



PSSL QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER OF PERINATAL SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA



Induction of the **24th president** of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka

See pages 04 & 05 for more details...



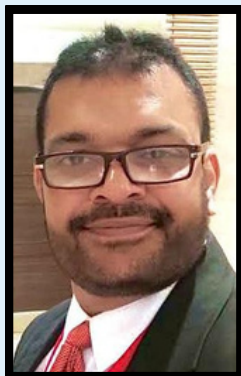
'Enhancement of Quality of Perinatal Care through Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Surveillance and Response'

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"Enhancement of Quality of Perinatal Care through Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Surveillance and Response."

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Message from the President



Dr Harendra Dassanayaka
President, 2025

Perinatal Society, as the name denotes is a professional organization which focuses on the well being of the perinatal period and the perinatal outcome. The membership and the council represent three main specialties Community Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Neonatology and Pediatrics which collectively works together to achieve the best possible perinatal care. The council and the membership of the year 2025 has been extremely supportive in planning the activities for this year under the theme "Enhancement of Quality of Perinatal Care through Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Surveillance and Response."

Importance of evidence synthesis through case review and data analysis and planning interventions based on evidence has been well recognized by the perinatal society over the years. Many such activities carried out by the Perinatal Society has made a positive impact on the perinatal care. This year taking forward the same agenda, the pssl will get engaged in staff training at different levels both in the curative and preventive care sectors conduct research activities and provide advocacy for policy decision making at national level in order to enhance the perinatal care services.

As a professional organization, Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka has been well recognized and respected specially due to its strong multi-disciplinary collaboration. Through various activities planned for the year 2025 we hope to maintain our recognition and the commitment towards enhancing the perinatal care in Sri Lanka. This news letter will provide a brief encounter into the vision of Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka.

Thank You

Dr Harendra Dassanayaka
President, PSSL
National Program Manager
(Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Surveillance) Family Health Bureau
Consultant Community Physician

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PERINATAL SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA COUNCIL 2025



Standing from Left to Right

Professor Sachith Mettananda , Dr Jithma Ruwini Fonseka, Dr Nimesha Gamhewage, Dr Dilani Dehigama, Dr Dilusha Atukorale, Dr Asiri Hewamalage, Dr Nethmini Thenuwara, Dr Gayani Gunawardena, Dr Himali Herath, Dr Shamitha Dassanayake, Dr Nalin Gamaathige, Dr Chandana Jayasundara

Seated from Left to Right

Dr Chandima Sirithunga, Dr Ruwan Silva (Treasurer), Prof Dulani Gunasekara (SLJPM Editor in Chief), Dr Surantha Perera (SLJPM Managing Editor), Dr Sudath Senaratne (Immediate Past President), Dr Harendra Dassanayaka (President), Dr Kaushalya Kasthuriarachchi, Dr Sandhya Doluweera, Dr Kapilani Withanaarachchi, Professor Rasika Herath, Dr Nimali Wijegoonawardene (Secretary), Dr Indunil Piyadigama

Absent : Professor Ruwanthi Perera, Dr A.Sritharan

Induction of the 24th President of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka

Dr. Harendra Dassanayake was inducted as the 24th President of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL) at the induction ceremony held on the 31st of January 2025 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute – Colombo 07.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena was the Guest of Honour at the ceremony.

Ministry of Health Officials, representatives from the Professional Colleges, Development Partners, Past Presidents, Fellows, Council and members of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka and other delegates, as well as the family members of the inducting president graced the occasion. Dr. Sudath Senaratne, Outgoing President, welcomed the gathering and presented the activities conducted during 2024 by the PSSL. This was followed by the reading out of the citation of inducting president, and the induction of Dr. Harendra Dassanayake as the 24th President of the PSSL by Dr. Sudath senaratne. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour addressed the gathering, appreciating the efforts of the PSSL.

The presidential address was the highlight of the occasion. In his presidential address, Dr. Harendra Dassanayake introduced the theme of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka for year 2025, 'Enhancement of Perinatal Outcomes through Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Surveillance and Response'. He emphasized the importance of surveillance and response in maternal and perinatal mortality and explained his plans for facilitating this initiative.

Dr. Nimali Wijegoonewardene, Secretary of PSSL delivered the vote of thanks. The ceremony concluded with entertainment events followed by a reception for the participants.

Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka		
 Vision To be actively committed towards achieving continuous improvement in the quality of health care for mothers and infants by promoting networking for providers of perinatal healthcare, supporting education for providers and consumers as well as improving availability, accessibility and continuity of preventive and primary perinatal healthcare services together with promoting initiatives toward improving health care of mothers and infants.	 Mission The Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka is a not-for-profit multidisciplinary organisation striving to promote continuing improvement in the quality of healthcare from pre-conception through birth of the baby and into infancy. It advocates ideal and ethical care through education and research to influence national policies and encourage strategic collaboration among health-care providers and stakeholders in order to ensure optimal pregnancy outcomes for mothers and babies.	 Join us.... Our members receive quarterly newsletter and have access to our information service To join us please contact: Editor, Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka. Email

From Secretary's Diary.....



(01 December 2024 – 31st March 2025)

The council of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL) for the year 2025 was appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on the 15th of December 2024 at Hilton Colombo Residencies.

The induction ceremony of the 24th President of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka, Dr. Harendra Dassanayake, was held on the 31st of January 2025 at the Sri Lanka Foundation, Colombo 07. Dr. Anil Jasignghe, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Mass Media graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Director General of Health Services was the Guest of Honour at this occasion, which was attended by Past presidents, Fellows and membership of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka, Ministry of Health officials, representatives from professional colleges, development partners and other invitees.

A Capacity Building Workshop organized by the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka was held at Base Hospital Nikaweratiya on the 19th of March 2025. It was successfully conducted as three parallel workshops focusing on strengthening maternal and perinatal care. A Neonatal Life Support programme, a workshop on Obstetric Emergencies and a workshop on Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) were organized by the council members of the three specialties at the PSSL, Neonatologists and Paediatricians, Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and Community Physicians, respectively, with the support of regional specialists and other experts. Around 150 Medical Officers, Nursing Officers and Public Health Midwives representing healthcare institutions in the North-Western province were trained at these workshops.

The President and representatives of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka attended, provided their expertise and supported in the coordination of the Neonatal Life Support Training Programmes organized by the DGH Nuwara-Eliya team in March 2025.

Two nominations from the PSSL were sent on request, for the National Guidelines Committee established by the Directorate of Healthcare Quality and Safety of the Ministry of Health.

The three Council meetings of the PSSL for the months of January, February and March were held on 16th of January, 20th of February and 24th of March, respectively, at the SLCOG Council Room.

The President and representatives from the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka will attend a meeting chaired by the Minister of Health and Mass media, on Technical Evaluation of Medicinal Drugs and Devices, on 2nd of April 2025.

Up coming events



A five-day workshop on 'Lactation Management Training Course' for staff of hospitals in the private sector will be conducted from 2nd to 6th of June 2025 at the Auditorium of the Castle Street Hospital for Women, organized by the PSSSL, in collaboration with the Perinatal Association of Private Hospitals of Sri Lanka and the Intranatal and Newborn Care Unit of Family Health Bureau.

The Annual Scientific Sessions of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka - 2025 is planned to be held on 2nd - 3rd of October 2025 at Hotel Galadari: Pre-congress Sessions for Nurses and Midwives - 2nd of October; Main Academic Sessions - 3rd of October

24th Annual Scientific Congress of Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka 2025

on 02nd & 03rd October 2025 at Galadari, Colombo

" Enhancement of quality of perinatal care through maternal and perinatal mortality surveillance and response "

02nd October 2025
(7:00 AM – 5:00 PM) Pre Congress Scientific Sessions for Nurses and Midwives

03rd October 2025
(7:00 AM – 5:00 PM) Annual Scientific Congress





SAVE THE DATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION : www.perinatalsociety.lk | Sandali - 0777072520 | Email: pssslsrilanka@gmail.com



STRENGTHENING MATERNAL AND NEONATAL CARE: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS HELD IN NIKAWERATIYA – MARCH 2025

The Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka successfully organized three targeted Capacity Building Workshops on 19th March 2025 in Nikaweratiya, with the aim of enhancing the competencies of healthcare professionals involved in maternal and neonatal care across the region. These workshops provided valuable opportunities for knowledge-sharing, hands-on training, and inter-professional collaboration to strengthen care delivery and improve health outcomes. The workshops conducted were as follows:

Neonatal Life Support Program

Held at Base Hospital (BH) Nikaweratiya, this hands-on session focused on life-saving skills essential for managing neonatal emergencies. A total of 32 medical officers and nursing officers from the NICU and SCBU units of Base Hospitals in Nikaweratiya, Puttalam, Galgamuwa, and Dambadeniya took part in this vital training

Obstetric Emergencies Program

This interactive workshop brought together 50 healthcare professionals, including medical officers, nursing officers, and Public Health Midwives, from obstetrics and gynecology units of the same four Base Hospitals. Participants were provided with practical training and updates on the timely management of common obstetric emergencies to improve maternal outcomes.

Strengthening Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)

This session was designed for field-level staff, including Medical Officers of Health, Assistant Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Nursing Sisters, and Public Health Midwives from the Polpithigama, Nikaweratiya, Mahawa, Kobeigane, Wariyapola, and Anamaduwa MOH areas. The workshop focused on strengthening the implementation of MPDSR processes and encouraged a culture of continuous learning and accountability to prevent avoidable deaths.

These workshops demonstrated the Society's continued commitment to building capacity at all levels of the healthcare system. By equipping frontline professionals with updated knowledge and critical skills, the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka reinforced its pivotal role in advancing maternal and neonatal health outcomes in the country.



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