SRI LANKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Medical Association held on 20th December 2025 2025, at 6.00 pm, at the Lionel Memorial Auditorium, SLMA.

The following members were present at the AGM:

Present

Dr VSMCKB Jayawardena, Dr JAA Priyantha, Dr Asiri Hewamalage, Dr Gowri Samarasekera, Dr Tulnjalee Balalla, Dr Shyami S Wickramaratne, Dr HMMK Herath, Dr Surantha Perera, Dr MKMC Koottage, Dr BANN Bamunusinghe, Dr S A Thilini B Senarathna, Dr Jayani R Tennakoon Jayaweera, Dr K M Chulapadma LB Senaratne, Dr M PGamage, Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Dr Udana Ratnapala , Dr AHAKS Atapattu, Dr Lalinda Maddumabandara, Dr DKD Mathew, Dr K E Jayamanna, Dr Sumal Nandasena, Dr Ruwanthi Jayasekara, Dr Marius Suranjan, Dr DKR Abeyagunawardene, Dr SVTNP Suriapperuma, Dr Hasitha Tissera, Dr Sumithra Tissera, Dr ADGSB Pigera, Dr PK B Mahesh, Dr Manilka Sumanatilleke, Dr Dinershan Ranasinghe, Dr HMNP Herath, Dr MP Kumbukage, Dr YVNDSirisena, Dr Christo Fernando, Dr MDUB Gunawardane, Dr V Murali, Dr AMNL de Silva, Dr WPPK Mallawaarachchi, Dr Sajitha Mallawaarachchi, Prof. Sachith Mettananada, Dr KAG Perera, Dr DSB Wijesundera, Dr UD Hiripitiya, Dr Isshani Fernando, Dr Sarath Gamini De Silva, Dr Malik Fernando, Prof. Anoja Fernando, Dr Preethi Wijegoonewardene, Dr BJC Perera, Dr Anula Wijesundere, Dr Padma Gunaratne, Dr Vinya Ariyaratne, Dr Ananda Wijewickrama, Dr Dilani Kottahachchi, Dr Chandrika Subasinghe, Dr Pramilla Senanayake, Dr Achala Balasuriya, Prof. Ishan De Zoysa, Dr N Jeyakumaran, Dr Nilanka Wickramasinghe, Dr Ajita Wijesundere, Dr Susie Perera De Silva, Prof. Ruwanthi Perera, Dr GMJ Tennakoon, Dr LPKSM Mahanama, Dr BRCM Dematapitiya, Sr SDN De Siva,

The following members were excused

Professor Vajira HW Dissanayake, Prof. Jennifer Perera,Prof. Joe Perera, Prof. Rezvi Sheriff, Prof. Anuja Abayadeera, Prof. Samath D. Dharmaratne, Prof. Kumara Mendis

Preliminaries:
The AGM was chaired by Dr. Surantha Perera, President SLMA 2025. The meeting commenced with the recital of the National Anthem.

1. Notice Calling for the AGM

Dr. Asiri Hewamalage, Secretary of SLMA, read the notice announcing the 2025 AGM of SLMA.

2. Remembrance of Late Past Presidents and Members of the SLMA
The house observed one minute's silence in respect to the departed Presidents and the members of the SLMA, as well as for the people who lost their lives in the recent disaster caused by Ditwah Cyclone.

3. Adoption of Minutes of AGM 2024
The AGM minutes for 2024 were adopted without any modifications. Dr. Manilka Sumanathilake proposed that the minutes are in order, and Dr. Padma Gunarathna seconded.

4. Confirmation of New Members
The list of new members who joined the SLMA in 2025 was tabled. The house confirmed
172 life members, 61 ordinary members, 223 student members, and four conversions confirmed.

5. Resolutions
There were two resolutions;

Resolution 1: A Proposal for Engaging with the WHO SEARO Health Humanities Resolution

Proposed by Professor Saroj Jayasinghe
Seconded by Dr. Palitha Abeykoon

During its 78th session in Colombo (October 12-15, 2025), the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia (SEARO) passed a resolution titled, "Introducing Health Humanities to Health Professional Education andTraining in WHO's South-East Asia Region." [1]. This resolution was historic for two reasons: it marked Sri Lanka's first proposed resolution in decades and was the first on Health Humanities ever adopted by a WHO region.

The three key elements of the resolution are for member states to

a) Integrate health humanities in health professional education and training, and in health service delivery, as appropriate to the country context

b) Encourage innovations and conduct research on the role of health humanities in health professional education and training, and in health care

c) Engage in regional and international fora to exchange lessons and positive experiences on the introduction of health humanities in health professional education and training, and in health care.

It was proposed that the President and the Council of the SLMA shall act to support this resolution by:

a) Promoting the integration of health humanities into health professional education and training.

b) Facilitating and conducting research on the role of health humanities in health professional education, training, and healthcare delivery.

c) Engaging with regional and international fora to share lessons and positive experiences regarding health humanities.

This proposal was unanimously approved. As it aligns with the constitutional clause "promote professionalism."

Resolution 2: A proposal on serving alcohol at official functions of the Sri Lanka Medical Association

Proposed by Dr. Padma S Gunaratne
Seconded by Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe

The risks and harms associated with drinking alcohol have been systematically evaluated over the years and are well documented in the available scientific information. The World Health Organization has declared that "No level of alcohol consumption is safe" and alcohol use is associated with a number of health risks, including cancers, injuries, alcohol use disorders (AUDs), and cardiovascular diseases. In January 2025, the US Surgeon General issued an advisory against alcohol use based on the causal link between alcohol consumption and increased cancer risk and named alcohol consumption as the third leading preventable cause of cancer in the United States.

We firmly believe that the Sri Lanka Medical Association, along with its entire membership of medical professionals, must lead efforts to reduce alcohol-related hazards in Sri Lanka. It is essential that the SLMA, as the leading medical organization, set an example for all other professional groups by adopting a strict no-alcohol policy, including not serving alcohol at official functions. This practice has already been followed by many previous Presidents of the SLMA. Furthermore, this decision would strengthen the SLMA's role as a leader in guiding other Medical Professional Colleges to implement a similar policy.

It was proposed that the President and the Council of the SLMA shall refrain from serving any form of alcohol at all official functions of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

This proposal was approved by the majority of votes.

6. President's Address

Dr. Surantha Perera commenced the address with an announcement of the SLMA Advancement Trust.

"Following a proposal by the President Dr. Surantha Perera and the concurrence of the Council of the SLMA, a trust fund to be named "Sri Lanka Medical Advancement Trust" is in the process of being developed in association with Messrs. D. L. & F. de Saram, Law Firm.
The salient features of the Trust are:

Objects:

The Trust will fund projects and programmes of the Council in office at the time in the following areas:-
- CPD programs, research, or SLMA heritage activities
- Provision of scholarships and grants
- Maintaining historic SLMA property/assets
- Supporting public health campaigns in line with SLMA policy

Funding:

The Trust will receive and manage donations, bequests, and endowments.
The initial target is 100 million rupees.

Management:

The Trust will be managed by an independent Board of Trustees, who shall be referred to as the Board of Management of the Trust, to avoid confusion with the Board of Trustees of the SLMA.

Current status of the proposal:

A draft trust deed has been drawn up by the law firm. This is being reviewed and revised by a Working Party consisting of Past Presidents, members of the current Council and independent non-medical professionals, together with the President. A few more consultations will have to be held before all details are resolved.
It is proposed that the final version of the Trust Deed will be presented to the membership at a special general meeting for approval before it is put into action.

Dr. Surantha Perera, President of SLMA, delivered his presidential address by expressing gratitude to the Trustees, Past Presidents, Council, and members for their trust in him and his team during a the year 2025. He stated that the year 2025 will be remembered as a pivotal chapter in the long and renowned history of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA). It was a year that began with a clear vision, gained momentum through collective effort, and culminated in lasting institutional accomplishments. As President of the SLMA, I present this foreword with pride, not as a personal reflection, but as a tribute to a profession that united, disciplined itself, and purposefully responded to the nation's health needs.
At the core of our journey was a unifying vision: **"Health Equity Across the Life Course: Resilient Pathways, Empowered Lives."** This vision was first articulated through the **SLMA Road Map 2025**, a strategic blueprint that turned ideals into action. Based on a life-course approach, the Road Map recognised that health outcomes are shaped from early childhood through adolescence, adulthood, and healthy ageing, influenced by social, economic, environmental, and behavioural determinants. It provided clear direction, aligned with national priorities, and offered a shared framework that guided every major initiative undertaken by the Association during the year.

According to Dr. Surantha Perera one of the most significant achievements of 2025 was the establishment and realisation of the **Sri Lanka Medical Advancement Trust**. Designed as a permanent endowment, the Trust signifies a decisive shift from short-term thinking to long-term stewardship. Its purpose is clear: to secure the financial sustainability, institutional independence, and continuity of the SLMA's mission across generations. Through this Trust, the Association has developed a robust mechanism to support ongoing professional development, research, scholarships, leadership growth, innovation, and the preservation of medical heritage. More importantly, it has reinforced trust among members, partners, donors, and the public by integrating principles of transparency, accountability, and sound governance into its operations.

The values expressed in the Road Map found strong expression in visible, people-centred action. The **SLMA Health Walk 2025**, held as a national advocacy campaign, exemplified the Association's dedication to prevention, wellbeing, and community involvement. More than just a ceremonial occasion, it was a public statement that health promotion starts outside hospital walls through active lifestyles, social engagement, and shared responsibility. The Health Walk united doctors, allied professionals, families, and communities, reinforcing the message that sustainable health depends on collective effort across society to promote the 'Safer Roads-Safer Communities' theme.

Academic excellence remained a core element of the SLMA's identity. The **138th Anniversary International Medical Congress** was one of the most comprehensive and intellectually dynamic scientific gatherings in the region. With an extensive programme of pre-congress workshops, plenary sessions, symposia, free papers, and post-congress activities, the Congress showcased the depth and diversity of modern medicine. It offered a platform for innovative science, multidisciplinary dialogue, and the application of evidence into practice, reaffirming the SLMA's position as the leading academic body of the medical profession in Sri Lanka.

Complementing the Congress were the **Foundation Sessions of 2025**, which reaffirmed the ethical, historical, and professional underpinnings of Sri Lankan medicine. Through speeches, memorial lectures, and thematic discussions, these sessions celebrated not only scientific achievement but also core values of integrity, service, scholarship, and leadership. They acted as a bridge between generations, reminding us that progress in medicine is sustainable when innovation is rooted in tradition and professional ethics.

A major strength of the SLMA in 2025 was its ability to bridge science and policy. The **SLMA Health Policy Forum** served as an essential platform for evidence-based discussions, bringing together clinicians, academics, policymakers, and stakeholders to tackle urgent health issues at the national level. Through organised discussions and expert insights, the Forum reinforced the SLMA's reputation as a trusted policy partner that advocates based on data, experience, and public interest, rather than ideology. This engagement triggered increased national debate on health equity, system resilience, and preventive measures, and its role in shaping the new health policy was highly esteemed.

Equally impactful was the Association's commitment to inclusivity and decentralisation through **Regional and Joint Regional Sessions**. By extending academic and professional activities beyond Colombo, the SLMA ensured equitable access to continuing medical education and professional engagement for doctors nationwide. These sessions strengthened regional networks, recognised local challenges, and reinforced the principle that professional excellence must be accessible rather than centralised. They embodied the life-course and equity principles enshrined in the Road Map.

Perhaps the most compelling demonstration of the SLMA's social responsibility in 2025 was its response to the **Ditwah Cyclone and subsequent floods**. Following this national disaster, the SLMA acted swiftly from concern to action. Through medical helplines, media briefings, fundraising initiatives, intercollegiate coordination, and direct contact with affected hospitals and communities, the Association provided leadership during a period of uncertainty. Its response highlighted the unique role of a professional body in mobilising expertise, credibility, and compassion in the service of the public good. It reaffirmed that the social contract between the medical profession and society extends beyond routine care, especially in times of crisis.

Underlying all these achievements was strong governance and collective leadership. Regular Council meetings, active expert committees, intercollegiate collaboration, and dedicated staff ensured coherence, accountability, and continuity. The SLMA functioned not as a collection of isolated activities, but as an integrated organisation guided by shared purpose and disciplined execution.

7. Secretary's Report

The **Honorary Secretary, Dr. Asiri Hewamalage**, presented the Secretary's Report for the year 2025, outlining the activities and achievements of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) during the year

under review.

The Secretary stated that the work of the Association in 2025 was guided by strong governance, institutional discipline, public trust, and an engaged professional membership, aligned with the **SLMA Road Map 2025** launched at the Presidential Induction on 12 January 2025. The theme for the year, *"Health Equity Across the Life Course: Resilient Pathways, Empowered Lives,"* provided a strategic framework for activities addressing wellness and health needs across all stages of life.

The Council met regularly throughout the year, holding twelve meetings with high attendance, enabling transparent and accountable decision-making. The Secretary highlighted the constructive and collective leadership of the Council in ensuring quality and integrity in all SLMA initiatives.

In the area of **policy advocacy**, the SLMA strengthened its role as a trusted, non-partisan policy partner through the introduction of the **SLMA Policy Forum**. Key policy discussions focused on financing aged care, safety in healthcare settings, road safety, chronic kidney disease prevention and renal financing, and climate-resilient health systems. Evidence-based policy briefs arising from these forums were shared with the Ministry of Health.

The Secretary reported on the Association's **academic and continuing medical education activities**, including the successful conduct of the **138th Anniversary International Medical Congress**, pre-congress, post-congress, and foundation sessions, which together attracted wide national participation. Prestigious SLMA orations were delivered during the year, contributing to the country's scientific and academic discourse. Regular continuing medical education activities included monthly clinical meetings, Saturday talks for undergraduates, symposia, webinars, workshops, and joint regional clinical meetings across multiple provinces.

The report further highlighted the SLMA's role in **public communication and media engagement**, noting timely media briefings on communicable diseases, climate-related health risks, road traffic injuries, and disaster health impacts. The Health Journalism Awards were conducted to recognise excellence in health reporting across all three national languages.

The Secretary outlined the Association's **multi-sectoral and intercollegiate collaborations**, including engagement with professional colleges, universities, UN agencies, and other sectors. The Intercollegiate Committee functioned as an effective coordination mechanism during the year.

Member engagement and professional unity were promoted through **sports and cultural activities**, including cricket, sports festivals, the doctors' concert, and children's art initiatives. The publication of *Pioneers in Healing: The Presidents Who Shaped Sri Lankan Healthcare* was noted as a significant contribution to documenting the Association's institutional legacy.

Governance and sustainability initiatives included improvements to SLMA premises and infrastructure, establishment of standard operating procedures, and the formation of the **Sri Lanka Medical Advancement Trust** to ensure long-term financial and institutional sustainability.

The Secretary also reported on the SLMA's **humanitarian response** to the Ditwah Cyclone, including the establishment of a health helpline, mobilisation of professional support, and fundraising efforts for hospital reconstruction.

In conclusion, the Secretary expressed gratitude to the President, Council, Past Presidents, office staff, pre-intern doctors, members, professional colleges, Ministry of Health officials, UN agencies, and partner organisations. He stated that, under committed leadership, the SLMA concluded 2025 strengthened in its role as an academic leader, policy influencer, ethical guardian, and professional home, and was firmly positioned as a future-ready institution

8. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Udana Ratnapala, Assistant Treasurer, tabled the financial report for the year 2025, for the period 01st January 2025 to 30th November 2025.

The recurrent expenditure of the SLMA from 1st January 2025 to 30th November 2025 was Rs. 6,359,571/85 for salaries, overtime, allowances, EPF, ETF, and employee bonus payments. Expenditure for the refurbishment of the premises, routine repairs, and maintenance amounted to Rs. 1,474,402/30 Furthermore, expenses for electricity, security, water, telephone, printing, website, and miscellaneous expenditures totalled Rs. 8,091,734/09 The overall spending from 1st January to 15th December was Rs. 15,925,708/24

Bank Balances

The total sum of fixed and short-term deposits by the end of the financial year 2025 is Rs 62,925,978/64 The interest earnings from the fixed deposits during the year amounted to Rs. 1,760,262/81 (Oration & Award FD CMJ, SLCTR Interest. Cash and bank balances, in total, as of 30/11/2025, stand at Rs. 19,060,910/80 which includes the current account balance of the Covid Sahana Fund of Rs 279,842/05 and the SLMA Relief Fund of Rs. 487,068/51 The total balance for savings accounts is Rs. 14,012,368/68 (SLMA 2,62,897/79 , ICBD Rs. 1,268,110/39 , SLMA Relief fund Rs.16,065/56 Sessions Rs. 7,709,513/28 and Money Market account Rs. 2,390,271/20).

Auditor's Report 2024 is in Annexure 02.

9. Election of Office Bearers 2025

The Office bearers nominated and approved by the Council were presented to the membership. The following individuals were declared elected as the office bearers of the SLMA for the year 2026.

01. President
- Dr. Manilka Sumanatilleke

02. President Elect
- Prof. Ishan De Zoysa

03. Immediate Past President
- Dr. Surantha Perera

04. Vice President
- Dr. Dulani Kotahachchi
- Dr. Hiran Amarasekara

05. Treasurer
- Dr. Achala Balasuriya

06. Assistant Treasurer
- Dr. Udana Rathnapala

07. Secretary
- Dr. Isshani Fernando

08. Assistant Secretary
- Dr. Ruwanthi Jayasekera
- Dr. Sandamali Premaratne

- Dr. Nipun De Silva
- Dr. Chandrika Subasinghe

09. Public Relations Officer
- Dr. Lahiru Kodithuwakku

10. Social Secretary
- Dr. Premila Senanayake
- Dr. Nilanka Wickremasinghe

Following the approval of the office bearers, elections were held for 16 seats for members who have been registered with the SLMC for more than 10 years. For the less than 10 years category, for four seats, only four nominations were received, which the House automatically approved.
In the provincial category, elections were held for the Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces. At the same time, only one eligible nomination was forwarded for other provinces, which the House automatically approved.
Dr. Surantha Perera announced the names of the contestants in the less than 10 years category and the provincial candidates who were selected uncontested.

Under 10 years Category:
1. Dr. Arjuna Salinda Athapathu
2. Dr. Marius Suranjan
3. Dr. Sangeetha Wickramaratne
4. Dr. Maheshi Wijayabandhara

Provincial Category- Uncontested

- North Central Province - Prof. Nuwan Wickramasinghe
- Northern Province - Prof. Ravendra Surenthirakumaran
- Central Province – Prof. Samath Dharmarathne
- North Western Province - Dr. Upul Madahapola
- Eastern Province - Prof. Pakkiyarethan Mayurathan

He also mentioned that one applicant for the North Central province had withdrawn the application, and one applicant for the North Western province was rejected because the criteria were not met.

Further, there were no nominations for the Uva province. A representative to be nominated and approved at the first Council meeting under the presidency of Dr. Manilka Sumanathilake, as per the constitution.

Dr. Surantha Perera mentioned the members of the election committee, who would handle the election proceedings. The SLMA Council approved this election committee in December 2025.
• Dr. Preethi Wijegoonawardena
• Dr. Asiri HEwamalage
• Dr. Udana Rathnapala

The following members were elected for the respective categories.

More than 10 years Category;

1. Prof. Anuja Abayadeera
2. Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne
3. Dr. Sarath Gamini De Silva
4. Dr. Christo Fernando

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5. Dr. Malik Fernando
6. Dr. Kishara Gooneratne
7. Dr. Padma Gunarathna
8. Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
9. Prof. Kumara Mendis
10. Prof. Sachith Mettananda
11. Dr. V. Murali
12. Prof. Jennifer Perera
13. Dr. Susie Perera
14. Dr. Greata Pigera
15. Dr. Anula Wijesundere
16. Dr. Ananda Wijewickrama

Provincial vote results: Southern Province
1. Prof. Arosha Dissanayaka

Sabaragamuwa Province
2. Prof. Namal Rathnayake

10. Appointment of Auditors
Dr. Surantha Perera announced BR de Silva & Co. as the auditors for 2026, with the recommendation of the Premises Management and Finance Committee of the SLMA.

11. Address by Incoming President
Dr. Manilka Sumanathilake thanked the Past Presidents of the SLMA for the trust placed in him to lead the apex professional body in the country, and said he and his Council will do their best to uplift the SLMA. He will be focusing more on wellness in 2026 and has requested the support of every member in working in various capacities within the SLMA.

Dr Asiri Hewamalage
Honorary Secretary
Sri Lanka Medical Association