

Profile for the Web

Dr. Sunethra Gunasena

Senior Lecturer, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna

Other professional commitments (National & International)

Member of the South-East Asia Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication (since 2020)

Awards:

- Honorary Fellowship of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists 2021
- First prize in oral presentation at the 30th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists August 2021 (E -conference)
- C. Palasuntheram Prize for best research presentation at the 30th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists August 2021 (E -conference)
- President award for scientific publication 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2018
- National Research Council merit award for scientific publications 2010, 2012, 2017
- First prize in oral presentation at the International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance 2018
- Dr. C. Palasuntheram Prize for best research presentation at the International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance 2018
- Sri Lanka Medical Association EM Wijerama award 2016 for oral presentation
- The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists 22nd annual scientific sessions 2013 first prize in oral presentations
- The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists 20th annual scientific sessions 2011 second prize in oral presentations
- Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians 11th annual scientific congress Professor Abraham award for tropical medicine

Oration

Siri Wickramasingha Oration 2020, Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists

Publications

Recent 10 publications out of more than 25 publications

1. Thabrew, H., Nilanthi, K.G.R., Liyanage, A., Gunasekera, A., Weerasinghe, N.P., Wickramasinghe, S.S., Gunasena, S., Wijayaratne, W.M.D.G.B. and Nagahawatte, A.D.S., 2021. An audit of specimens received for superficial fungal studies to the Department of Microbiology, University of Ruhuna. Sri Lankan Journal of Infectious Diseases, 11, pp.S2:14. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/sljid.v11i0.8377>
2. Sky Vanderburg, Gaya Wijayaratne, Nayomi Danthanarayana, Jude Jayamaha, Bhagya Piyasiri, Chathurangi Halloluwa, Tianchen Sheng, Sujeewa Amarasena, Ruvini Kurukulasooriya, Bradley P Nicholson, Joseph S M Peiris, Gregory C Gray, Sunethra Gunasena, Ajith Nagahawatte, Champika K Bodinayake, Christopher W Woods, Vasantha Devasiri, L Gayani Tillekeratne
Outbreak of severe acute respiratory infection in Southern Province, Sri Lanka in 2018: a cross-sectional study
BMJ Open 2020; 10:e040612. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040612
3. Abhay P. S. Rathore, Manouri Senanayake, Arjuna Salinda Athapathu, Sunethra Gunasena, Irantha Karunaratna, Wei Yee Leong, Ting Lim, Chinmay Kumar Mantri, Annelies Wilder-Smith, Ashley L. St. John
Serum chymase levels correlate with severe dengue warning signs and clinical fluid accumulation in hospitalized pediatric patients
Science Reports open (nature research) 2020: 10: 11856
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-68844-z>
4. Sunethra Gunasena
Profile of a global contagion: SARS – CoV – 2 (Leading article)
Galle Medical Journal (March 2020) 25 (1): 1-3
5. Sunethra Gunasena
Siri Wickremesinghe Memorial Oration 2020 of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists on 29th February 2020 Topic: Towards polio free world - Contribution from Sri Lanka
Bulletin of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists 18 (1); Aug 2020: 44 - 49
6. Kularatnam GAM, Jasinge E, Gunasena S, Samaranayake D, Senanayake MP, Wickramasinghe VP
Evaluation of biochemical and haematological changes in dengue fever and dengue hemorrhagic fever in Sri Lankan children: a prospective follow up study
BMC Pediatrics (2019) 19:87 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-019-1451-5> (Open Access <https://rdcu.be/buj7m>)

7. Gamage D, Mach O, Palihawadana P, Zhang Y, Weldon WC, Oberste MS, Gunasena S, Sutter RW
Boosting of mucosal immunity after fractional-dose inactivated poliovirus vaccine
Journal of Infectious Diseases 2018 Nov 5; 218 (12): 1876 - 1882
Presidential award 2020
8. Macklin G, Liao Y, Takane M, Dooling K, Gilmour S, Mach O, Kew O.M, Sutter R.W, The WHO iVDPV Working Group
Prolonged excretion of poliovirus among individuals with primary immunodeficiency disorder: An analysis of the World Health Organization registry
Frontiers in Immunology 2017 (Open Access www.frontiersin.org)
doi:10.3389/fimmu.2017.01103
9. Anna Uehara, Hasitha Aravinda Tissera, Champica K. Bodinayake, Ananda Amarasinghe, Ajith Nagahawatte, L. Gayani Tillekeratne, Jie Cui, Megan E. Reller, Paba Palihawadana, Sunethra Gunasena, et al
Analysis of Dengue Serotype 4 in Sri Lanka during the 2012–2013 Dengue Epidemic
The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 97 (1), Jul 2017, p. 130 – 136
NRC Merit Award for Scientific Publication
10. Tissera H, Amarasinghe A, Gunasena S, et al, 2016.
Laboratory-enhanced dengue sentinel surveillance in Colombo district, Sri Lanka: 2012-2014
2016 PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases 10: e0004477
President's Award for Scientific Publication

List of Oral presentations (last 5 years):

1. Muthugala MARV, Dheeraseskara WKH, Manamperi AAPs, Gunasena S, Galagoda GCS
Clinical Features & Epidemiology of Hantavirus Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome in Sri Lanka, March 2013 to March 2021
30th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists August 2021
C. Palasuntheram Prize for best research presentation
First prize in oral presentation
2. Muthugala MARV, Harischandra N, Wickramasinghe D, Abeykoon MM, Dasanayake WMDK, Senanayake KOMDT, Manamperi AAPs, Gunasena S, Galagoda GCS
Hantavirus infections with pulmonary symptoms in North Central part of Sri Lanka
International Conference on Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance, Colombo, Sri Lanka 2018
C. Palasuntheram Prize for oral presentation
First prize in oral presentation

3. Wijewickrama A, Abeyrathna G, Gunasena S, Idampitiya D
Effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) on bleeding and Liver in Dengue infection 129th Anniversary International Medical Congress 2016 of the SLMA
E M Wijerama Prize for the Oral Presentation
4. Jayasinghe CD, Hettigodage AN, Gunasena S, Udagama PV
The mature leaf concentrate of Sri Lanakan wild type Carica papaya exhibits anti-tumor activity and regulates anti-tumor immunity 8th Biennial Scientific Sessions of Allergy & Immunology Society of Sri Lanka 2016
5. Wijewickrama A, Abeyrathna G, Gunasena S, Idampitiya D
Effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) on bleeding and liver in dengue infection OP # 14.003 17th International Congress on Infectious Diseases Hyderabad, India 2016 / International J of Infectious Diseases April 2016 v 45, supplement 1 Pg 19 – 20

List of Poster presentations (Most recent):

1. H Thabrew, KGR Nilanthi, A Liyanage, A Gunasekera, NP Weerasinghe, SS Wickramasinghe, S Gunasena, WMDGB Wijayaratne, A De S Nagahawatte
An audit of specimens received for superficial fungal studies to the Department of Microbiology, University of Ruhuna
9th Annual Conference and Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lankan Society for Microbiologists 2020, 23rd October 2020
2. Sky Vanderburg, Nayomi Danthanarayana, Bhagya Piyasiri, Jude Jayamaha, Chathurangi Halloluwa, Gaya Wijayaratne, Brad Nicholson, Malik Peiris, Vasantha Devasiri, Ajith Nagahawatte, Sunethra Gunasena, Champika Bodinayake, Gregory C. Gray, Christopher Woods, L. Gayani Tillekeratne
Viral Co-Circulation and Co-Infection with Influenza during an Epidemic of Severe Acute Respiratory Illness among Children in Southern Province, Sri Lanka
Optional X 2019
3. Wijayaratne WMDGB, Vandeburg S, Tillekeratne G, Woods C, Nagahawatte A, Bodinayake C, Devasiri V, Nicholson B, Petzold E, Gunasena S, Danthanarayana N, Piyasiri B, Sellathurai M, Weerasinghe NP, Fonseka CC, Kurukulasooriya R, Gunasekara NC
The respiratory virus outbreak in Southern Sri Lanka in 2018: Results of the active surveillance
28th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists 2019

4. Weerasinghe M. Wijayaratne, Sky Vanderburg, Vasantha Devasiri, Ajith Nagahawatte, Champika K. Bodinayake, Eelizabeth Petzold, Sunethra Gunasena, Nayomi Danthanarayana, Bhagya Piyasiri, Muhunthan Sellathurai, Nayani P. Weerasinghe, Chathuranga L. Fonseka, Ruvini P. Kurukulasooriya, Nishantha C. Gunasekara, Brad P. Nicholson, Chris W. Woods, L. Gayani Tillekeratne
An outbreak of adenovirus causing severe respiratory illness in southern Sri Lanka, 2018
68th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, 21 – 24th November 2019

