

College Fellowship Awards

Presenting, Dr. Anandi Samarasekara for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

Citation delivered by Dr. Chameera Bandara MD, Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon at the 30th Annual Congress of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

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It is with great pleasure that I undertake the honour of presenting Dr. Anandi Samarasekara for the conferment of the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists Sri Lanka.

Dr. Anandi Samaraseka obtained her primary and secondary education from Vembadi Girls' High School, Jaffna and entered Faculty of Medicine, Colombo in 1976 and completed her undergraduate medical training in 1981 with Second Class honors, Distinction in Microbiology and Dr. Herath Gunaratne Gold Medal for the 3rd MBBS examination in 1980. She started her Internship the same year at the General Hospital Colombo, training under the eminent physicians Dr. W. B. Wijekoon and Dr. K. Arumugam in General Medicine and General Surgery respectively. Dr. Samarasekara started her career as a fully qualified medical officer at the Provincial General Hospital Ratnapura in 1982 and in 1983 she was appointed as a medical officer to the Accident Services at General Hospital Colombo.

She entered both the Diploma and the Doctor of Medicine training pathway in Pathology in the year 1990 under the guidance of late Dr. Bede Jayaweera at the National Cancer Institute Maharagama and successfully completed the MD in Histopathology in 1994. Dr. Samarasekara then proceeded to her overseas training at the Path Center, Western Australia under the supervision of Prof. M. N. K. Walters from 1995 to 1996.

After obtaining the Board Certification and beginning her career as a Consultant Histopathologist, she was initially appointed to the Chest Hospital, Welisara in 1996 and in 1998 she was appointed to the National Eye Hospital, Colombo where she provided an invaluable service to Ophthalmic pathology services till 2009. From 2009 to 2016 she was appointed to the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo and provided her services in the capacity of a Visiting Consultant Histopathologist at Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila and Sri Jayawardenepura General

Hospital, Thalawathugoda. In the meantime she offered her volunteer service to the Sri Lanka Navy from 1997 joining as a Surgeon Commander and retired in 2016 as Surgeon Commodore being based at the Navy Hospital Colombo. Currently she is holding the post of Visiting Consultant Histopathologist Dr. Neville Fernando Hospital.

During her training Dr. Samarasekara had been an exemplary student dedicated to patient care and clinical research. And she has obtained special training in Pathology at the Bangladesh Diarrhoea Center in 1999, Cytology in All India Institute New Delhi which was sponsored by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka in 2000, training in Ophthalmic Pathology at Sankara Nethralaya in Chennai Sponsored by the Indo-Lanka Foundation in 2002, training in Cervical cytology in Thailand in 2009, and has obtained Laboratory accreditation in 2005 by the Sri Lanka Spain Board accreditation.

Dr. Samarasekara has also done more than her fair share of training young histopathologists of Sri Lanka. She was a member of the Board of Study in Pathology from 2009 to 2015, a member of the Board of Study in Forensic Pathology from 2000 to 2009. She was also a lecturer, trainer and examiner in the courses, MD Histopathology, MD Ophthalmology, MD Forensic Pathology, Diploma in Ophthalmology, Diploma in Forensic Pathology, Diploma in Histology, MS Surgery and MS Gynaecology and Obstetrics. She was also an examiner for medical graduates in the Medical Faculty, Colombo and was a Senior Lecturer and an examiner in pathology at the SAIM, Malabe from 2016 to 2018. She has been a Laboratory trainer at the NHSL for KDU undergraduates from 2013 to 2016, a part time lecturer in Pathology at the Tianjin Medical University, China, and was the chief examiner for Foreign Medical Graduates from 1999 to 2007. Dr. Samarasekara was also a lecturer, trainer and examiner for Medical Laboratory Technologists, Chief examiner in Histopathology and Laboratory management for MLTs, was involved with the teaching of midwives,

public health nursing sisters, medical officers in the Ministry of Health and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program since 1997 till retirement.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention her dedication to the development of the professional College of Pathologists and the discipline of histopathology as a whole. She has been an active member of the same for nearly two decades and she worked tirelessly for the betterment of the College being a council member from 1997 to 2010 and being the treasurer from 1998 to 2004. Eventually she became the president of the College of Pathologists in 2008. She became a Fellow of the College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka in 2015 and was also a Co opted member of the College of Ophthalmologists from 2000 to 2008.

Dr. Samarasekara also rendered her services towards the general public being a member of the advisory committee of the National Cancer Screening Programme from 1998 to 2008 and she was the coordinator of National Cancer Screening Programme from 1998 to 2008. She was a member of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board from 2008 to 2014 and was an assessor of Medical Laboratory Accreditation Board from 2007 onwards.

When it comes to academic involvement, Dr.

Samarasekara has supervised numerous research projects of medical students and postgraduate students in medicine. She has published and presented numerous case reports, researches, prospective and retrospective projects in national and international forums and journals under the categories including histopathology, forensic pathology and ophthalmology and has reviewed the first edition of the Color Atlas in Histopathology and Cytology in Female Genital Tract published by the World Health Organization in 2005.

Dr. Anandi Samarasekara was married to late Dr. Ananda Samarasekara, former Chief Consultant Judicial Medical Officer at the JMO's Office Colombo and the Former Vice Chancellor at SAIMT Malabe. She's blessed with a daughter Lakdinee who is married to Anju Eranda and both of them are medical doctors. And she is a loving grandmother to twins Seyal and Seyalee.

Madam President, her contribution to the Ophthalmic pathology services in Sri Lanka has been immense and in view of all this, I am sure you see how deserving she is of this honor. Ladies and Gentlemen it gives me great pleasure in presenting Dr. Anandi Samarasekara for conferment of the Honorary Fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.