P I R Prasanna**
9. **Prof. P S K Rajapakshe**

Faculty of Technology

1. **Mr. S S S T Fernando**
2. **Mr. I Jayamanna**
3. **Ms. M Manamperi**



4. **Mr. G Perera**
5. **Mr. W Wickramaarachchi**
6. **Ms. M K Wimalasena**
7. **Mr. I C L Zoysa**
8. **Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana**
9. **Dr. H K S de Zoysa**
10. **Prof. T C Bamunuarachchige**
11. **Prof. R P G Jayasooriya**
12. **Prof. N N Wijayawardene**

8. Recognition for the patented invention within the preceding year

Not awarded

9. Department having the highest number of indexed journal articles published

Faculty of Agriculture

**Department of Agricultural
Engineering and Soil Science**

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Department of Biological Sciences

Faculty of Management Studies

**Department of Tourism & Hospitality
Management**

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences

Department of Community Medicine

Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities

**Department of Environmental
Management**

Faculty of Technology

Department of Bioprocess Technology



**10. Recognition of Tier 04* Researchers in 2024
(Based on the H-index as per the UGC Circular
05/2018)**

1. Prof. R P I R Prasanna, *Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities*, (Discipline: Humanities and Social Sciences)

2. Prof. E M S Ekanayake, *Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities*, (Discipline: Humanities and Social Sciences)

3. Prof. W H M S Samarathunga, *Faculty of Management Studies*, (Discipline: Management)



Award Winners – 2025

Citations



RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award

And

RUSL Research Excellence Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher



Prof. K G A D Weerakoon
Professor
Department of Parasitology
Faculty of Medicine and
Allied Sciences

Professor Kosala Weerakoon (MBBS, PGDipApStat, MPhil, PhD, FRCP Edin) is a professor in the Department of Parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Additionally, he is a Visiting Scientist at the QIMR-Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, Australia, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh (FRCP Edin), UK.

Prof. Weerakoon completed his MBBS, MPhil, and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Statistics at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and pursued his PhD at the University of Queensland under an Australian Government



Scholarship, focusing on molecular diagnostics for tropical infections.

He has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles, with an H-index of 34 and more than 11,000 citations, significantly advancing knowledge on tropical infectious diseases, particularly leishmaniasis, intestinal parasitoses, schistosomiasis, rickettsial infections, and undifferentiated fevers. Beyond academic publications, he has made significant contributions to editorials and book chapters, and has been a featured speaker and resource person at various local and international scientific forums and workshops. He is a reviewer for several high-impact journals.

His impactful contributions to science have been widely recognised in national and international research communities. He has been honoured with the President's Award by the NRC, Sri Lanka, multiple times since 2012, and he received the Young Physician Leaders global award from the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP). He was recognised by Stanford University in 2025, among the world's top 2% scientists in its global author database.

His current research focuses on advancing molecular diagnostics for tropical infections to improve public health. He has led international projects and secured competitive funding, influencing national and regional health strategies. Committed to education and capacity building, he mentors medical and global health researchers, strengthening local and international expertise.



RUSL Research Excellence Award

Most Outstanding Young Researcher



Dr. K I S Koralegedara

Lecturer

Department of Anatomy

Faculty of Medicine and

Allied Sciences

Dr. Iresha Sandamali Koralegedara is a Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, and currently a Postgraduate Trainee in MD Radiology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, attached to the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. She excelled at Part I of the MD Radiology examination, securing second place in the merit order.

She graduated with an MBBS from Rajarata University with Second Class Upper Division Honours, achieving distinctions in Anatomy, Pathology, and Surgery. Her academic excellence was recognised with the MVP Peris Award for the best final MBBS results in Surgery across all medical faculties in Sri Lanka.



Her research interests focus on medical imaging, fatty liver disease, and maternal and child health, with broader contributions to imaging applications across a wide range of human diseases. She has authored and co-authored publications in leading international journals and has been actively involved in the Rajarata Pregnancy Cohort (RaPCo), advancing research in maternal and child health.

Dr Koralegedara has received multiple prestigious awards, including the NRC Merit Award for Scientific Publications, the Sir Nicholas Artigala Award, and the E.M. Wijerama Award from the Sri Lanka Medical Association, as well as several Best Oral Presentation Awards from leading professional bodies in Sri Lanka. She also contributes as a reviewer in multiple international and national journals.

With her strong academic foundation, commitment to research, and dedication to clinical excellence, Dr Koralegedara represents the next generation of scholars who contribute to the advancement of medical science and healthcare in Sri Lanka.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher

Faculty of Agriculture



Dr. D A U D Devasinghe
Senior Lecturer
Department of Plant Sciences
Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. D A U D Devasinghe is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She obtained her B.Sc. in Agriculture in 2003, an M.Sc. in Crop Science in 2006, and a PhD in Crop Science in 2012. Her academic journey began at the University of Peradeniya and has since spanned more than two decades, marked by teaching, research, and academic leadership at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

Her research interests include crop growth and yield, weed and nutrient management, stress physiology, seed quality, hydroponics, and greenhouse crop production. She has



published over 20 peer-reviewed articles and more than 60 papers and abstracts at national and international conferences.

Beyond her research, Dr. Devasinghe is committed to mentoring the next generation of agricultural scientists. She has guided more than 50 student research projects, encouraging creativity, practical problem-solving, and innovative thinking that prepare her students to address real-world challenges in agriculture.

In recognition of her academic excellence, she has received several awards, including being among the top 20 researchers at RUSL. She is also actively engaged in curriculum development and program enhancement to strengthen agricultural education.

Through her dedication to research, teaching, and sustainable agriculture, Dr Devasinghe continues to advance academia while contributing to the growth and resilience of Sri Lanka's agricultural sector.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher

Faculty of Applied Sciences



Prof. P N Yapa

Professor

*Department of Biological
Sciences*

Faculty of Applied Sciences

Professor Neelamanie Yapa is a distinguished academic in the field of Botany and Microbiology, currently serving as a Professor in Microbiology in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Her academic journey at Rajarata University began in 2007–2008 as a visiting lecturer. In 2009, she joined the department as a temporary lecturer and subsequently advanced to the position of Senior Lecturer in 2013, making significant contributions to teaching, research, and academic development at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



She holds a PhD in Microbiology from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (2021) and has also earned an M.Phil. in Plant Science (2012) and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Biology (1995), both from the University of Peradeniya. Further, she obtained an M.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Reading, United Kingdom (2001), and a B.Sc. (Special) in Botany from the University of Peradeniya (1991). With a strong academic foundation and over 15 years of dedicated service at RUSL, she has made significant contributions to the advancement of microbiology and biology research and education within the university and beyond.

In 2005–2006, Professor Yapa gained valuable international research experience as a Research Assistant at Brandon University, Canada, and as a member of the Soil Microbiology Research Team at the Brandon Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, in Brandon, Manitoba. During this period, she was involved in soil health and microbial ecology studies, contributing to key research initiatives that aimed to enhance soil productivity and sustainability in agricultural systems.

Professor Yapa is also a passionate educator and mentor. She has guided numerous undergraduate and postgraduate students, fostering research that has led to both academic publications and real-world applications. Through her mentorship, she encourages critical thinking, creativity, and independent inquiry, helping students grow into confident and capable researchers.



Her academic output includes 25 indexed journal publications, 20 additional peer-reviewed journal articles, 6 full papers in conference proceedings, 6 book chapters, and over 75 abstracts presented at various academic forums. She is an active member of the editorial and review boards for seven indexed journals, contributing her expertise to maintain the quality and integrity of the scientific literature.

In terms of academic leadership, Professor Yapa played a key role in managing the AHEAD Grant (No. 079) awarded to the Faculty of Applied Sciences, serving as both Deputy Coordinator and Coordinator over four years from 2019 to 2023.

Her excellence in research has been recognised with numerous awards, including the RUSL Excellency Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher in 2024, Best Senior Researcher Award from the Faculty of Applied Sciences in 2020, along with RUSL and Vice Chancellor's Awards in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher

Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences



**Prof. W A N D
Wickramasinghe**
*Chair Professor of Community
Medicine
Department of Community
Medicine
Faculty of Medicine and Allied
Sciences*

Professor Nuwan Darshana Wickramasinghe is the Chair Professor of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. He is also a Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, United Kingdom.

Prof. Wickramasinghe graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, and his illustrious academic career includes MSc in Community Medicine from the University of Colombo, securing 'Dr. C.H. Piyaratne Memorial Gold Medal' for the best performance, and the medal for the 'Best PGIM Student of the Year' in the MSc/PG Diploma category in 2013. He completed an MSc in Applied Epidemiology from the University of Peradeniya in 2014,



achieving the highest GPA aggregate for the course. Subsequently, he completed MD in Community Medicine from the University of Colombo, securing the first position in the merit list in 2015.

Prof. Wickramasinghe's impactful scholarly contributions include 137 peer-reviewed journal articles in high-impact journals and over 145 abstract publications in national and international conferences. His main research interest areas are global health, mental health, occupational health, and maternal and child health. He has a h-index of 49 and over 23,500 citations in Google Scholar. Notably, his scholarly contributions were acknowledged by Stanford University, which listed him among the World's Top 2% Scientists in the updated science-wide author databases for 2023, 2024, and 2025. He was also the recipient of the RUSL Research Excellence Gold Lifetime Award in 2024.

Prof. Wickramasinghe's contributions extend far beyond academia, shaping national standards, guidelines, and policies that have strengthened Sri Lanka's public health system. At the international level, he has served as a trusted consultant to the World Health Organisation and other UN agencies across a wide spectrum of public health domains. Through these engagements, he has played a pivotal role in advancing evidence-based strategies, influencing policy development, and driving health improvements not only nationally but also globally.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher

Faculty of Technology



Dr. N D A D Wijegunawardana
Senior Lecturer
Department of Bioprocess
Technology
Faculty of Technology

Dr. Asha Wijegunawardana currently serves as the Faculty Coordinator of the Research and Publication Committee and as a Senior Lecturer in Animal Biotechnology at the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture with a specialisation in Biotechnology from Wayamba University of Sri Lanka in 2006, followed by a Master of Philosophy in Molecular Biology from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya in 2010. In 2018, she completed her first PhD in Molecular Biology at the same faculty, focusing on the application of sterile insect techniques for controlling *Aedes* mosquitoes in Sri Lanka. In 2024, she obtained her second PhD in Molecular Medicine



(International Program) from the Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Thailand, with her research centred on insect gut microbiota and their antagonistic interactions with bacteriophages. A pivotal moment in her academic journey was being awarded the prestigious WHO/TDR Postgraduate Scholarship, alongside several short-term fellowships from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna.

Dr. Wijegunawardana is a recipient of the UNESCO-TWAS-OWSD Early Career Fellowship (2022) and currently serves as a Council Member of the OWSD Sri Lanka National Chapter. During her graduate studies, she received multiple competitive fellowships and awards recognising her excellence in research. She maintains active collaborations with both local and international institutions and is currently leading several nationally and internationally funded research projects in molecular biology, biotechnology, and entomology. She has supervised numerous postgraduate and undergraduate research projects, contributed to peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, and serves on various national-level committees in the fields of biotechnology and entomology. From 2024 to 2027, she also served as the National Project Coordinator for an IAEA-funded project in Sri Lanka. Further, over the past five years, she has played a pivotal role in driving innovation and commercialisation within the industry through the successful development and market introduction of several products.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Young Researcher

Faculty of Management Studies



Mrs. K G P Senani
Senior Lecturer
Department of Accountancy
and Finance
Faculty of Management
Studies

Mrs. K G P Senani is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Accountancy and Finance, Faculty of Management Studies, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting (Special) and Master of Science in Management degrees from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and is currently pursuing her PhD at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo.

Her research focuses on integrated reporting and sustainability, corporate governance, tax compliance, and behavioural finance in emerging economies. She has published widely in internationally recognised journals such as the Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting and the Journal of Asia Business Studies. In addition to her journal publications, she has presented papers at numerous



national and international conferences and symposia, demonstrating her strong commitment to advancing scholarly knowledge in the fields of accounting and finance.

Mrs. Senani also contributes to academia through editorial and reviewing roles for journals and symposia and has extensive experience supervising undergraduate and postgraduate research projects. Her contribution to research was recognised with the ICAI International Research Awards, 2023, organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

She is also an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. Her expertise in auditing, taxation, integrated reporting, and sustainability practices reflects her dedication to aligning academic research with practical business needs, thereby strengthening both the accounting profession and public sector capacity.



Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Young Researcher

Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences



Dr. M G R S S Gunathilake
Head/Senior Lecturer
Department of Microbiology
Faculty of Medicine & Allied
Sciences

Dr. Shobha Gunathilaka is the Head/Senior Lecturer in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya in 2010. In 2019, she completed her Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in dengue infection at the University of Peradeniya, and in 2023, she earned a Master of Science in Experimental Biotechnology from the Postgraduate Institute of Science at the University of Peradeniya.



Dr. Gunathilaka has published in both local and international peer-reviewed journals and contributed to multiple conference presentations. Her research interests lie in medical microbiology, fungal and microbial genomics, and bioinformatics, with a special focus on molecular detection, pathogen characterisation, and bioinformatics approaches for medical microbiology. With over ten years of experience in undergraduate teaching and mentoring, she integrates medical expertise with bioinformatics approaches to advance microbial research.

She has been recognised with several awards for her scientific contributions, including commendations for oral and poster presentations, as well as the Young Researcher Award at the Young Researcher Symposium at the University of Kelaniya. She is also an active member of the academic and professional community, serving as the current President of the Rajarata University Toastmasters Club, Chairperson of the Ethics Review Committee for the Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, and Secretary of the Curriculum Development Committee.

Her long-term vision is to establish a state-of-the-art Medical Mycology laboratory in Sri Lanka and to become a leading bioinformatician, contributing to the bridging of fields in microbiology, genomics, and computational biology to address pressing healthcare challenges.

