

Editorial Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the Sri Lankan Journal of Infectious Diseases (SLJID) which is the first journal of the Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology (SSM)—A scientific society formed to promote an integrated multidisciplinary approach towards the study of basic and applied microbiology. This journal, initially to be published biannually, with the intention to increase to quarterly publication, seeks to provide a peer-reviewed medium for communication of findings and perspectives among the professional disciplines involved in the field of infectious diseases.

A legitimate question to be asked at this stage is – why a new journal? Infectious diseases remain a major problem in all countries. Sri Lanka is no exception. It is encouraging to note that there has been a recent expansion of professionals in Clinical Microbiology and an increasing quantum of scientific work in the field of microbiology in Sri Lanka. However, although much of this work is presented at national and international conferences and in the form of research dissertations, access to the data produced is very limited. A significant proportion of the work, though of value locally, is unpublished and remains inaccessible to the majority of those who would benefit from access. One of the key reasons for launching SLJID was to provide a journal for publication of such material.

We are also proud to present one of the most exciting features of this Journal which is open-access to published material without any restrictions from anywhere in the world. We are indeed grateful to Sri Lanka Journals On-Line (SLJOL), which is a service that provides access to Sri Lankan published research, and increases worldwide knowledge of indigenous scholarship. We are hopeful that rapid publication of research results and immediate access to scientific contents would increase the conversations about infectious diseases and help us to improve both management as well as prevention of infectious diseases in Sri Lanka.

A second goal of this Journal is to facilitate discussion on microbiology in relation to resource limitations. Infections are a major health burden in many countries with limited resources. Accurate diagnosis of infections which is essential for optimal treatment of the individual as well as the planning and implementation of appropriate preventive strategies remains a major challenge. It is hoped that SLJID may be a journal where this challenge is addressed and discussed so that innovative solutions could emerge.

The Editorial Board of SLJID is composed of members of the microbiology and parasitology community in Sri Lanka with an international advisory panel which covers the spectrum of disciplines in infectious disease. We hope you will enjoy this first issue of the Journal and look forward to receiving your feedback and contributions for publication in our journal. Please visit the journal's submission and peer review website at <http://www.sljol.info/>

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