



Prof. Ranil De Silva,
Director, Interdisciplinary Center for Innovation in
Biotechnology & Neurosciences
Director, World Class University Grant Project,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka



As the Director of World Class University Project (WCUP), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP), Prof. Ranil de Silva acts as the focal point of WCUP which lies towards local fields that support innovation with a potential to lead national development by prioritizing inter-disciplinary studies that combine the fields of basic sciences and humanities & social sciences which will contribute to national, social and academic development thereby establishing international collaborations and public private partnerships for research and innovation startups.

He has been instrumental in signing thirteen (13) memorandums of understanding globally (Australia, China, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science (AIST): 7th innovation centre worldwide, Japan <http://www.sjp.ac.lk/news/mou-signed-on-trilateral-collaboration-in-science-and-technology-between-japan-india-and-srilanka/>, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Taiwan, USA), as the Director, World Class University Grant Project linking East with West.

Prof. Ranil De Silva, Project Director/Implementer, Center for Private Public and People Partnerships (CP4), USJP has successfully established the CP4 in USJP with the ultimate objective to bring about sustainable economic growth by nurturing innovative businesses reach excellence with mentorship, information and advocacy.

Prof Ranil de Silva is also the Principal Investigator of the Genetic Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences. His area of research interests includes;

- Natural products in the prevention of neurological/ neuromuscular disorders, promoting healthy brain aging, where he has demonstrated neuroprotective properties of Sri Lankan natural/herbal products through cell culture, autopsy brain and clinical studies and in life style factors for optimization of better brain health, that would be a stepping stone in developing neuroprotective nutraceuticals and innovative functional foods,
- Genetic, molecular and serum biomarker development of neuromuscular and neurodegenerative diseases.

Prof De Silva has been successful in securing a funding directly from the National Budget of Sri Lanka from the Sri Lankan Government, for multidisciplinary innovative research on Sri Lankan natural products (i.e Ceylon Cinnamon, White Tea, Turmeric, Ginger, Lemon Grass, etc.) leading to nutraceutical/functional food development and nutrigenomics. Sri Lanka being a biodiversity hotspot with unique medicinal plants and with a history of over 3000 years on its own indigenous medicine, along with the unique resources available at the bio-bank established, Prof. de Silva will be the key to link East and West in a multidisciplinary innovative platform bridging industry and academia.

He is the Co- Chair, *Tradmed International - 2017-Sri Lanka*, International Conference on Traditional Medicine, Educational Exhibition & Trade Fair– 2017, organized by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, amalgamating science with knowledge of traditional medical systems in an innovative platform. Prof. de Silva had taken initiative to successfully organize six (6), one week International Neuroscience Workshops promoting neuroscience research in the region bridging East and West with 82 International Resource Persons.

Prof. de Silva is a Council Member of: The Governing Council of International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), France; Federation of Asian and Oceanic Neuroscience Societies (FAONS), Japan; Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN), and as Coordinator, European Graduate School of Neuroscience (EURON) in Sri Lanka, Netherlands; University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS) in USJP; DBT-AIST international Laboratory for Advanced Biomedicine(DAILAB@USJP)- Sri Lanka of National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science (AIST), Japan and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in USJP, Australia. He also serves as an Editorial Advisory Member of *Annals of Neurosciences* and *Neuroscience Research Notes*.

Private Public Partnership in Capturing the International Market

Prof. Ranil de Silva was the pioneer in receiving the (Japan International Cooperation Agency) JICA-Aid Grant for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP), with the blessings of His Excellency, Honorable J.R. Jayewardene, late President of Sri Lanka through a letter of recommendation for the Japanese Government.

As the Principal Investigator of the Genetic Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP Prof. de Silva has established collaborations with the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science (AIST): 7th innovation centre worldwide, Japan, for collaborative research on natural products (*Ceylon Cinnamon*) leading to product development <http://www.sjp.ac.lk/news/mou-signed-on-trilateral-collaboration-in-science-and-technology-between-japan-india-and-srilanka/>

Furthermore, Prof. de Silva has a strong academic relationship with well renowned scientists in Japanese Institutes including the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan leading to publications in the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience.

Sri Lanka being a biodiversity hotspot with unique medicinal plants and with a history of over 3000 years on its own indigenous medicine, spice rich diet holds a key to wealth of resources in developing neuroprotective nutraceuticals and innovative functional foods, utilizing the unique resources available.

Prof. de Silva has successfully done research on the effect of natural products on the rate of progression of neurodegenerative/ neuromuscular disorders and stroke, promoting healthy brain aging, where he has demonstrated neuroprotective properties of Sri Lankan natural/herbal products through cell culture, autopsy brain and clinical studies and in life style factors.

Thereby with an objective of establishing public private partnerships leading to initiation of business incubators under the Center for Private Public and People Partnerships (CP4), USJP (<http://research.sjp.ac.lk/ICIBN>, <https://www.sjp.ac.lk/wcup/index.php>, <http://innovation.sjp.ac.lk/>) linking academia and industry with the aim of developing innovative value-added natural products (*i.e. Ceylon Cinnamon, Ginger, Turmeric, Lemongrass, White Tea etc*), nutraceuticals, patented products and paving the way for the cutting-edge technology to delay the progress of aging, brain and metabolic disorders with collaboration between the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) and the industrial sector, thus entering into the International markets.