

Message from Editors

Expanding our Horizons: A new Chapter for the College and the Journal

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It is with great pride that we announce a significant milestone in the evolution of our college. As of June, 2024, Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists (SLCD) has officially changed its name to **Sri Lanka College of Dermatology and Aesthetic Medicine (SLCDA)**. This change was made following careful deliberation and broad consensus among our members, in response to the expanding role of dermatologists in the field of aesthetic medicine.

Across Sri Lanka, members of our college continue to provide expert care for patients with dermatological conditions, in both the government and private sectors. Increasingly, this care also includes aesthetic treatments, which are now an integral part of holistic skin care. In many clinical situations, it is difficult to draw a clear boundary between the disease-related and aesthetic components of patient care. With their specialised training in skin biology, pathology, and therapeutics, dermatologists are uniquely positioned, and best qualified, to deliver both disease-related and aesthetic interventions safely and effectively.

However, it is concerning that the contribution of dermatologists in the aesthetic field is often under-recognised, not only by the public but sometimes even within the wider medical community. This gap in understanding has allowed the proliferation of unregulated aesthetic services by individuals with non-recognised or insufficient qualifications. Such practices, driven often by commercial motives rather than ethical standards, place patients at serious risk of harm.

Recognising this, the College has taken the strategic step of broadening its identity to include aesthetic medicine in its official name. This move aims to:

1. Reassert the rightful scope of dermatology in the aesthetic domain.
2. Help the public distinguish between properly trained professionals and unqualified practitioners.
3. Support the younger generation of dermatologists as they develop their practice in an evolving and competitive environment.

While many countries have separate cosmetic dermatology or aesthetic medicine associations, Sri Lanka's current context, in terms of both manpower and national challenges, calls for a unified approach. Expanding the scope of our college, rather than fragmenting it, is a practical and timely response.

In another significant advancement, our journal has now adopted the Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL) platform to manage our editorial and peer review processes. SLJOL which is currently managed by the National Science Foundation under the Ministry of Technology and Research, is a database of journals published in Sri Lanka, with the objective of giving greater visibility to participating journals and research they convey. It uses Open Journal System, and is now hosted by Ubiquity Press. SLJOL provides the services to the journals by hosting their content online and actively promoting the website to encourage discovery of these titles and their articles. The individual journal can use the website to receive submissions, arrange peer review process and publish the journal. With this year's issue, we used the SLJOL platform in the peer review process and publishing. From next year onwards, we intend to use the SLJOL platform for article submission as well. This shift promotes transparency, efficiency, and

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alignment with international publishing standards, benefitting authors, reviewers, and readers alike.

Together, these changes reflect our college's continued commitment to excellence, integrity, and leadership in both dermatology and aesthetic medicine. We look forward to growing stronger as a

community and serving the people of Sri Lanka with dedication and professionalism.

Finally, the editors and the editorial board wish to express immense appreciation to the authors who have submitted a number of esteemed articles to the current volume of *SLJD*.