



# Newsletter

## Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya

Issue No. 01 | October - 2022

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Veterinary Alumni Association is all about taking collective action to inspire the Veterinary community to discover their full potential

Current President   Former President   Founder President



View of theatre premises - University of Peradeniya

### 2nd AGM and induction of 3rd president 2022



Our mission is to connect all alumni to this amazing university and to each other

JOIN OUR FAMILY







# Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya

Issue No. 01 | October - 2022

## Message from the president: Dr. Nimal Jayaweera



It is with a great pleasure that I write this message to the first issue of the Newsletter of the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP) which I hope will definitely make another milestone in the progression of the association and the profession.

VAAP was established in 2019 with the direct involvement of several active and dedicated senior members of the profession led by the founder president Dr. Dassanayaka, with the main objective of supporting veterinary students and the faculty.

Now we have 3 overseas chapters, Oceania, UK/EU and North America, actively participating and supporting VAAP. I would like to make a kind appeal to all veterinarians graduated from our faculty, wherever you are, to join hands with us to support veterinary students and efforts of the faculty to elevate the standard of our profession.

## Executive Committee Members 2022/2023

Patron: Prof. P.G.A. Pushpakumara  
President: Dr. Nimal Jayaweera  
President Elect: Dr. Niranjala de Silva  
Immediate Past President: Dr. Oswin Perera  
Vice Presidents: Prof. Mangala Gunatilake  
Dr. Suneth Disnaka  
General Secretary: Dr. Suranji Wijekoon  
Treasurer: Dr. Bhagya Wicramasooriya  
Asst. Secretary: Dr. Chandrindu Abeykoon  
Asst. Treasurer: Dr. Bimalaka Ranasinghe  
Editor: Dr. Sampath Lokugalappatti  
Committee Members:  
Dr. Chanaka Rabel  
Dr. Neil Horadagoda  
Prof. Ayona Silva-Fletcher  
Dr. Saman Abeysekara  
Dr. Thilini Anupama  
Prof. R.M.C. Deshapriya  
Dr. Ajith Liyanagamage  
Dr. Anushka Lenagala  
Dr. Ushanthi Ramanayake  
Dr. Sanjaya Wasala  
Dr. Hemali Kothalawala  
Prof. Basil Alexander  
Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi

## Our objectives

- ❑ To promote a close relationship between the faculty and alumni
- ❑ To get the constructive advice of the alumni in the overall development of the faculty
- ❑ To support student welfare programmes and provide financial assistance
- ❑ To provide guidance on employment and postgraduate opportunities to students

[Visit our web site](#)



# Studentships awarded by VAAP during 2022



Donor	Amount (Rs)/Month	Instalments	Amount (Rs)/Year	Number of studentship	Total amount
Oceania Chapter	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	9	540,000.00
VAAP	6,000.00	50	60,000.00	1	300,000.00
VAAP	5,000.00	10	50,000.00	1	50,000.00
VAAP	6,000.00	10	60,000.00	1	60,000.00

## Global forum

Following webinars were conducted during 2022  
For more details: visit <https://vaap.lk/>

# New five year curriculum for the BVSc degree by Prof. Anil Pushpakumara and Dr. Chanaka Rabel

# Career prospects in vet medicine: a national and international perspective by Dr. Chanaka Rabel and Dr. Rasika Kumarasinghe

# Pharmacokinetics-through eyes of a clinician by Dr. Raj Packianathan



Interview with Prof. Subhashini Kariyawasam, Department of Microbiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida. She shared her experience on 'Journey in Academia; Realize your dream as a researcher with an eminent academic'



Dr. Sagara Nelum Kumara, Massey university, New Zealand. His talk mainly focused on approaches and opportunities for learning clinical skills in large animal practice



'Career in Making: Creating Your Own Opportunities'

Dr. Kosala Dissanayaka, Lecturer in Veterinary Medical Science, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Science, University of Edinburgh and Dr. Thushini Premalal, Fish Health Monitor, Hendrix genetics, Scotland jointly presented the webinar to veterinary undergraduate students



## Chapter News

### Oceania Chapter

The Oceania chapter of VAAP was established in January 2022 with 55 members resident in Australia, New Zealand, and the Fiji Island. The membership covers a wide spectrum of specialities from those engaged in veterinary clinical practice, biosecurity responsibilities, academia, industry and research and the chapter comprise of graduates -spanning- from the early seventies up to the first decade of two thousand. Members of the chapter have been actively engaged in outreach activities by sharing their expertise through zoom meetings with students and Faculty. The chapter intends to continue these activities and help graduates seeking postgraduate and employment opportunities in this part of the world.

### UK/EU Chapter

The UK/Europe chapter of VAAP was initiated in March 2022 with 10 members and today there are over 27 members and the membership is still growing. Members range from those who graduated in mid-seventies to beyond 2010. Many have developed their own career pathways after leaving Sri Lanka and some work in international organisations, academia, industry, veterinary practice as well as in the non-veterinary sectors. There is overwhelming support to help the undergraduate and postgraduate veterinarians in Sri Lanka and provide advice, assistance and mentorship. The main organised activity so far has been webinars to students and faculty.

### Buzz of Budding the North American Chapter

The North American Chapter of VAAP (VAAP-NAC) was initiated in March 2022 with 13 Peradeniya University Veterinary graduates living in USA and Canada. Gradually, the membership has expanded to 27 members so far. The VAAP-NAC membership is composed of not only practicing veterinary clinicians, but many faculty (academia), researchers (scientists), graduate students and non-veterinary professionals. We are proud to say that there are about fifteen doctorates in different disciplines and about ten North American veterinary licensed veterinarians in the current membership. Membership has devoted their valuable time and money for the support of different aspects of VAAP objectives; providing online presentations (lectures) to the veterinary students and donations in different means for the enhancement of Sri Lankan Veterinary and Livestock sectors. The chapter is planning to increase the membership and to get more active involvement of them in near future.



# Event Gallery

## Inaugural Meeting



The Inaugural Meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel, Peradeniya. It was organized by the 'Working Group for the Formation of VAAP', which was established in November 2018. The event was attended by 46 alumni. The Constitution prepared by the Working Group was approved and the Founder Ex-Co of VAAP was elected.

## 1st AGM



The First Annual General Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the Institute of Continuing Education in Animal Production and Health (ICE-APH), Gannoruwa. The Chief Guest was Prof. Upul Dissanayaka, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.



### Editor's Note

Welcome to the first issue of VAAP Newsletter for the members of Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya. This newsletter aims to strengthen our bond and keep us updated about the various projects and activities undertaken by the VAAP community.

We are looking forward to expanding the scope of the newsletter with your inspiring suggestions in future. Let's get together to foster the next generation of Sri Lankan veterinary students in every possible way and work closely with our alma mater for the betterment of our noble profession.

Last but not the least, a huge thanks to all the alumni who contributed to the newsletter in various ways and a very special thanks to Dr. Suranji Wijekoon for her wonderful and inspiring work, without which launching of this newsletter wouldn't have been possible.

Dr. LGS Lokugalappatti