

Third Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS)

Third Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) will be held from 28 -29 January 2016 at Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) was established in December 2012. The annual sessions provide a platform for scientists involved in Laboratory Animal Science to share as well as acquire new knowledge. The SLALAS is the only association involved in promoting the humane and ethical use of laboratory animals in research in Sri Lanka. It is committed to promote the '3R concept (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement)' in Laboratory Animal Science which means 'replacement of animals with non-animal/lower order animals, reduction in the number of animals used and refinement of procedures'.

The theme for the 3rd annual sessions is 'Trends in Laboratory Animal Science' and it would focus on introducing a new non-human lower primate animal model (common marmoset) to Sri Lanka and toxicity and bioactivity studies with animals and alternative methods.

This would be the first time; the common marmoset is introduced into Laboratory Animal Scientists of Sri Lanka. It would be a very useful model for the studies on indigenous/Ayurvedic drugs in our country. This is a lower order primate that can be used to study the effect of novel drugs on primates before conducting clinical trials. Here we are promoting 'reduction' principle of the 3R. Professor Sugandhika Suresh will speak on the common marmoset model.

Mr. S. C. Dilanka Fernando will demonstrate the use of 'Porcine liver tissue as an *in-vitro* model to study hepatotoxicity' where the 'replacement' principle of 3R is emphasized.

Emeritus Professor Ajith Abeysekera will discuss about how findings in animal studies could be linked with the industry.

Emeritus Professor Noriyuki Kasai, Vice-president & Secretary General, The Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Association (AFLAS), Tohoku University Center for Laboratory Animal Research, Japan will talk on 'Environment Enrichment' where we are promoting the 'refinement' principle.

Prof. Vijay Pal Singh from CSIR-Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) will deliver a Guest Lecture on Laboratory Animal Welfare'. It would widen our knowledge and allow first hand exposure to eminent laboratory animal scientists in the region.

Meetings of this nature give opportunities for the younger generation to widen their insights into rational use of laboratory animals. In the proposed sessions, two presentation slots will be allocated to young researchers within 2 y of completion of PhDs involving laboratory animals to

give a talk. It is presumed that this move would empower the recent PhD graduates to disseminate their knowledge.



Prof. Noriyuki Kasai



Prof. Vijay Pal Singh



Prof. Ajith Abeysekera

**THIRD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS OF THE SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL
SCIENCE (SLALAS)**

VENUE: *Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: 28TH JANUARY 2016

8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	<i>Registration</i>
9.00 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	Inauguration with traditional lighting of the oil lamp
9.15 a.m. – 9.20 a.m.	Welcome Address
9.20 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	Address by the Guest of Honour Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
9.30 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	Presidential Address Prof. Sugandhika Suresh, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
10.15 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<i>Tea</i>
10.45 a.m. – 11.30 p.m.	Keynote Address Emeritus Prof. Noriyuki Kasai, AFLAS, Japan
11.30 a.m. – 11.35 a.m.	Awarding Honorary Membership of SLALAS to Prof. Noriyuki Kasai
11.35 a.m. – 12.20 p.m.	Guest Lecture I Emeritus Prof. Ajith Abeysekera, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
12.20 p.m. – 1.05 p.m.	Guest Lecture II Dr Vijay Pal Singh, CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, India
1.05 p.m. – 1.10 p.m.	Vote of thanks
1.10 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.	Free Paper Session I
3.20 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	AGM of SLALAS
4.30 p.m.	<i>Tea</i>

DAY 2: 29TH JANUARY 2016

9.00 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	Lecture on 'Common marmoset: alternative for higher order primates' Prof. Sugandhika Suresh, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
9.45 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Lecture on 'Using liver slices as an alternative' Mr Dilanka Fernando, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<i>Tea</i>
10.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	Young Members' Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation I – Dr Banukie Jayasuriya- Presentation II – Dr Chamini Kanatiwela de Silva- Presentation III – Dr KDK Peshala Kumari
11.45 a.m. – 1.05 p.m.	Free Paper Session II
1.05 p.m. – 1.45 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1.45 a.m. – 2.45 p.m.	Panel discussion - 'Laboratory Animal Science: The way forward'.
2.45 p.m. – 4.05 p.m.	Free paper Session III
4.05 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	Presentation of award for best paper
4.15 p.m.	<i>Tea and winding up</i>

Registration fees – Rs. 2000/=