

Message from the Dean



It is both an honour and a privilege for me to write this message for the inaugural issue of the *Sri Lankan Journal of Allied Health Sciences*, proudly published by the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna (UoR).

The Allied Health Sciences (AHS) degree programs at UoR began within the Faculty of Medicine on 20th October 2008, welcoming the inaugural batch of 19 Medical Laboratory Science and 37 Nursing undergraduates. Since then, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (FAHS) was formally established in September 2017 as the 10th faculty of the University of Ruhuna. This significant development aimed to expand higher education opportunities in allied health sciences and enhance the quality of training for the nation's healthcare workforce.

The faculty's mission is to prepare competent, compassionate, and reflective allied health professionals who excel in patient care, collaborate effectively with other healthcare professionals, and grow into future leaders, educators, and researchers in health sciences.

To meet the increasing demand for space and student welfare, the faculty constructed a new, state-of-the-art building in Walahanduwa, Galle, where academic activities commenced in March 2025. Currently, the Faculty comprises three departments: Nursing, Medical Laboratory Science, and Pharmacy. Plans are underway to introduce new undergraduate programs in Public Health Sciences, ECG Technology, and EEG Technology. Additionally, the Departments of Nursing and Medical Laboratory Science have initiated efforts to establish postgraduate degree programs.

FAHS is privileged to have a dynamic, young academic staff equipped with local and international postgraduate qualifications, dedicated to supervising undergraduate research with strong support from experts across extended faculties. Our academic team has contributed extensively to national and international scientific literature, presenting hundreds of manuscripts, conference abstracts, and authoring

several textbooks across disciplines. Faculty members have also secured three patents, multiple local and international research grants, and prestigious research and lifetime achievement awards.

Since its inception, the faculty has actively promoted research by organizing an annual research symposium—RuFARS—which has evolved over time into an internationally recognized event. This month, we are proud to host the 3rd International Research Symposium of the Faculty.

The establishment of the *Sri Lankan Journal of Allied Health Sciences* represents a major milestone for the faculty. A dedicated peer-reviewed journal provides a vital platform for our academic community to disseminate new knowledge, share innovative research findings, and engage in scholarly discourse. It strengthens the faculty's research culture and elevates its academic profile nationally and internationally.

Having a faculty journal also encourages faculty members and students to actively participate in research, enhancing their skills in scientific writing, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration by bringing together diverse perspectives within allied health sciences and related fields.

Moreover, the journal will serve as an important resource for healthcare practitioners, policymakers, and educators by providing timely access to relevant research that can inform clinical practice, health policies, and educational curricula. This aligns perfectly with our faculty's commitment to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of healthcare in Sri Lanka and beyond.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Editor-in-Chief Professor WVRTDG Bandara, the entire editorial board, colleagues who contributed to this publication, and to all researchers who submitted their valuable work for this inaugural issue. Your dedication and hard work have made this important achievement possible.

Together, we look forward to the continued growth and success of the *Sri Lankan Journal of Allied Health Sciences* as a beacon of excellence, innovation, and impact in allied health research and education.

Professor Imendra Kotapola

Dean

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