CMASL NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICAL ADMINISTRATORS OF SRI LANKA

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"Leading in the 21st Century : Grooming the Next Generation of Competent Healthcare leaders"

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1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 28th Annual Scientific Sessions of College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka will be held from 10th to 12th December 2021 at Sri Lanka Foundation. The theme for the sessions is "Leading in the 21st Century: Grooming the next generation of competent healthcare leaders".

In line with the theme there will be many capacity building programmes conducted closer to the session and the sessions will also be centered in improving the competency of Medical Administrators.

The sessions will be conducted physically with all the health and safety measures in place. The participants for each session will be registered well ahead of the event ensuring there will be less than 50 present for each session.

There were four capacity building programmes conducted online, closer to the sessions. They were;

1. Disciplinary procedures for Medical Administrators. This training was conducted in Sinhala and Tamil languages
2. Two programs on GIS for decision makers in the health sector
3. Design thinking tools for effective public service
4. Financial management for Medical Administrators.

There will be a Pre congress Session conducted on Bio-pharmaceuticals on 10th December 2021. The Inauguration in the same evening will be held with Hon. (Dr.) Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health gracing the occasion as Chief Guest while State Ministers Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle and Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana will be Guests of Honour.

There will be three Symposiums during the sessions. The first symposium will be held on 11th December 2021 from 8.00 am to 11.00 am and will be on "Developing a highly competent Medical Administrator to face the challenges in 21st Century", which is in line with the theme. The second symposium will be on "CKDu Disease Burden, Economic Implication and the Way forward" (12th December 2021 from 9.00 am to 10.30 am) while the third symposium will be held on the same date from 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm on "Strengthening health systems to accelerate delivery of NCD services at the primary health care level".

It is planned to hold the Dr. Malinga Fernando Memorial Oration on 11th December 2021 from 11.00 am to 1.00pm. Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Additional Secretary (MS) will deliver the oration on 'Human Resources for Health - Story of Sri Lanka'.

There will be two sessions of oral presentations on 11th and 12th December 2021. The poster presentations will be held on 11th December 2021 during lunch time.

The scientific sessions will end with the Annual Dinner which will be held on 12th December 2021 at Sri Lanka Foundation.

All the Past Presidents, Fellows, Council Members and Members of College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka are cordially invited to take part in the events which are carefully planned to achieve both the goals of the 28th Council of the CMASL and the goals of health and safety measures.

Dr. R.M.S.K. Rathnayake
President, CMASL

2. ORIENTATION COURSE IN MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION – 2021

The Orientation Course in Medical Administration – 2021 organized by the Academic Committee of the CMASL was successfully conducted over five weekends from 25th September to 24th October 2021 with the aim to develop essential competencies in Medical Administration required by Medical Officers having managerial responsibilities to fulfill such responsibilities satisfactorily.

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country, this year's course was conducted online on ZOOM platform. There were 119 registrants from various parts of the country who participated very enthusiastically at all sessions.

The course was designed in such a way to cover four main areas; basics in Medical Administration, topics related to public health, curative care and miscellaneous topics. There were 38 lectures of 1½hrs each. The resource panel consisted of experienced senior and junior Medical Administrators, and specialists in relevant fields. They delivered lectures either as live or recorded presentations. Most sessions were interactive and the participants were allowed to obtain clarifications from resource persons at the end of the session. All lecture materials were shared with participants via e-mail

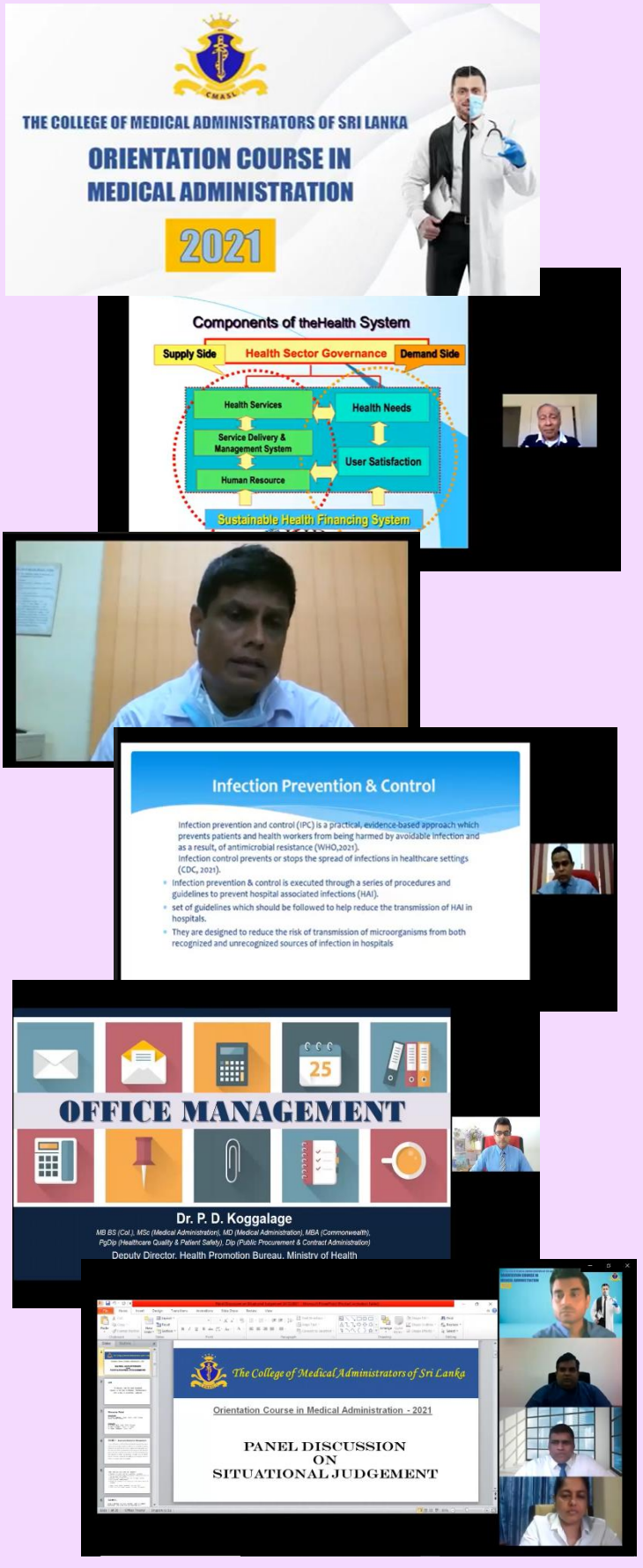
A new addition to this year's course was the Panel Discussion based on real life case scenarios related to Medical Administration. Dr. Dinesh Koggalage moderated this session with the panel comprised of Dr. Mihiri Priyangani, Dr. Rajh Kumar and Dr. Hasitha Attanayake. About ten case scenarios were discussed with a view to situational judgement and decision making. The enthusiasm of participants during the discussion was remarkable.

Each session was evaluated by administering an online Evaluation Form at the end of sessions. Similarly, the Panel Discussion and the full Training Course were evaluated separately. In general, the great majority of participants had given a very positive feedback about the Course with some comments for further improvements in future courses.

All the participants who successfully completed the Course were issued with a Certificate of Participation which will be valuable for their future career. All the resource persons were also awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their contribution.

The President, the Council and the Chairperson of the Academic Committee of the CMASL extend their warm wishes to all the participants for a fruitful career !

Dr. P.D. Koggalage
Member/ Academic Committee, CMASL



3. COVER STORY – 28TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS - 2021

'Leading the 21st Century: Grooming the Next Generation of Competent Healthcare Leaders'

The 28th Annual Scientific Sessions of the College will be held from 10th to 12th December 2021 at Sri Lanka Foundation (SLF), Colombo 07.

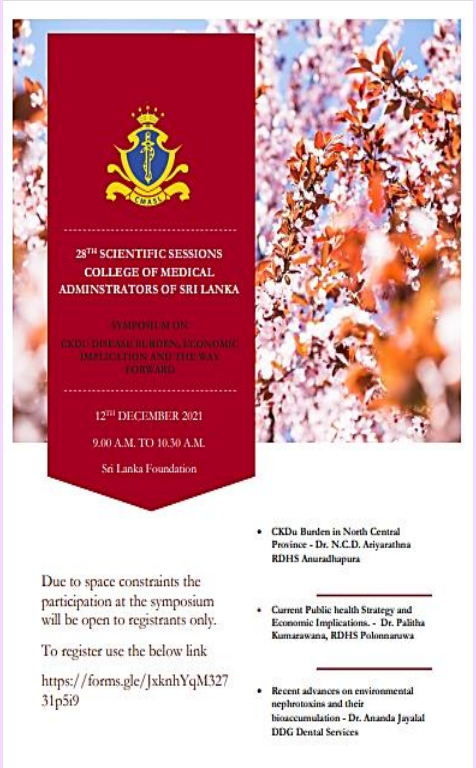
The Pre-Congress Session on Bio-Pharmaceuticals will be held in the morning of Friday, the 10th December 2021.

The Inauguration Ceremony will be held in the evening of 10th December at the SLF. The ceremony will be graced by Hon (Dr.) Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Health as the Chief Guest and Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control and Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana, State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals as Guests of Honour.

On the 11th and 12th December, the Scientific Sessions comprise of the 'Dr. Malinga Fernando Memorial Oration' delivered by Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Additional Secretary (Medical Services) and Plenary Sessions with Oral and Poster Presentations, three Symposia on Healthcare Leadership, Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Primary Healthcare Strengthening with a view to NCD care.

The 28th Annual Scientific Sessions will culminate with the Annual College Dinner on Sunday, the 12th December at the SLF.

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country, this year, the participation at events has been restricted to a limited number of registrants.



4. MEMBERS' CORNER

Establishment of an Oxygen generating plant during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Region of Batticaloa.

Dr. Nagalingam Mayuran (Regional Director of Health Services, Batticaloa)
Dr. Sivagurunathan Sasikumar (Medical Officer, Planning)
Dr. Thayahlini Sasikumar (Medical Superintendent, Base Hospital, Eravur)

Batticaloa region includes a tertiary care hospital (Teaching hospital Batticaloa) which comes under the line ministry and 4 base hospitals which come under the provincial Health Ministry. Unfortunately, the region had failed to have an Oxygen generating plant to cater the needs of the region and depends on the supply from adjacent regions for requirements on daily basis.

During the second and third waves of COVID-19 pandemic, need of Oxygen was escalating. There was a challenge to increase the capacity to treat Oxygen dependent patients. Therefore, it was planned to establish Intensive Care Units (ICU) in three "A" grade Base Hospitals. The major obstacle found was the supply of Oxygen for increasing demands. As the demand of the whole island was expected to increase, supply from adjacent regions was also unpredictable. Then, this led to the urgent need of having an Oxygen generating plant for the region.

However, the pandemic had shut all our means to obtain financial resources for this project from public funds. At this juncture, many Non-Government Organization (NGO) were supporting the region in fighting against COVID-19 in many ways. Later, Regional Director received a contact of an overseas NGO willing to finance this project in the region. That was "Alaka Foundation" from Malaysia which accepted the proposal and came forward to donate an Oxygen generating plant for the region which costs almost Rs. 60 million in June 2021.

The location of the Oxygen generating plant was selected at the Base Hospital, Kaluwanchikudy considering factors. Thereafter, necessary infrastructure facilities to install the plant was built with the aid of a charity organization known as "Our Society" in August 2021. There was an unexpected delay in arrival of the plant in the country due to worldwide increased demand for the Oxygen generating plants and also, the changes in international regulations. However, plant arrived in the country in October and Oxygen generating plant was fixed at the Base Hospital, Kaluwanchikudy in November 2021.

Now, the Oxygen generating plant is getting ready to fulfill the needs of the region. This would not have been possible without the support of the well-wishers, donors, good hearted people and at last the all health and non-health staff of the region who worked hard day and night to make it a reality.

Vaccination campaign at Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH), for children with specified comorbid conditions, against COVID-19

By Dr. Prasad Jayasundara, Registrar in Medical Administration

Children with congenital or chronic disorders may have increased susceptibility to Corona virus infection. Hence, with the technical and clinical guidance of the Epidemiology Unit and the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians, the Ministry of Health decided to prioritize children with congenital and chronic disorders in the childhood vaccination programme against COVID-19.

Children between the ages of 12y to 19y with specified comorbidities listed by the Epidemiology Unit were selected for vaccination. The recommended vaccine for these children was COMINARTY, COVID19 mRNA Vaccine (Nucleoside Modified Pfizer BNT).

The Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH) for Children hosted the national program for vaccination of children with specified comorbidities, which commenced on the 24th of September 2021 with the participation of the Hon. Minister of Health and the health officials of the Ministry of Health.

At LRH, the programme was coordinated by a committee chaired by the Director. The medical team was trained on vaccination procedures, documentation, and logistics by a Consultant Epidemiologist of the Epidemiology Unit. The committee developed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for each programme step, from giving appointments till the release of the child from the hospital after vaccination. The vaccinations were administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Parents of children were given the option of booking appointments online for their convenience.

The programme was overseen directly by a Consultant Pediatrician, with the post-vaccination observation by an Emergency Medicine Physician. Additionally, a special helpline for parents of vaccinated children was established to address any concerns about post-vaccination complications, and a self-administered questionnaire was distributed to document post-vaccination complications.

The LRH was able to vaccinate 2178 children with specified comorbidities in a safe and convenient environment during the first two weeks of the programme. As a Registrar in Medical Administration attached to LRH, I had the opportunity to participate actively in organizing, coordinating and supervising this vaccination programme

Construction of a Sewerage Plant at BH Valaichenai to reduce Dengue outbreak in future

Dr. Nagalingam Mayuran (Regional Director of Health Services, Batticaloa)
Dr. Sivagurunathan Sasikumar (Medical Officer, Planning)
Dr. Thayahlini Sasikumar (Medical Superintendent, Base Hospital, Eravur)
Dr. Dharshini Kantharuban (MO, Quality & Safety Management and E & O)

The efforts of RDHS Batticaloa and his team led to the establishment of a wastewater treatment management – Sewerage Plant in Base Hospital Valaichenai to control further dengue outbreaks in MOH Valaichenai.

The Batticaloa district is well-known for dengue outbreaks during the North-East monsoon period. Year 2020 was a devastating year for the Batticaloa district due to a massive dengue outbreak that occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. There were approximately 3811 reported cases and 04 deaths reported. The MOH area, Valaichenai was contributing to the highest caseload, which was more than 25% (954) of the Batticaloa region.

The BH Valaichenai which functions as the apex hospital to treat all the dengue cases from the Northern part of Batticaloa was found to be having many positive and potential breeding sites inside and outside of this hospital premises. This situation led to the burden of health staff, patients who came for treatments for other illnesses, clinic attendees and getting infected. The situation was reported to the RDHS, and he formed a technical team to report on the situation and submit short and long-term plans to mitigate this situation.

This team identified this as a vicious cycle because, the breeding sites were many, such as stagnant water in the garden, manholes, broken toilet pits and drains in and out of the hospital premises. However, it was noted that lack of a proper wastewater management system in the BH Valaichenai was the main cause of unwanted water pooling and stagnating, leading to mosquito breeding.

The technical team has submitted a short-term plan for the repair of drainage and broken manholes, and a long-term plan for the construction of a wastewater management system - sewage plant with a proper drainage networking system, emphasizing that the long-term plan will be the permanent solution.

Initially, this issue was raised by the RDHS Batticaloa at a meeting with the Hon. Governor of the Eastern Province. Unfortunately, the proposal was pending due to lack of provincial funds.

In the meantime, the line ministry has requested proposals under the Rural Development Budgetary Fund. With that, the RDHS team has decided to implement this project in 3 phases and by the end of December 2021, the work will be completed.

Upon successful completion of this project, dengue mosquito breeding places will be dramatically reduced, and no more dengue fever outbreaks in this area will be expected in the future.

Broken manhole

Construction of sewerage plant

Castle Street Hospital quality care during the end-of-life journey

Dr. Nalin Premadasa, Registrar in Medical Administration

Dr. S. Sridharan, Deputy Director General (Planning)

A mortuary is a facility for viewing, identification and temporary holding or storing bodies of deceased, stillborn and surgically removed body parts. People working in a mortuary have an important and challenging role to balance delivery of an effective and efficient service with stringent procedures as well as to demonstrate respect and sensitivity for bereaved families as well as meet the needs of the clinical staff of the hospital. It is important to facilitate efficient release of the bodies of deceased, stillborn to relatives, representatives or concerned authorities for final disposal

Castle Street Hospital for Women (CSHW) is one of the pioneer hospitals in introduction of productivity and quality concepts to the healthcare system in Sri Lanka. This was another CSHW quality improvement initiative and completed in 2015. Initial survey was done to find out the gaps in providing quality and safety mortuary service to bereaved families and clinical staff. Service Quality concept was introduced with guidance of Directorate of Health Care Quality and Safety to the mortuary of CSHW to provide safe, secure, quality care, culturally relevant and sensitive mortuary services with applicable reporting to relevant authorities and ensure appropriate support, comfort, respect and sensitivity for bereaved families and caregivers. This project was introduced in year 2015 with renovation of mortuary at a cost of Rs. 3,748,515. Public and staff satisfaction was high after initiation of this endavour.

Establishment of a Hospital Information Updating System (HIUS to Augment Hospital Readiness for the 3rd Wave of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka)

Fernando GHS, Senior Registrar in Medical Administration

Gunasena BAHM, Senior Registrar in Medical Administration

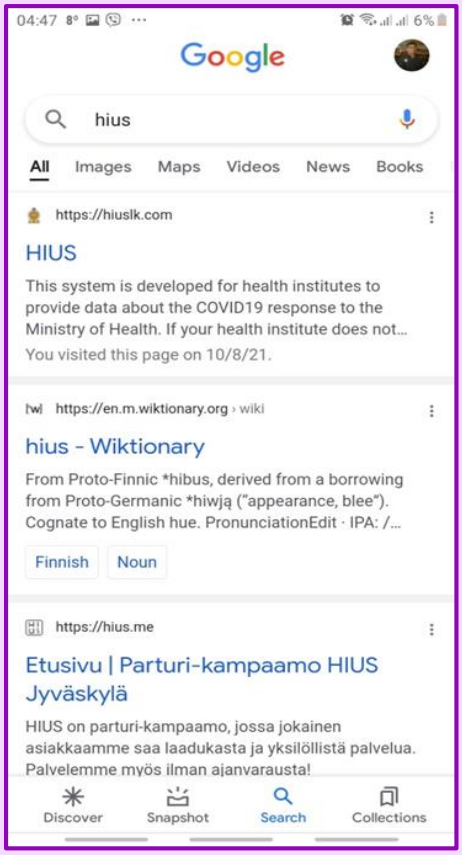
Yapa Bandara AS, Registrar in Medical Administration

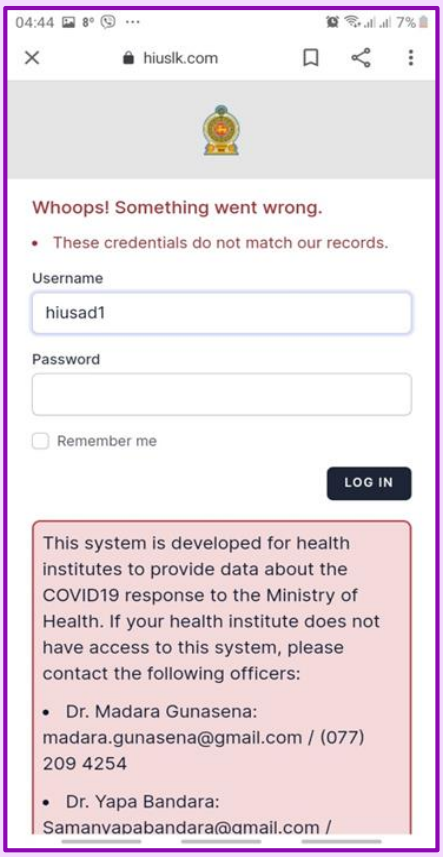
Lal Panapitiya, Deputy Director General, Medical service 1, Ministry of Health

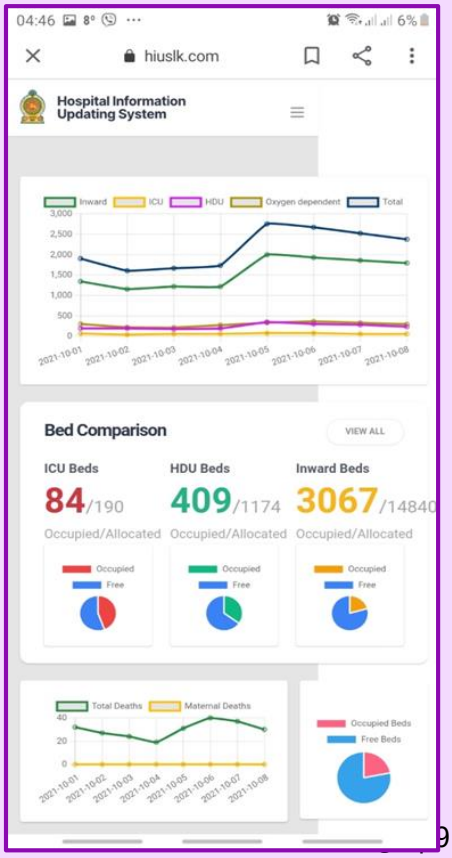
Timely available quality health information is essential to curtail any outbreak of infectious diseases. It is very essential to have regular monitoring systems to monitor the COVID 19 situation in the hospitals. However, there were no comprehensive systems at the Ministry of Health to collect COVID 19 information till May, 2021. As main responsible Division, the Deputy Director General (Medical Service I) has decided to collect updated heath information regularly through a web based system in order to assess the readiness to face COVID 19 in the 3rd wave.

A comprehensive web bases system named as “Hospital Information Upgrading System (HIUS)” was developed and launched on 25th May 2021 by DDG (MS I) unit under the supervision of Dr. Lal Panapitiya. This was developed by a private software developing company and funded by USAID. Separate user name and password were provided to each hospital and they were instructed to update the information daily by a designated focal point. If a hospital does not update the system regularly, the Head of the institution will be informed by a system generated message. Separate passwords were given to Intermediate Care Centers as well. The system was targeted to collect information of COVID 19 positive patients and number of investigations conducted at hospital setting. In addition, data related to medical equipment, consumables and Oxygen supply in relation to management of COVID 19 were collected through this system. At the moment, almost all secondary and tertiary care hospitals have updated the information system.

The system provides actual number of vacant beds available in the hospitals to treat COVID 19 patient up to date. It is a very useful platform to assess the readiness to face current threat of COVID 19. The information on Oxygen dependent patient is an essential indicator to maintain adequate Oxygen stocks in the country. Nationally, the information in this system will be very helpful to decide the period of lockdown to curtail spread of the disease. The information of medical equipment will be very helpful to Biomedical Engineering Division to decide on purchasing of new bio-medical equipment. The important information will be displayed on a dash board such as the number of COVID 19 patients in wards, HDUs and ICUs, number of COVID 19 deaths, number of antigen and PCR tests performed in hospital level and the results. Provision has been given to each level of Administrators to visualize their updated information to take necessary decisions.







5. OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Compiled by Dr. P.D. Koggalage

REFINING THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The College is in the process of refining and updating its Membership Directory. The subcommittee headed by the Secretary to the College, Dr. Alan Ludowyke is currently rectifying issues related to Memberships and refining the Directory with updated details of its Members. All the Members are kindly informed to provide accurate and latest information when requested.

REDESIGNING OF THE COLLEGE WEBSITE

It was highlighted at the 303rd Council Meeting that the official website of the College is not being updated regularly and it looks outdated and unappealing.

It was decided to redesign the website and include updated information in an attractive and user-friendly manner. Dr. Neelamani Hewageegane, Past President and Dr. Dinesh Koggalage, Council Member were assigned the task of developing a new website for the College. The College hired a web developer to support this process. The new website with basic information will be launched at the Inauguration Ceremony of the 28th Annual Scientific Sessions on 10th December 2021.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP

The Academic Committee of the College chaired by Dr. Champika Wickramasinghe took many initiatives for professional development of its membership during this year. Many training programmes were conducted as Short Courses on ZOOM/ MS Teams online platforms due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the country.

Training on Basics in Public Procurement

This online training course was conducted by Mr. Rohana De Silva, then Senior Assistant Secretary (Procurement) of the Ministry of Health. Sixty members participated at this training.

Training on Basics in Asset Management

Mr. Anura Lokugamage conducted this online training for 40 participants on 15th and 16th June 2021. The funds for the training were provided by the Education, Training and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health.

Training on Basics in Audit Process

This short course was conducted as an online training by Mr. Anura Lokugamage and Mr. Sarath Sumanasena on 14th, 15th and 16th July 2021. It was participated by 30 members of the College.

Training on Ventilation Systems

A timely important training during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic was organized on Ventilation Systems. Professor R. T. Chennaiah conducted this training on 23rd July for 30 members of the College.

Training on Disciplinary Procedures

Several short courses on Disciplinary Procedures were organized by Mr. Anura Lokugamage. The courses were conducted both in Sinhala and Tamil languages for convenience of the membership. All the short courses were conducted online during the period from August to November 2021. More than 150 members were benefited from this series of short courses.

Training on GIS for Medical Administrators

The Academic Committee in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology and Heritage Studies (IAHS) organized this training programme which was conducted over five consecutive days from 16th November 2021. There were 40 members participated at the training. The second training will commence on 22nd November 2021.

Training on Design Thinking Tools for Efficient Public Service

This training will be conducted on 29th and 30th November 2021 in collaboration with the Miloda Academy for Financial Studies. There are 50 registrants to be participated at the training.

'RISING FROM PANDEMIC CHALLENGES: RESPONSES AND LEARNINGS'

The Academic Committee of the College organized a Guest Lecture on the above topic which was delivered by Mr. Nalin B. Karunaratne the Director/ Chief Executive Officer of Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL). It was conducted at the Waters Edge on 15th November 2021 from 6.30 PM onwards. It was followed by a dinner. There were about 50 members participated at this event and it was conducted adhering to all health guidelines to prevent COVID-19.

The Guest Lecture included challenges encountered due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation and how they were faced successfully as a reputed private sector organization. The importance of principles of management such as situational leadership, teamwork, informed decision making, motivation of staff and quality assurance to overcome this kind of a situation was discussed with practical examples. The Guest Speaker was presented a token of appreciation at the end.

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