

College Fellowship Award

Presenting, Dr. Damayantha Baminiwatta, Consultant Ophthalmologist for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

Citation delivered by Dr. Jayan De Silva, Consultant Eye Surgeon, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa at the 31st Annual Congress of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

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Dr. Baminiwatta is the youngest of four siblings of the parents, a principal and a teacher hailed from Kandy. She studied at the Girls High School Kandy and entered the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya in 1978.

Her desire to pursue ophthalmology materialized being a MO (Eye) at the eye unit of the TH, Kandy in 1987 and obtaining the Diploma in Ophthalmology in 1989.

Soon after, she was attached to the BH, Gampaha and BH Matale respectively which exposed her to fulfill her initial desires in engaging in community eye care services. Many were outreach camps and satellite clinics and she also conducted awareness and training programs on Primary Eye Care.

She was successful in MS ophthalmology part 1 examination in 1997 and was appointed to Teaching Hospital, Kandy under Dr. A. B. Abeysinghe, Dr. Reggie Seimon and Dr. Mangala Gamage. She completed her MS ophthalmology part two examination in the year 2000 and worked as a senior registrar in the same unit under Dr. A. B. Abeysinghe.

She completed her offshore assignment at the May Day University Hospital, London, United Kingdom from 2002 to 2004 and successfully obtained her FRCS.

On her return to Sri Lanka, she was posted to the District General Hospital, Ampara. Visiting very remote areas like Panama, Padiyatalawa and Kalmune for eye camps, for the under privileged communities.

Subsequently she rendered her services to people in Polonnaruwa and Ratnapura areas where she continued her community eye care services in remote areas.

In addition, she joined the national eye care plan for the displaced due to the internal conflict at a rehabilitation camp in Chettikulam in the Northern Province with her team.

Thereafter she served in TH Kurunegala where she

gave leadership to establish the Low Vision clinic and the Diabetic Retinopathy clinics.

She was the National Focal Point for Low Vision services in Sri Lanka under the national, Vision 2020 program of the Ministry of Health.

She is a life member of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka and was in the council of the College from 2008 and subsequently was the President of the College in 2015.

Dr. Baminiwatta was appointed to National Hospital, Kandy in 2013. She was a tutor for the medical students of the Peradeniya Medical Faculty. She was also a postgraduate trainer in Ophthalmology, an examiner for the post graduate examinations and was a member of the board of study in Ophthalmology.

Dr. Baminiwatta was an active team member in the launch of the Eye bank at TH, Kandy and an executive board member of the Sri Lanka Eye Foundation, Kandy.

She has extended her services not only to mankind but also to the animals. She was a member of the team of surgeons who performed the first elephant cataract surgery in Sri Lanka in 1990.

Dr. Baminiwatta is married to Dr. Sunil Kulatunge, a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Radiography and Radiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

Dear madam, you were a wonderful trainer, and in brief a second mother to all of us whom you trained. You are a sight saver to people in need and a God for the people who were around you indeed.

I have presented you an Ophthalmic Surgeon worthy of this honorary Fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.

President Sir, it is with great pleasure, and personal pride, I present Dr. Damayantha Baminiwatta for the conferment of this Prestigious Award.