

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**Leadership Wisdom: The Triad of Academic Excellence, Managerial Excellence, and Emotional Intelligence***Dharmaratne GSK*<https://doi.org/10.4038/sljma.v26i2.5601>

It is with great honour and privilege that I extend a warm welcome to all distinguished guests, fellows, members, and participants to the 32nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka.

I respectfully acknowledge and extend my sincere appreciation to our Chief Guest, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, whose presence reflects the strong and continuing partnership between national health policy leadership and professional medical administration. I am deeply honoured by the participation of our Keynote Speaker, Emeritus Professor Mohan De Silva, whose scholarly contributions and visionary leadership have profoundly shaped higher education and the health system of Sri Lanka.

I also extend a warm welcome to our Guest of Honour, Dr. Sidney Chandrasiri, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute of Health Executives (AIHE), and Professor Luis Prado, Chief Academic Officer of AIHE. Their presence signifies the strengthening of international collaboration in health leadership and management. I am grateful to Dr. Shanti Dalpatadu, Past President of the College, who will deliver the Oration and continue the proud intellectual traditions of our institution.

I warmly acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the invaluable contributions of our Past Presidents, Fellows, Council Members, and Members of the College for their unwavering support towards the advancement of the College.

The theme for this year, “Managing Healthcare with Leadership Wisdom,” captures the essence of contemporary health administration. Leadership wisdom emerges from the integration of academic excellence, managerial excellence, and emotional intelligence—three essential pillars for navigating the increasing complexity of modern healthcare systems.

During the past year, the College has actively strengthened these pillars through a wide range of academic and professional development initiatives. In advancing academic excellence, guest lecture series, interactive learning sessions,

regional academic meetings, young trainers’ forums, overseas trainees’ forums, newsletters, and the College Journal have made significant contributions to continuing professional development and postgraduate training. The successful conduct of regional academic sessions across the Southern, Uva, and Central Provinces, with the active participation of provincial and institutional leadership, reflects our strong commitment to inclusive learning at the regional level.

In promoting managerial excellence, best practices in hospital administration were shared during regional sessions. Together with the Council, the College felicitates the best performers of the MSc and MD in Medical Administration by awarding Academic Excellence Awards, as a best practice to recognize members’ commitment to postgraduate higher education.

In addition, this year the College has initiated a Managerial Excellence Award, marking an important milestone in recognizing outstanding leadership and achievement in health administration. For the year 2025, the District General Hospital, Ampara, will be conferred this prestigious award in recognition of its outstanding achievement in winning the Gold Award at the National Environmental Presidential Awards Competition. This honour is dedicated to the late Dr. Lanka Jayasinghe, former Medical Superintendent, who pioneered the hospital's quality assurance programme several years ago and laid a strong foundation for sustained excellence. These awards are presented during the Inaugural Ceremony in appreciation of outstanding performance.

Through these initiatives, the College encourages Directors, Medical Superintendents, Regional Directors of Health Services, and Provincial Directors of Health Services to continually showcase managerial excellence to a wider audience. Such recognition serves to inspire innovation, accountability, and excellence across the health system.

The College has also placed strong emphasis on emotional intelligence, recognizing its vital role in effective leadership. Council outbound training programmes, leadership and emotional intelligence teaching sessions for PGIM trainees, mindfulness initiatives conducted across several regions, and philanthropic contributions to the National Health Development Fund reflect a value-driven and compassionate approach to leadership. These collective efforts embody the ethical and human dimensions of medical administration.

Over the next two days, the Annual Scientific Sessions will showcase scholarly work through oral presentations, poster presentations, and healthcare innovations, addressing critical areas such as quality improvement, governance, patient safety, workforce development, and service

innovation. These contributions highlight the growing academic maturity of the College and the commitment of medical administrators and trainees to evidence-based decision-making and system improvement.

In conclusion, the activities and scholarly contributions of this year reaffirm the College's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, managerial excellence, and emotional intelligence. Together, these pillars form the foundation of leadership wisdom, enabling the College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka to continue contributing meaningfully to the delivery of equitable, high-quality healthcare for all citizens.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our Chief Guest, Keynote Speaker, Guest of Honour, the council, members and all distinguished invitees for gracing this occasion. I wish the 32nd Annual Scientific Sessions every success and trust that the deliberations over these two days will inspire learning, collaboration, and innovation.

Dr. Sudath Dharmaratne

President

The College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka