

Appreciation

Professor Preethika Angunawela

Professor Preethika Angunawela joined the Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo in 1983. She obtained MD Histopathology in the second batch of postgraduates for this course in 1989, going on in to train with Professor Kristeen Henry at the Department of Histopathology and Experimental Pathology, Charring Cross Hospital, United Kingdom on a Commonwealth Scholarship. She was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1990, Associate Professor in Pathology in 1995, Professor in 1999 and Senior Professor in 2007.

She was a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of UK, and Royal College of Pathologists of Australia and was one of the first to pioneer renal pathology in Sri Lanka. She also did work in oral pathology at a time when this field did not have any specialists. The research work in these two fields enabled her to deliver the Daphne Attygalle oration on “Glomerulonephritis in Sri Lanka” in 1994 and the Sri Lanka dental oration on “Red and white oral lesions” in 1995.

Other awards during her career included World Health Organization Fellowship on Medical Education in 1994, NHS International Fellowship in the United Kingdom in 2003, three Presidential awards for international publications in years 1999, 2000, 2001 and College of Pathologists and SLMA awards for best poster and oral presentations.

Her astute diagnostic skills enabled her to work as a Consultant Histopathologist at the Hammersmith NHS Trust, UK (2003-2005) and Launceston General Hospital, Tasmania, Australia (2008- 2011).

She helped Universities of Ruhuna, Kelaniya, Sri Jayewardenepura and the Eastern University by being a visiting lecturer and examiner in Pathology at times when their Medical Faculties were short of staff.



Professor Angunawela’s contribution to postgraduate training in histopathology has been legendary and this is probably one of the areas in which she received much acclaim and gratitude. She trained over thirty consultant pathologists during her career. She was also a lecturer and an examiner in Pathology for postgraduates of other disciplines such as Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Forensic Medicine and Dental Surgery. She served on the Board of Study of Pathology from 1990 to 1998 and supervised many MPhil and PhD students.

She was the author of two textbooks for medical students, over forty publications in national and international journals and has many published abstracts presented at national and international conferences.

She was the President of the College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka for the year 2000. She initiated discussions with Professor Kristeen Henry and the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology (BDIAP) and was the crucial link in setting up the first ICON in 2007.

Professor Angunawela was a brilliant undergraduate and postgraduate teacher, an astute diagnostician, and a respected researcher. We appreciate with gratitude, her yeomen service to the field of Pathology. May she attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana.

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