

Urology News

SLAUS celebrates 25 years.

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On 18th December 1999, a handful group of urologists met in Colombo at the invitation of a steering committee to form an academic association and Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons was born. The three pioneers Doctors Serozha Gunawardena, Neville Perera and Anura Wijewardena were resolute in their conviction but would not have imagined the significance their project would reach in time to come.

Sri Lanka's modern urology services formally commenced in 1957 when Dr. George Nelson Perera assumed duties as the first Genito Urinary Surgeon of then Ceylon at the Colombo General Hospital. The urology services over the next thirty years were reeling under the huge case load delivered by a small group of specialist surgeons. Introduction of Trans urethral resections helped to separate urology as a sub specialty needing special training. Further development was slow to be adopted except ESWL by 1992. Commencement the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine at the University of Colombo

in 1987 and the overwhelming demand for the field made new interest in specializing in Urology among Sri Lankan surgical trainees.

The biggest catalyst for the expansion of the field was none other than the commencement of SLAUS. From the modest six stations in 1999 the field expanded to cover 24 hospital units by 2024. The present day services are widespread and cover all nine provinces. The membership strength from 10 at inaugural year expanded to over 70 qualified specialists urologists here and abroad today.

Introduction of new technology in the fast-moving world of modern urology, Sri Lanka is keeping abreast with timely acquisition and skill building essentially through the activities of the association and its international connections. The SLJU, the official publication, was commenced in 2000 and encourages the membership in research and audit to keep up to current knowledge. SLAUS adopted EAU guidelines for local urology services in 2016.

The first annual conference took place in 2006, and it was the stepping stone for substantial international collaborations. UAA was instrumental in elevation of SLAUS to the status and it is joining with significant presence at the 25th anniversary celebrations to mark the event. At present SLAUS is working closely with many

urology federations and national associations including SIU, UAA, SAUS, AUA, BAUS, BJUI, USANZ, USI, PAUS, NUAS, BAUS Bangladesh and have active MOUs with UAA, BJUI and USI. Each year SLAUS stages many international live surgery workshops with eminent international resource persons for the betterment of urology care in the country.

In the 25th year SLAUS is aiming to go global. SLAUS is drawing up plans to host an international urology meeting in Colombo. It is also looking to expand on the close connections with overseas urology organisations. At present SLAUS is delivering plenary styled “SLAUS lectures” abroad at many meetings and day is not far away for “SLAUS Symposia” abroad!

Long live SLAUS !