



# SLACPT NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Association  
of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

June 2024

Volume 9 Issue 1

## Challenges in Medication Without Harm Safety, Quality and Rational Use



SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION  
OF CLINICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY &  
THERAPEUTICS (SLACPT)

In  
collaboration  
with



## ClinPharm 2024

Challenges in Medication Without Harm:  
Safety, Quality and Rational Use

10th - 13th July 2024

Bandaraike Memorial International  
Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Association of Clinical  
Pharmacology and Therapeutics

### INTER-MEDICAL FACULTY PHARMACOLOGY QUIZ

June 7th 2024  
8.30 am Onwards

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/939545707612>  
pwd=Sk13R2VqZGtDbXpEWk-jPT0dMNjVsQT  
09

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Ex-officio members  
Prof. Chamila Mettananda

## SLACPT Theme 2023-2024

Equitably available,  
affordable, safe and quality use  
of medicines for challenging  
times

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Wall of Fame

SLACPT

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# President's Message

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Dear Members of SLACPT,

I am delighted to announce our preparations for the ClinPharm 2024 conference, that will be held in collaboration with International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). This conference is not merely a series of presentations on pertinent topics by experts, but a culmination of the numerous activities and initiatives of the SLACPT.

The conference promises an enriching experience on the theme “Challenges in Medication Without Harm: Safety, Quality, and Rational Use.” The entire academic session of ClinPharm 2024 is centred around medication safety, focusing on the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm. The programme addresses the four domains, three key action areas of the strategic framework of the Challenge, medication safety curriculum, and sharing of country experiences. These deliberations will bolster the successful implementation of the national action plan on medication safety in Sri Lanka launched in 2021.

We are honoured to have Dr. Palitha Maheepala, Health Secretary, as our Chief Guest and Professor Caroline Samer, Professor of Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology, University of Geneva, Switzerland delivering the SLACPT Oration. Professor Simon Maxwell, Director of Prescribing Safety Assessment at British Pharmacological Society (BPS) UK, will be delivering the keynote address as our Guest of Honour and conduct the pre-congress workshop on prescribing safety assessment.

We are extremely grateful to Professor Caroline Samer, the President elect of IUPHAR, for her support in organising the conference in collaboration with IUPHAR, with three esteemed experts from IUPHAR joining us in Colombo as resource persons. Several high-quality research presentations on clinical pharmacology and medication safety will be delivered during the oral and poster sessions.

We extend our gratitude to Professor Vajira H.W. Dissanayake, President, Sri Lanka Medical Council, for his unwavering and continued support given for the proposal to introduce a Prescribing Safety Assessment, similar to the assessment conducted in UK, as a requirement for full registration of medical graduates in Sri Lanka. We are grateful to Professor Maxwell and Mr. Peter Wright from the BPS for providing their expertise and resources in the last few months via zoom meetings, and online training sessions, in preparation for introducing the assessment in Sri Lanka and for the pre-congress workshop on the 10th July.

We have organised the first post-congress workshop on the 13th, at Colombo South Teaching Hospital, particularly for our overseas delegates, to demonstrate the many activities on medication safety that are initiated in the hospital. The workshop on the 16th July, focusing on rational and cost-effective prescribing is the culmination of efforts of many colleagues from the other professional colleges, over the past few months, coordinated by SLACPT, to discuss clinical guidelines that are being developed as an intercollegiate activity. These guidelines focus on the use of very high-cost medicines (Tenecteplase, Intravenous immunoglobulin, serum albumin, and Factor VIII) which are the top four medicines consuming our drug budget. We are also developing guidelines on rational use of the most prescribed medicines from the OPDs such as paracetamol, antibiotics, non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs, omeprazole, vitamins and topical antifungals with the three Colleges of general practitioners and family medicine. Monitoring mechanisms, presentations on health technology assessment and development of a standard prescription chart that will be taken up for discussion during the workshop will hopefully help to ensure rational use of medicines. These initiatives could help to manage the pharmaceutical budget within the government allocation, during the economic recovery of the country, minimizing medicines shortages.

SLACPT also conducted some activities successfully in the first half of this year. We are thrilled to announce that two posters submitted by Sri Lankan students were selected among the top 10 in the IUPHAR International Poster Competition held for World Smart Medication Day. Our heartfelt congratulations to Venessa Nugara for being selected as one of the best posters, earning her the opportunity to present her work at the international webinar held on the 7th of May.

The other major event for the year was the inaugural interfaculty pharmacology quiz held on 7th June. I am extremely thankful to Professor Chamila Mettananda and Dr. Leonard Wanninayaka for the excellent coordination and conduct of this first-ever inter-faculty pharmacology quiz, and to Prof Shalini Sri Ranganathan and Professor R L Jayakody for their support in ensuring standards of the questions. My congratulations to the winning team from University of Sri Jayewardenepura and 1st and 2nd runners up University of Rajarata and University of Colombo respectively in the closely contested quiz, showcasing the pharmacological knowledge of Sri Lankan students.

We are excited to engage with pharmacy and nursing professionals from both the government and private sectors for our academic sessions, as we have opened the doors of our academic sessions to them as well. This inclusive approach will ensure that the knowledge and skills gained here will permeate to all levels of our healthcare system, ultimately benefiting our patients. Together, we can make significant strides towards ensuring medication safety and improving the quality of care for all.

We look forward to your active participation in ClinPharm 2024 and invite you to join us in July, to advance our collective goal of enhancing knowledge on clinical pharmacology and medication safety.

Warm regards,

**Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy,  
President, SLACPT**

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# Message from the Secretary

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Dear Members and Friends,

It is a pleasure to send this message as the Secretary of the Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (SLACPT) for the June 2024 Newsletter. As highlighted by our President, Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy, the association has embarked on many activities and initiatives during 2024 in line with our theme “Equitably available affordable quality use of medicines for challenging times”. The association has long recognised the need to strengthen the capacity of health care professionals to improve prescribing practices and ensure patient safety. Collaborating with other professional colleges involved in patient care is paramount to achieve this objective. I am happy to say that the joint CME webinar organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine, in line with this objective, was well attended and received by the participants.

One of the important milestones for SLACPT in 2023/24 has been obtaining the membership of the International Union of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). The World Smart Medication Day was celebrated on the 2nd of May. Students from Sri Lanka participated in the international poster competition organized by the IUPHAR in celebration of the World Smart Medication Day, and this activity was coordinated in Sri Lanka by the SLACPT. I am delighted to inform that a poster submitted by a student from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, was selected as a winner in this international competition.

The Council is busy preparing for ClinPharm 2024, the Academic Sessions of the association, jointly conducted this year with the IUPHAR. The theme for this year is “Challenges in Medication Without Harm: Safety, Quality and Rational Use” and an exciting programme is being lined up, with the participation of international experts. I look forward to seeing all of you at ClinPharm 2024.

Numerous other activities are lined up this year and I invite all of you to join hands with us in these endeavors.

Thank you,  
Best Regards,

**Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe,  
Secretary, SLACPT**

# Webinar on Safer Prescribing

Webinar on Safe Prescribing was held on March 22nd in collaboration with Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine. The resource personnel were Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Sri Jayawardenapura and Dr Kumudini Jayasinghe, Consultant Physician, National Hospital Kandy. Dr Shobana Mahendrarajan, Senior Registrar in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Dr Bhagya Sandeepani, Registrar in Medicine, National Hospital Kandy presented the cases and were discussed by the resource personnel. The webinar was moderated by Professor Priyadarshani Galappathy, President, SLACPT and Dr. Suranga Manilgama, President, Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine. The webinar was well attended and highlighted the important considerations during the process of prescribing to reduce errors.

Sri Lanka Association of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics (SLACPT) In collaboration with Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine (SLCIM)

A Webinar on **SAFER PRESCRIBING**

**Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge**  
Professor of Pharmacology  
Specialist Physician in Internal Medicine  
Faculty of Medical Sciences  
University of Sri Jayawardenepura

**Dr. Kumudini Jayasinghe**  
Specialist Physician in Internal Medicine  
National Hospital Kandy

**Dr. Shobana Mahendrarajan**  
Senior Registrar in Clinical  
Pharmacology and Therapeutics

**Dr Bhagya Sandeepani**  
Registrar in Medicine  
National Hospital Kandy

**Friday 22nd  
March  
12:30 - 2:00 pm**

Join Meeting Via  
<https://learn.zoom.us/j/96464783935?pwd=cnF3Sjl4OzJyaTdnaXpGL3g4THhMQT09>

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The following cases were discussed at the webinar.

## Case 1

A 77-year-old male with hypertension and dyslipidaemia experienced symptoms of postural hypotension and bradycardia. His medication included multiple drugs for hypertension (six medicines including two diuretics) which likely led to his symptoms. The concurrent use of multiple rate-controlling agents and excessive antihypertensive medications caused his bradycardia and low blood pressure, while unnecessary diuretics contributed to hyponatremia.

## Case 2

A 54-year-old man with a history of hypertension and a previous intracranial haemorrhage was hospitalized for high potassium levels. He was on multiple medications, including two potassium-sparing antihypertensive, which led to dangerous hyperkalaemia.

**Case 3**

A 63-year-old patient with diabetes and ischemic stroke visited the clinic. The patient was taking multiple medications including Cardiprin, aspirin, rosuvastatin, atorvastatin, ezetimibe, gliclazide, metformin, and losartan. The prescription for the patient contained errors such as simultaneous use of drugs from the same class and lack of awareness about trade names.

**Case 4**

A 82-year-old male with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and type 2 diabetes was experiencing severe lethargy. He was on 23 medications including 10 supplements, and steroids for COPD. The concerns in the treatment regime were polypharmacy, legibility of prescription, simultaneous use of different steroid formulations, appropriateness of certain medications, potential risk of hypoglycaemia, and lack of rationale for prescribing certain drugs and supplements for an elderly patient.

**Case 5**

A 27-year-old pregnant woman presented with cushingoid features after being prescribed olanzapine, dexamethasone, furosemide, propranolol, and Peritol for weight gain by a general practitioner. The patient had been on this medication for a year. The prescription errors included irrational prescribing to induce weight gain, Cushing's Syndrome due to steroid use, and irrational usage of furosemide and propranolol.

**Factors influencing Prescribing**

Prescribing medicines involves considering factors such as diagnosis, comorbidities, drug suitability, side effects, and patient's age and socioeconomic status. Influences on drug prescription include policies, research, marketing, and patient education. Medication errors can occur due to poor handwriting and incomplete prescriptions. The British Pharmacological Society outlines ten principles for good prescribing.

**References:**

1. British Pharmacological Society. Ten Principles of Good Prescribing.

**Dr. Shobana Mahendrarajan**

**Senior Registrar in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics**

**Ten Principles of Good Prescribing<sup>1</sup>**

1. Be clear about the reasons for prescribing
2. Take into account the patient's medication history before prescribing
3. Take into account other factors that might alter the benefits and risks of treatment
4. Take into account the patient's ideas, concerns, and expectations
5. Select effective, safe, and cost effective medicines individualised for the patient
6. Adhere to national guidelines and local formularies where appropriate
7. Write unambiguous legal prescriptions using the correct documentation
8. Monitor the beneficial and adverse effects of medicines
9. Communicate and document prescribing decisions and the reasons for them
10. Prescribe within the limitations of your knowledge, skills and experience

# IUPHAR World Smart Medication Day 2024



World Smart Medication Day was organized by IUPHAR this year on 2nd May 2024 under the theme “Drug Evaluation at the extremes of ages”. Prof Karel Allegaert, Chair, Paediatric Committee and Prof Sarah Hilmer, Chair, Geriatric Committee of the Clinical and Translational Division of the IUPHAR discussed on the topic during the webinar organized by IUPHAR.


The webinar stressed the importance of considering drug evaluation at the extremes of ages. Perspectives from committee chairs and members were shared with regard to pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, clinical trials and pharmcovigilance at the extremes of age. Members also shared their reflection and aspirations for future directions. The webinar concluded with announcing the winners of poster competition.





# Poster by a student from University of Colombo selected as a best poster at the IUPHAR International Students' Poster Competition 2024!

IUPHAR announced annual World Smart Medication Day 2024 on 2nd of May 2024 to foster clinical pharmacology development and raise awareness on the safer and more effective use of drugs. The theme for the year 2024 is "Drug Evaluation at the Extremes of Ages". An international students' poster competition was held this year as well along with the event. Undergraduate students from Sri Lanka also submitted their posters through SLACPT. Poster by Venessa Andrea Nugara of A/L 2016 batch of University of Colombo was selected as one of two the best two posters by the IUPHAR and she got the opportunity to do a 3 minute presentation on her poster at the World Smart Medication Day webinar.



## Why NOT the Same Pill for Adults & Kids ?

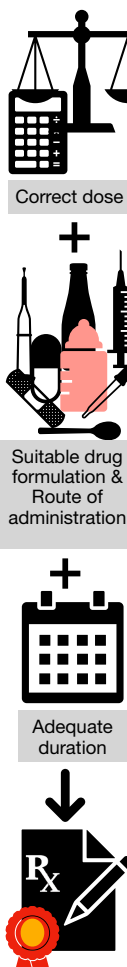
Children are NOT "mini" Adults

Because of the differences in.....

**'PAEDIATRIC LABEL' vs. 'OFF LABEL USE'**  
Think twice before prescribing

**P**

- Pharmacokinetics**
  - Immature blood brain barrier, liver, renal systems
- A**
- Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs)**
  - Different spectrum of ADRs  
Eg: aspirin causing Reye's syndrome
- E**
- Effects on growing tissues**
  - Eg: tetracycline staining enamel, steroids reducing height velocity, anti-epileptic medicines impairing cognitive function
- D**
- Dynamics of Pharmacology**
  - Limited information. Yet, the differences may influence drug action & toxicity. Eg: augmented response to warfarin
- I**
- Indication**
  - Different type, severity and spectrum of diseases
- A**
- Acceptance & Palatability**
  - Difficulty in administration, unfavorable routes of administration & lower palatability leads to poor compliance
- T**
- Toxicity**
  - Difficulty in dosing; Poor storage leading to accidental poisoning; Substance misuse in adolescents
- R**
- Risks**
  - Children are more susceptible to medication errors and their harmful effects
- I**
- Inability to express problems**
  - Newborns, infants, toddlers are unable to properly express their symptoms or unpleasant effects of medication.
- C**
- Compliance**
  - Especially in younger children, mostly drugs are administered at home by their caregivers.




Correct dose

Suitable drug formulation & Route of administration

Adequate duration

Correct Drug Dosage Regimen



Together let's ensure 'Medication Safety' in all our children

Correct selection of the drug    Selection of the suitable drug regimen    Errorless Prescription & Dispensing

Venessa Andrea Nugara  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Colombo

This poster by Bhagya Madhushani Bandara from University of Sri Jayawardenapura was selected into the 10 best posters shortlisted to select the 2 winners.

## Drug Evaluation at the Extremes of Ages

**Paediatric patients**

Children are not just “little adults.” Their rate and extent of organ function development & absorption, distribution, metabolism, elimination of drugs are differ to one another.

Therefore the dose adjustments should be done according to their weight until not exceeding the maximum daily dose.



- **The effectiveness and safety of drugs may vary among various age groups and from one drug to another.**
- **Therefore appropriate dosing should be done for different age populations with dose adjustments, different dosage forms with assessing benefits vs risks.**
- **Mainly pediatric and geriatric populations should be given a special consideration because of their, physiological changes in body, increased sensitivity to adverse effects, ability to have drug-drug interactions, & specific disease conditions.**

**Geriatric patients**

Normally elders have one or more chronic diseases and most of them are on long term medication and with special needs.

Therefore they have high medication use, high probability of drug interactions, medication errors and adverse drug reactions.



Assurance of potency and safety use of drug is important because most of drugs do not have undergo clinical trials for pediatrics.





Therefore, health care professionals have huge responsibility on, promoting rational and safe use of medication by,

- directing the patient for non pharmacological methods before use of pharmacological methods,
- review medication regularly and avoid polypharmacy
- giving clear instructions and proper counselling



- prevent errors from medication use process (The medication use process is complex and errors can be happen in calculating, preparing, dispensing and administration. Double checking can be done.)

- Identify, prevent and inform adverse drug reactions can be done.



**Quality Assurance, Safety, efficacy should be ensured to achieve a better medication in extremes ages.**

Prepared Date: 02/03/2024

Prepared by: K.P.B.M. Bandara

Bhagya Madhushani Bandara  
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

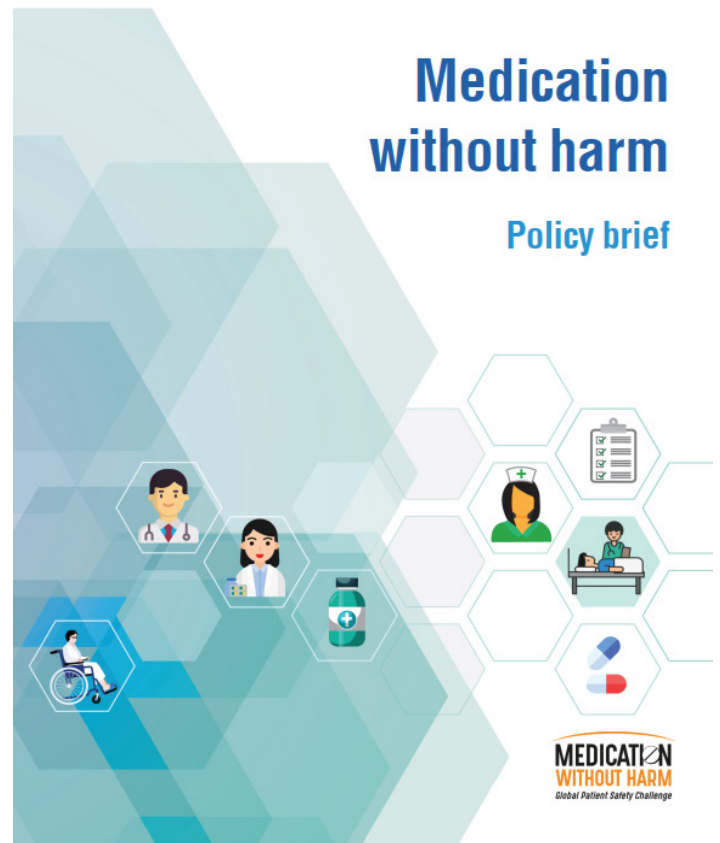
# WHO launches “Medication without harm: Policy brief”

WHO Patient Safety Flagship: A Decade of Patient Safety 2021–2030 initiative launched the Medication without harm: Policy brief on 7th of March 2024. The main objective of this policy brief is to support successful implementation of the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm, and to advocate for prioritizing medication safety in health care.

This is an important document as unsafe care is a leading cause of death and disability and the harm due to this is avoidable. Harm due to medicines and therapeutic options accounted for nearly 50% of the overall preventable harm in medical care and the prevalence of preventable medication-related harm was nearly double (7%) in low and middle-income countries compared to high-income countries (4%).

The policy brief defines key concepts of medication safety and presents current evidence on the scale of the problem and the urgency of the situation with evidence of medication-related harm in several contexts and environments. It proposes solutions that can be implemented under four domains: the patient and the public; health and care workers; medicines as products; and systems and practices of medication. The three action areas identified are high-risk situations, polypharmacy and transitions of care. It proposes five-point plan to facilitate adoption of WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm. This will be a useful document to policy-makers, health workers, health care leaders, academic institutions and national organizations. Professor Priyadarshani Galappathy is a main author of this WHO publication.

The document can be accessed via <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240062764>  
The webinar recording of the document launch can be accessed via [https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/03/07/default-calendar/medication-safety-webinar\\_global-burden-of-preventable-medication-related-harm\\_policy-brief-on-medication-without-harm](https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2024/03/07/default-calendar/medication-safety-webinar_global-burden-of-preventable-medication-related-harm_policy-brief-on-medication-without-harm)



## WHO launches “Global burden of preventable medication-related harm in health care: a systematic review”



Patient Safety Flagship Unit at World Health Organization published another document on Global burden of preventable medication-related harm in health care: a systematic review on 7th March, 2024, under the initiative Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm and the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030.

Medication-related harm is considered preventable if it occurs as a result of an identifiable, modifiable cause and its recurrence can be avoided by appropriate adaptation to a process or adherence to guidelines. Understanding the prevalence, nature and severity of preventable medication-related harm is critical for setting targets for clinically relevant, implementable improvements in patient safety.

This report presents an updated systematic review and meta-analysis of studies of the prevalence, nature and severity of preventable medication-related harm in the international literature including in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). It includes a total of 100 studies in the review, involving 487,162 patients. Of these reports, 70 were from high-income

countries (HICs) and 30 from LMICs.

Main findings are:

- The pooled prevalence of preventable medication-related harm in all 100 studies was 5% (1 in 20 patients). One fourth of the harm was severe or potentially life-threatening.
- The prevalence of preventable medication-related harm was 7% in LMICs and 4% in HICs.
- Preventable medication-related harm were highest in patients managed in geriatric care units (17%) and among patients in highly specialized or surgical care (9%).
- Half (53%) of all preventable medication-related harm occurred at the “ordering/prescribing” stage and 36% at the “monitoring/reporting” stage. However in LMIC the prevalence of errors at prescribing/ordering stage was 78% , mostly due to handwritten prescriptions used in most settings.

The main target audience is policy makers, health care leaders, researchers and academics, practicing clinicians and advocacy groups on medication safety. Professor Priadarshani Galappathy was an author of this WHO publication.

The document can be accessed via <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240088887>

# SLACPT Inter-faculty Pharmacology Quiz

SLACPT organized its inaugural Inter-faculty Pharmacology Quiz on 7th June 2024. The teams from 11 medical faculties in Sri Lanka participated in the quiz. Professor Chamila Mettananda was the quiz master. It was an exciting and informative event not only to the participants but also to the viewers. Each team participated with much enthusiasm and competitiveness. The winning team was from University of Sri Jayawardenapura. Runners up and second runners up were from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and University of Colombo respectively. The event was well coordinated by Professor Chamila Mettananda and Dr Leonard Wanninayake. Independent reviewers of questions were Professor RL Jayakody and Professor Shalini Sri Ranganadan to ensure the standard and quality. Each Faculty team was coordinated by a pharmacologist of the university and an independent invigilator from outside the university was available at each center to ensure fair conduct of the quiz conducted online.



Winning Team - University of Sri Jayawardenapura  
Osura Weerawardene, Viduni Suraweera, Praveen Fernando,  
Tharushi Liyanage, Hashini Chandrapala



Runner's Up - Rajarata University of Sri Lanka  
Prishal Morapitiya, Shehan Tharuka, Ishara Samarathunga, Dilshan Sachinthaka, Sanduni Nimesha



Second Runner's Up - University of Colombo  
Nethmini Rathnayake, Rosalie Ratnayake,  
Keethana Muhunthan, Chamod Perera,  
Sandhara Athukorala

# News from SLMA

## Intercollegiate Committee

SLACPT has initiated many activities to improve rational prescribing through the Intercollegiate committee of the Sri Lanka Medical Association. Many guidelines are being developed in collaboration with Ceylon College of Physicians, Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, Sri Lanka College of Rheumatologists, Sri Lanka College of Haematologists, Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists, Sri Lanka College of Emergency Physicians and the 3 colleges representing general practitioners to address several aspects in delivery of healthcare including,

- Development of a standard medication treatment chart
- Guidelines for using and monitoring high-cost medicines including intravenous immunoglobulins, albumin solution, Factor VIII and tenectaplastase.
- Guidelines for using and monitoring most commonly prescribed medicines in OPD prescriptions

SLACPT will conduct a post congress workshop titled “Rational and cost effective prescribing” to discuss these guidelines and initiatives with the members of the intercollegiate committee on the 16th of July at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

## SLACPT MCQ Course

MCQ course targeting the MD selection examinations was held on 10th and 17th of February 2024.

Following SLACPT members contributed to the course.

- Professor Channa Ranasinha
- Dr Sujeevani Kurukulasuriya
- Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe
- Professor Pradeep Jayawardhana
- Professor Anuradha Dassanayake
- Dr Thilanka Seneviratne
- Dr Vipula Bataduwaarachchi
- Dr Chiranthi Liyanage



MCQ Course Targeting MD Selection Exams Organized by the  
**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY & THERAPEUTICS (SLACPT)**  
10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

10 <sup>th</sup> February		
09.00 – 10.30 am	Respiratory and Autonomic nervous system pharmacology	Professor Channa Ranasinha Professor in Pharmacology and Specialist in Pulmonology
10.45 am – 12.15 pm	Prescribing in rheumatology	Dr. Sujeevani Kurukulasuriya Senior lecturer in Pharmacology and Specialist in Rheumatology and Rehabilitation
01.00 pm – 02.30 pm	Cardiovascular pharmacology	Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe Professor in Pharmacology
02.45 – 04.15 pm	Basic pharmacology	Professor Pradeepa Jayawardhana Professor in Pharmacology
17 <sup>th</sup> February		
09.00am – 10.30 am	Pharmacology of gastrointestinal and liver diseases	Professor Anuradha Dassanayake Professor in Pharmacology and Specialist in General Medicine
10.45 am – 12.15 pm	Pharmacology in special populations	Dr. Thilanka Seneviratne Senior lecturer in Pharmacology and Specialist in Paediatrics
01.00 pm – 02.30 pm	Antidiabetic agents	Dr. Vipula Bataduwaarachchi Senior lecturer in Pharmacology
02.45 pm – 04.15 pm	Pharmacology of anti-infectives	Dr. Chiranthi Liyanage Senior lecturer in Pharmacology

**Course fee: Rs.2,500/= (to be paid on or before 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024)**

(Reserve your place by paying the fee since only a limited number will be registered)

#### HOW TO REGISTER?

By filling the google form. <https://forms.gle/kePDwuJFgMDxNkUz8>

Please upload payment slip to the google form.

Payments to be made to the following account.

✓ Conducted on a zoom platform

A/C Name -

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

A/C Number – 167200180013901

Bank - Peoples' Bank

Branch - 00167 Colombo Town Hall



FOR MORE INFORMATION: 0112961139

Ms. Ishini(ishinitharuka3@gmail.com)

Ms. Eshani (achilaranasinghe1@gmail.com)

# Plans to introduce Prescribing Safety Assessment to Sri Lanka

United Kingdom adopted a nation wide assessment of prescribing skills of final year medical students which is jointly administered by British Pharmacological Society (BPS) and Medical Schools Council (MSC) from 2013. The Prescribing Safety Assessment allows the students to demonstrate their competencies in relation to the safe and effective use of medicines. The impact of the assessment has been studied in several surveys and studies, where it improved the confidence in prescribing in doctors, and also showed a decline in the proportion of medication related patient safety incidents.<sup>1</sup> The foundation doctors perceived the assessment as a useful assessment tool.



**Prescribing  
Safety  
Assessment**

Prescribing Safety Assessment is an online assessment consisting of 60 items and two hours in length with restricted open-book format. The formats of the questions include open-ended prescribing, prescription review, planning management, providing information, calculation skills, adverse drug reactions, drug monitoring and data interpretation.

SLACPT has taken the initiative in providing a similar assessment for the medical graduates in Sri Lanka in collaboration with British Pharmacological Society and Sri Lanka Medical Council. A pre-congress workshop has been organized on 10th July, 2024 on Prescribing Safety Assessment.

Professor Simon Maxwell, Director, Prescribing Safety Assessment, from the British Pharmacological Association, and Clinical Pharmacologist at University of Edinburgh who was pioneering the introduction of Prescribing Safety Assessment in the UK will be conducting the workshop on the 10th. He will be attending as the Guest of Honour at the SLACPT academic sessions.

## References:

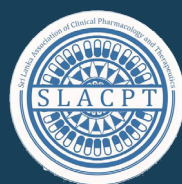
1. Magavern EF, Hitchings A, Bollington L, et al. UK Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA): The development, implementation and outcomes of a national online prescribing assessment. *Br J Clin Pharmacol.* 2024; 90(2): 493-503. doi:10.1111/bcp.15919
2. <https://prescribingsafetyassessment.ac.uk>

# ClinPharm 2024

SLACPT has organized its academic sessions for the year 2024 from 10th to 13th July 2024 under the theme of “Challenges in Medication Without Harm - Safety, Quality and Rational Use” at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo. ClinPharm 2024 is held in collaboration with International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR).

ClinPharm 2024 is a scholarly spectacle comprising of two workshops, three symposia, three plenary sessions, two panel discussions, and an oration. SLACPT oration will be delivered by Professor Caroline Samer, President-Elect of IUPHAR and Chair of Clinical Section on the topic of “Precision medicine and pharmacotherapy: Right drug at the right dose for the right patient”. The inauguration ceremony will be held on 11th July and the Keynote address will be delivered by Guest of Honour, Professor Simon Maxwell, Medical Director of the Prescribing Safety Assessment, British Pharmacological Society.

Abstract submission was closed on 7th May 2024 and free paper presentations will be held on 11th July from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and on 12th July from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. A post congress workshop with a site visit to medication safety demonstration site at Colombo South Teaching Hospital is planned for 13th July for overseas delegates. Registration for ClinPharm 2024 can be done via this [link](#).



SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION  
OF CLINICAL  
PHARMACOLOGY &  
THERAPEUTICS (SLACPT)

In  
collaboration  
with



## ClinPharm 2024

**Challenges in Medication Without Harm:  
Safety, Quality and Rational Use**

**10th - 13th July 2024**

**Bandarnaike Memorial International  
Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo, Sri Lanka**



# ClinPharm 2024

## Challenges in Medication Without Harm: Safety, Quality and Rational Use

### 10th - 13th July 2024

**Wednesday, 10th July 2024**

Pre-Congress Workshop on Prescribing Safety Assessment  
jointly with Sri Lanka Medical Council (By Invitation Only)

**Venue: UCFM Tower, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo (5th Floor Meeting Room)**

09.00 - 09.10 am	Welcome address Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo and President, SLACPT
09.10 - 09.20 am	Address by Professor Vajira H.W Dissanayake, President Sri Lanka Medical Council and Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
09.20 - 09.50 am	Introduction to the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) in the United Kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why was it done, how was it done, quality assurance,</li> <li>• What was achieved and what was learnt</li> <li>• Plans for moving forward</li> </ul> Professor Simon Maxwell, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Prescribing, University of Edinburgh and Medical Director, PSA of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) and Peter wright, Head of Commercial Operations, BPS
09.50 - 10.10 am	Developing a Sri Lankan Prescribing Safety Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plans for Sri Lanka</li> <li>• Essential local infrastructure</li> </ul> Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe – Professor in Pharmacology, Secretary, SLACPT
10.10 - 10.30 am	Tea
10.30 - 11.00 am	Writing Prescribing Safety Assessment style questions – Prof Simon Maxwell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescribing, Prescription Review, Calculation skills</li> <li>• Providing Information, Adverse Drug Reactions</li> <li>• Planning Management, Drug Monitoring, Data Interpretation</li> </ul>
11.00 - 12.00 noon	Group Work on revising questions on PSA style to suit Sri Lanka
12.00 - 01.00 pm	Peer review of PSA-style questions created by local authors
01.00 - 01.15 pm	Concluding remarks
01.15 pm	Lunch

## Day 1 - Thursday, 11th July 2024

# Inauguration Ceremony

**Venue: Bandaranayaka International Conference Hall (BMICH) Lotus Hall**

08:30 am	Guests take their seats
08.50 - 09.00 am	Ceremonial Procession
09.00 - 09.05 am	National Anthem
09.05 - 09.10 am	Lighting of the oil lamp
09.10 - 09.20 am	Welcome Address Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo, President, SLACPT
09.20 - 09.35 am	Keynote address by Guest of Honour, Professor Simon Maxwell, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Prescribing, University of Edinburgh United Kingdom and Medical Director, Prescribing Safety Assessment of the British Pharmacological Society, United Kingdom
09.35 - 09.50 am	Address by Chief Guest Dr. Palitha Maheepala, Secretary, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
09.50 - 10.35 am	SLACPT Oration “Precision medicine and pharmacotherapy: Right drug at the right dose for the right patient” - Professor Caroline Samer – Professor of Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology, University of Geneva, Switzerland, President Elect IUPHAR and Chair of Clinical Section
10.35 - 10.40 am	Vote of Thanks Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe Professor in Pharmacology, University of Colombo, Secretary, SLACPT
10.40 - 10.45 am	Procession leaves the hall
10.45 - 11.30 am	Reception

**Day 1 - Thursday, 11th July 2024**

## Main Conference

**Venue: Bandaranayaka International Conference Hall (BMICH) Lotus Hall**

### Plenary 1

11.30 - 12.00 noon	The global burden of medication related harm and WHO Global patient safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm Professor Priyadarshani Galappatthy, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, WHO Consultant on Medication Safety, Patient Safety Flagship Unit, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
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### Symposium 1 - Domains to address for medication safety

12.00 - 12.15 pm	Patients and public: Medication literacy - addressing the challenges Professor Chandanie Wanigatunge, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Sri Jayawardanapura
12.15 - 12.30 pm	Medicines: Substandard and falsified medicines Professor Rohini Fernandopulle, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, Kotalawala Defense University
12.30 - 12.45 pm	Health care professionals: Developing and implementing an online prescribing skills training programme Professor Nilima Kshirsagar, Emeritus Professor, State University, Former National Chair, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India
12.45 - 01.00 pm	Systems and practices: Incident reporting in a no blame culture Dr. S. Sridharan, Deputy Director General Planning Unit, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
01.00 - 01.15 pm	Root cause analysis and learning from errors Professor Simon Maxwell, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Prescribing, University of Edinburgh United Kingdom
01.15 - 01.30 pm	Discussion

01.30 - 02.30 pm	Lunch and Poster Presentations
02.30 - 03.30 pm	Oral Abstract Presentations

### Panel Discussion 1 - Prescribing Safety Assessment

03.30 - 03.50 pm	The model in United Kingdom Professor Simon Maxwell - British Pharmacological Society, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Prescribing, University of Edinburgh United Kingdom
03.50 - 04.00 pm	Role of the Sri Lanka Medical Council Professor Vaijra H.W. Dissanayaka, President, SLMC
04.00 - 04.10 pm	Addressing the challenges of implementation in Sri Lanka Professor Priyanga Ranasinghe, Professor in Pharmacology, University of Colombo
04.10 - 04.20 pm	Experience in India Professor Nilima Kshirsagar, Emeritus Professor, State University, Former National Chair, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India
04.20 - 04.30 pm	Experience in Australia Professor Sarah Hilmer, Professor of Geriatric Pharmacology, University of Sydney, Australia
04.30 - 04.45 pm	Discussion

04.45 pm	Tea
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## Day 2 - Friday, 12th July 2024

### Main Conference

Venue: Bandaranayaka International Conference Hall (BMICH) Lotus Hall

#### Plenary 2

09.00 - 09.30 am	Ensuring medication safety in clinical trials Professor Asita de Silva, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Kelaniya
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#### Symposium 2 - Key action areas for medication safety

09.30 - 09.45 am	Rational deprescribing to address polypharmacy Dr. Lauren Walker, Reader in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Liverpool, UK
09.45 - 10.00 am	High-risk and look-alike, sound-alike medicines: strategies for prevention Professor Nithushi Samaranayake, Professor in Pharmacy, University of Sri Jayawardanapura
10.00 - 10.15 am	Medication Reconciliation and Transitions of care Professor Chamila Mettananda, Professor in Pharmacology, University of Kelaniya
10.15 - 10.30 am	Discussion

10.30 - 11.00 am	Tea
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#### Plenary 2

11.00 - 11.30 am	Application of AI for medication safety Dr. Lauren Walker, Reader in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Liverpool, UK
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#### Panel Discussion 2 - Sharing country experiences in medication safety activities

11.30 - 11.45 am	Sri Lanka – National action plan Dr. Chiranthi Liyanage, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Colombo
11.45 - 12.00 noon	Experiences from United Kingdom Dr. Lauren Walker Reader in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Liverpool, UK
12.00 - 12.15 pm	Experiences from Switzerland Professor Caroline Samer- Professor of Pharmacology and Clinical Toxicology, University of Geneva, Switzerland
12.15 - 12.30 pm	Experience from India - Evaluating Fixed Dose Combinations- Professor Nilima Kshirsagar, Emeritus Professor, State University, Former National Chair, Indian Council of Medical Research, Government of India
12.30 - 12.45 pm	Implementing activities in a tertiary care hospital Dr. Sagari Kiriwandeniya, Director, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila
12.45 - 01.00 pm	Challenges in implementing activities at national level Dr. Upuli Wijemanne, Director, Directorate Healthcare Quality and Safety, Ministry of Health
01.00 - 01.15 pm	Discussion

01.15 - 02.15 pm	Lunch
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**Day 2 - Friday, 12th July 2024****Main Conference****Venue: Bandaranayaka International Conference Hall (BMICH) Lotus Hall****Symposium 3 - Medication Safety Curriculum**

02.00 - 02.15 pm	WHO medication safety curriculum guide: the overview Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo
02.15 - 02.30 pm	Implementation in medical curricula: The experience Prof Pradeepa Jayawardane, Professor in Pharmacology, University of Sri Jayawardanapura
02.30 - 02.45 pm	Implementation in pharmacy curricula Dr. Uthplai Mannapperuma, Senior lecturer in Pharmacy, University of Colombo
02.45 - 03.00 pm	Implementation in nursing curricula Professor Thamara Amarasekara, Professor in nursing, University of Sri Jayawardanapura
03.00 - 03.15 pm	Simulation for teaching medication safety components Dr. Thilanka Seneviratne, Senior lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Peradeniya
03.15 - 03.30 pm	Optimising Medication Safety through Pharmacist Capacity and Capability Building Beth Ward, Strategic Lead: Workforce Capacity Building, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association and Victoria Rutter, CEO, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, United Kingdom
03.30 - 03.45 pm	Discussion
03.45 - 04.30 pm	Awards and closing ceremony
04.30 - 05.00 pm	Tea

**Saturday, 13th July 2024**

**Post-congress site visit to a demonstration site on medication safety  
Implementing activities on medication safety in a tertiary care hospital**

**Venue: Colombo South Teaching Hospital (CSTH)**

09:00 - 09.15 am	Welcome address and strategies for implementing medication safety activities in the hospital Dr. Sagari Kiriwandeniya, Director, CSTH
09.15 - 09.30 am	Development and implementation of a medication safety practice package and plans for evaluation Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy, Senior Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo
09.30 -09.45 am	Implementing electronic prescribing and paperless OPD Dr. Sai Niranjan, Deputy Director, CSTH
09.45 - 10.00 am	Labelling of dispensed medicines in local languages and patient counselling activities Ms Wasana Bandara – Pharmacist, CSTH and PhD student
10.00 - 10.30 am	Discussion
10.30 - 11.00 am	Tea
11.00 - 01.00 pm	Visit to the hospital to observe implementation of electronic prescribing, medication safety activities in OPD clinics, inward and ICUs (labelling and storage of LASA, HAMs, patient counselling, dispensing labeling with pictograms and local languages)

**Tuesday, 16th July 2024**

**Post-Congress Workshop - Rational and Cost-Effective Prescribing**

**Venue: UCFM Tower, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo**

09.00 - 09.05 am	Welcome address Dr Ananda Wijewickrama, President, SLMA
09.05 - 09.15 am	Introduction to the workshop Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy, President SLACPT
09.15 - 09.30 am	Pharmaceutical purchases for Sri Lanka and expenditure: key findings from the SLACPT report Dr. Chiranthi Liyanage, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Specialist in Rheumatology
09.30 - 10.10 am	Guidelines for usage of high cost medicines and monitoring plans developed with relevant member Colleges Intravenous Immunoglobulins Dr. Chiranthi Liyanage, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Colombo and Specialist in Rheumatology Human albumin solution Professor Chamila Mettananda, Professor in Pharmacology, University of Kelaniya Dr. Suranga Manilgama, Consultant Physician, President, Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine Factor VIII Dr. Chandima Shavanthi Thevarapperuma, Consultant Haematologist Dr. Sujeevani Kurukulasuriya, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Kelaniya and Specialist in Rheumatology Tenecteplase in Cardiology Dr. M B F Rahuman, Consultant Cardiologist, National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) Dr. Disna Amaratunga, Consultant Cardiologist, NHSL
10.10 - 10.20 am	Guidelines for commonly uses medicines from OPDs – (targeting Paracetamol, NSAIDs, Omeprazole, steroids, antibiotics, vitamins and topical Anti-fungals) Dr. Vipula Bataduwaarachchi, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Specialist in Respiratory medicine
10.20 - 10.30 am	Common prescription format for inward patients and pilot testing Dr. Dilini Chandrasiri, Lecturer in Pharmacology, University of Colombo
10.30 - 11.30 am	Tea & Discussion
11.30 - 11.40 am	Guidelines for including high-cost medicines into the formulary list Professor Priyadarshani Galappaththy, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colombo
11.40 am - 12.10 pm	Selection of oncology medicines for Sri Lanka using Health Technology assessment Dr Nuradh Joseph, Consultant Oncologist
12.10 - 12.40 noon	Health technology assessment Professor Ken Patterson, University of Edinburgh
12.40 - 01.30 pm	Discussion
01.30 pm	Lunch

**Register now!**

<https://www.slacpt.lk/register>



**SCAN ME**

# Wall of Fame

Dr Asanka Eriyawa, Lecturer, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka won the Young Investigator Award at the 44th Congress of the European Association of Poison Centres and Clinical Toxicologists held on 28th-31st May 2024 at Munich Germany. He received the award for the study on “Model to predict the risk of atrioventricular block in acute oleander poisoning: a prospective cohort study from Sri Lanka”



## Write to Us!

SLACPT welcomes suggestions from readers towards improving the image of the Association and the newsletter. Please send your suggestions to:

Email: [office@slacpt.lk](mailto:office@slacpt.lk)