

CURRICULUM VITAE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full name: Nirmitha Lalindi de Silva
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 11.08.1981
Place of Birth: Galle, Sri Lanka.
Citizenship: Sri Lankan
Sex: Female

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Employment History:

March 2009 – March 2010

Project Officer,
Non-communicable Disease Prevention Project,
Japan International Cooperation Agency/Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

May 2010– November 2010

Intern House Officer in Medicine
Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, Galle, Sri Lanka

November 2010 – May 2011

Intern House Officer in Surgery
Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, Galle, Sri Lanka

May 2011 – November 2011

Relief House Officer in Genito-Urinary Surgery
Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, Galle, Sri Lanka

November 2011 – November 2015

Medical Officer/Special Care Baby Unit,
Base Hospital, Kamburupitiya, Sri Lanka.

October 2015 – December 2016

Diploma Trainee in Medical Microbiology
Post Graduate Institute, Faculty of Medicine Colombo.

February 2017 – to date

Lecturer (Probationary)
Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Galle, Sri Lanka.

Duties in present position

- Teaching Medical Parasitology to the Medical and Allied Health Sciences undergraduate students
- Assist in the functioning of filariasis clinic conducted by the Filariasis Research, Services and Training Unit of the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna
- Diagnosis and management of patients with parasitic infections referred to the Department of Parasitology
- Provision of laboratory diagnostic services for parasitological diseases

Research: Working as a collaborator/Co-investigator

- A pilot study to evaluate LymphaTech® Scanner for Lymphatic Filariasis-associated Leg Lymphedemas; funded by the Task Force for Global Health (Atlanta, Georgia, USA) – co-investigator
- A multi-center, double-blind, randomized, 24-month study, to compare the efficacy of doxycycline once daily for 6 weeks versus placebo in improving filarial lymphedema independent of active filarial infection; funded by the USAID via Task Force for Global Health, Atlanta, USA – sub-investigator
- Development of DNA and antibody based methods for the diagnosis and risk mapping of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* in Hambantota, Sri Lanka; Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna Research Grant (2019), Galle Medical association Research Grant 2019 – principle investigator

EDUCATION

School attended: Sanghamitta College, Galle, Sri Lanka

Undergraduate Education : Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
2nd Class in Final MBBS (2009)

Postgraduate qualifications:

- Diploma in Medical Microbiology, Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo (2015 - 2016)
- MD in Medical Parasitology, Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo (2018-2021)

Certifications and Accreditations:

- Registered Medical Practitioner in Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC Reg. No. 27223)
- Certificate Course in Professional Development in Higher Education (CCPDHE) at University of Ruhuna

Computer Skills:

- Obtained skill on Microsoft Word / Microsoft Access / Microsoft Excel / Microsoft PowerPoint / End note

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS ATTENDED

- 1 Participant, Annual Scientific sessions of Galle medical Association 2011
- 2 Participant, Annual Scientific Sessions of the Ruhunu Clinical Society 2013, 2014
- 3 Trained as a trainer in Breast feeding counselling in the 5 day Breast feeding counselling programme by Family Health Bureau 2014
- 4 Participated and got trained in Neonatal Life support, by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians, 2014
- 5 Participant, Annual Scientific Sessions of Galle Medical Association 2015
- 6 Participant and compère of the training for medical officers on Drug and Allergies 2016, Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, Galle
- 7 Participant, annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, 2016
- 8 Participant, 26th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, September 2017
- 9 Participant in the Workshop on human toxoplasmosis; diagnosis and treatment, organized by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists and conducted by Prof. Sarman Singh (Head, Division of Clinical Microbiology & Molecular Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India)
- 10 Participant and presenter, 76th Annual Scientific Sessions of Galle Medical Association, October 2017

- 11 Participant and presenter at the 77th Annual Scientific Sessions of Galle Medical Association, October 2018
- 12 Compere and participant in the “Training programme on biosafety and biosecurity for core groups in laboratory sector in Sri Lanka”, 2018
- 13 Participant, Pre-congress workshop on “Infection control and prevention” and 28th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, August 2019
- 14 Participation and completion of the 4-day workshop on “Professionalism and Ethics in Medical Practice”, conducted by the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, June 2019
- 15 Participation and completion of the six-day workshop on “Short Course on Research Methodology”, conducted by the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, October 2019
- 16 Participant and presenter, 29th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, August 2020
- 17 Participant and presenter, 79th Annual Academic Sessions of the Galle Medical Association (GMA)
- 18 Participant and presenter in the Virtual Annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, November 2020

PUBLICATIONS

COMPLETE PAPERS

1. Channa Yahathugoda, Michael J. Weiler, Ramakrishna Rao, Lalindi De Silva, J. Brandon Dixon, Mirani V. Weerasooriya, Gary J. Weil and Philip J. Budge (2017), Use of a novel portable three-dimensional scanner to measure limb volume and circumference in patients with filarial lymphedema. The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, available from, <https://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.17-0504>
2. Celia Zhou, Channa Yahathugoda, Lalindi De Silva, Upeksha Rathnapala, Mirani Weerasooriya, Mike Weiler, Ramakrishna Rao, Gary Weil and Philip Budge (2019). Portable infrared imaging for longitudinal limb volume monitoring in patients with lymphatic filariasis. Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases, available from, <https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0007762>

ABSTRACTS (PRESENTATIONS AT SCIENTIFIC CONVENTIONS)

1. Channa Yahathugoda, Michael J. Weiler, Ramakrishna Rao, Lalindi De Silva, J. Brandon Dixon, Mirani V. Weerasooriya, Gary J. Weil and Philip J. Budge (2017), Use of a novel portable three-dimensional scanner to measure limb volume and

- circumference in patients with filarial lymphedema. The 76th Annual Academic Sessions, Galle Medical Association, Galle, Sri Lanka, 11th – 13th October 2017.
2. NL De Silva, A De Silva, P Jayawardena, S Amarasena, TC Yahathugoda, MV Weerasooriya(2018), An assessment of a modified protocol to manage *Bertiella studeri*—Monkey tapeworm—infection in Southern Sri Lanka. The 77th Annual Academic Sessions, Galle Medical Association, Galle, Sri Lanka, 10th -12th October 2018
 3. Celia Zhou, Channa Yahathugoda, Lalindi De Silva, Upeksha Rathnapala, Mirani Weerasooriya, Mike Weiler, Ramakrishna Rao, Gary Weil and Philip Budge (2018). Variability in daily limb volume among patients with filarial lymphedema in Sri Lanka. The 67th Annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 28th October – 1st November, 2018. Abs. No. 5322
 4. Makoto Itoh, Lalindi De Silva, Upeksha Rathnapala, Thishan C. Yahathugoda, Hidekazu Takagi, Fumiaki Nagaoka, Hirotomo Kato (2020), Antibody capture agglutination test with recombinant antigen coated red blood cells for diagnosis of leishmaniasis, Annual meeting for the Japanese society of Parasitology Obihiro, Hokkaido, May 2020.
 5. De Silva NL, De Silva VNH, Deerasinghe ATH, Kato H, Itoh M, Takagi H, Weerasooriya MV and Yahathugoda TC (2020), The diagnostic accuracy of a modified nested PCR-RFLP method in the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani*. The 29th Annual Scientific Sessions, The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (13th -14th August 2020)
 6. De Silva NL, Tojo B, De Silva VNH, Deerasinghe ATH, Kato H, Takagi H, Weerasooriya MV, Itoh M and Yahathugoda TC (2020). Development of a sandfly anti-salivary gland—SG747—IgG antibody-based urine enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for cutaneous leishmaniasis risk mapping using geographic information systems (GIS) in Sri Lanka. The 79th Annual Sessions of the Galle Medical Association, September 2020.
 7. De Silva NL, De Silva VNH, Deerasinghe ATH, Kato H, Itoh M, Takagi H, Weerasooriya MV and Yahathugoda TC (2020), The diagnostic capabilities of an in-house ELISA method in the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* in Hambantota district, Sri Lanka. The 69th Virtual American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Meeting 15th – 19th November, 2020. Abs. No. 1548.
 8. Budge P, De Silva L, Weiler M, Sullivan S, Stephens M, Weerasooriya M, Gunawardena S, and Yahathugoda C(2020), Comparison of four longitudinal outcome measures for limb lymphedema. Virtual American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Meeting 15th – 19th November, 2020.

AWARDS

1. **Award for the best paper** for the presentation “An assessment of a modified protocol to manage *Bertiella studeri*—Monkey tapeworm—infection in Southern Sri Lanka” at the 77th Annual Academic Sessions, Galle Medical Association, Galle, Sri Lanka, October 2018
2. **NRC Merit Award for Scientific Research 2017** (2019). Research paper Use of a novel portable three-dimensional scanner to measure limb volume and circumference in patients with filarial lymphedema. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 97(6), pp.1836-1842

3. **Award for the first prize in oral presentations** for the presentation on “The diagnostic accuracy of a modified nested PCR-RFLP method in the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani*” at the 29th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, August 2020
4. **The Dr C. Palasuntheram Prize for The Oral Presentations** for the presentation on “The diagnostic accuracy of a modified nested PCR-RFLP method in the diagnosis of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani*” at the 29th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, August 2020
5. **Award for the best paper** for the presentation on "Development of a sandfly anti-salivary gland—SG747—IgG antibody-based urine enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for cutaneous leishmaniasis risk mapping using geographic information systems (GIS) in Sri Lanka" at the 79th Annual Sessions of the Galle Medical Association, September 2020

GRANTS

1. Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka research grant, 2019, for the study titled “Development of DNA and antibody based methods for the diagnosis and risk mapping of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* in Hambantota Sri Lanka”. Value: SLR 295,000.00.
2. The Galle Medical Association (GMA) competitive research grant of 2019 for the study titled “Development of DNA and antibody based methods for the diagnosis and risk mapping of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* in Hambantota Sri Lanka”. Value: SLR 200,000.00.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES – NATIONAL

- 1 Life Member, Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM)
- 2 Life Member, Galle Medical Association (GMA)
- 3 Life member, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)
- 3 Former Member of Government Medical Officer’s Association (GMOA)