

College Fellowship Awards

Presenting, Dr. Deepanee Wewalwala for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

Citation delivered by Dr. Chanika Gamage MD, Acting Consultant Ophthalmologist at the 30th Annual Congress of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

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It is a great honour and privilege to undertake, the honour of introducing, Dr. Wewalwala Hewage Deepanee Wewalwala, for the conferment of the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists Sri Lanka for the year 2022.

Dr. Wewalwala Hewage Deepanee Wewalwala, obtained her primary education from four village junior schools and as a scholarship holder entered St Paul's Girls School, Milagiriya for her secondary education. Having obtained the best results of the school for the Advanced Level examination, she entered the Faculty of Medicine Colombo in 1983 and completed her undergraduate medical training in 1991 with second-class honours.

She completed her internship in 1993 at the NHSL and the De Soyza Maternity Hospital. While serving as a post intern in the Genito Urinary Unit at NHSL, she became successful at the MS Ophthalmology part one examination.

Having set her heart and mind on becoming an Eye Surgeon, she entered the field of Ophthalmology in 1995, obtaining training as a registrar from 1995-1998 at NEH under the guidance of the renowned Eye Surgeons Dr. C. P. Banagala, Dr. C. A. B. Makuloluwa, Dr. M. H. S. Cassim and Dr. U. Mendis. After completing MS Ophthalmology in 1998, she was trained as a senior registrar from 1999-2000 at NEH under the guidance of Dr. C. P. Banagala, Dr. D. S. J. Pathirana and Dr. C. D. Jayaweera Bandara.

She entered the prestigious Moorfields Eye Hospital, London, as a honorary senior house officer in Ophthalmology from 2000-2002 where she completed her overseas training and obtained FRCS being elected as a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 2001.

Upon returning to Sri Lanka and receiving her board certification in 2003 as a consultant eye surgeon she provided her invaluable service and care at several peripheral hospitals until 2017, helping to uplift the eye care facilities in all the hospitals that she worked, receiving the whole hearted support by the rest of the hospital staff, hospital administration and the local Lions Clubs.

She was appointed as a consultant eye surgeon at NEH in 2017 where she serves currently as a caring eye surgeon and a passionate educator, training post-graduate trainees, undergraduates, nurses and ophthalmic technicians.

With an untiring effort in producing quality ophthalmologists, she also serves as an examiner for the Post Graduate examinations in ophthalmology.

Dr Deepanee Wewalwala has served the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

- as the president of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka in 2011
- as the joint secretary in 2009
- as treasurer from 2014 to 2017 and
- as a council member for several years.

She has also been appointed as a member of the following guideline committees by the Council of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka,

1. Convener of the Diabetic Retinopathy Guidelines Committee
2. Convenor of the HCQ screening Guidelines Committee
3. A member of the Committee for Vision Standards for Driving Guidelines in Sri Lanka

She is currently involved in prevention of blindness due to Diabetic Retinopathy in the V2020 program, being appointed as the Sub focal point from 2013 and the Focal point from 2018 to date.

Dr. Deepanee Wewalwala has engaged in multiple researches and publications and was involved as the training program coordinator in the World Bank funded project on “Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment due to Diabetic Retinopathy by Early Screening”:

Her contribution to the Ophthalmic services in Sri Lanka has been invaluable and her trainees have become wonderful eye surgeons all over the island. In

view of all this, it is evident how deserving she is of this honor.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me present to you, Dr. Wewalwala Hewage Deepanee Wewalwala, for the conferment of the Honorary Fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.

Mr. President, Dr. Deepanee Wewalwala has contributed a great deal to the field of Ophthalmology in Sri Lanka and I take great pride and pleasure in presenting to you Dr. Deepanee Wewalwala for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.