

Who's Who in One Health

1. Organization/ Group Name and website url:

One Health – University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka



2. Description and Scope of One Health Activities

University of Peradeniya is the largest and oldest university in Sri Lanka, consisting of nine faculties, namely, agriculture, allied health sciences, arts, dental sciences, engineering, medicine, science, veterinary medicine and management, thus qualifying it as the ideal breeding ground for “one health” initiative. Even though the concept of “One Health” is relatively new, our university has been enjoying many interdisciplinary interactions and research conducted between the faculties, and this is the main strength in our institution. With the resurgence of “One Health” concept, university Peradeniya will be an important hub in One Health education in Asia.

[One Health International Conference 2014](#) was very successfully held in University of Peradeniya on 5th and 6th of September 2014. The Conference, a collaboration between the University of Peradeniya and University of California, focused on the interface of environment and health. Prof. Malik Peiris (University of Hong Kong), a distinguished alumnus of University of Peradeniya, was the chief guest. There were 12 key note presentations from world-renowned speakers on One Health Concept (Prof. Geoff Isbister: University of Newcastle, Australia, Prof. Michael Wilkes: University of California Davis, Prof. Patricia Conrad: University of California Davis, Prof. Jiro Arikawa: University of Hokkaido, Dr. Paul Dargan: Guy's and St Thomas' London, Prof. David Bunn: University of California Davis, Prof. Mohan Edirisinghe: University College, London, Prof. Stig Halvard Jørgensen: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Mr. Jason Gale: Bloomberg News/Melbourne, Prof. Tudor Silva: University of Peradeniya, Prof. Asgi Fazleabas: Michigan State University and Prof. Kai-Fai Lee: University of Hong Kong). There were technical sessions that had 51 oral presentations of selected abstracts in three main themes: One Health in Education, Health Social Science and Environmental health. In addition to oral presentations, there were 12 poster presentations and four pre-conference workshops. A summary of the conference can be viewed below.

[One Health Intensive Field Course was designed in year 2015](#) to bring faculty members from University of Peradeniya and University of California Davis together to develop curricula and field experiences that would prepare students, both in the course and at University of Peradeniya, to apply

a One Health approach to problems at the human-animal-environmental. Course participants consisted of a group of students and faculty in human health sciences, veterinary medicine, agriculture, nutrition and environmental science who are currently enrolled at the UoP and UC campuses. Selected students from both countries worked closely together in collaborative team-based learning for thirty days under the guidance of faculty members from both universities. Leadership, communication, cultural awareness and problem solving were prominent themes of the program. Students were directed toward an active learning process through discussions, presentations and interviews to gain practical knowledge. The course received very positive feedback from students and course instructors. Plans are underway to continue this engagement and offer the One Health course in year 2016.

Beginning from summer of year 2013 Research students from University of California visited University of Peradeniya and involved in collaborative projects on One Health and these projects will be continued.

3. Key Collaborators and Participants

University of Peradeniya, University of California Davis, Academic without borders
<http://www.ucghi.universityofcalifornia.edu/news-events/items/2015-students-field-course-sri-lanka.aspx>

4. Type of Organization

- Academic Institution – One Health Initiative at University of Peradeniya

5. Address of Organization/ Group

Dr. Saumya Wickramasinghe (convener),
One Health Initiative
University of Peradeniya
Sri Lanka, 20400

6. Contact(s)

Email onehealth2014@gmail.com
Telephone 094812395841
Agree to share contact information on the One Health website - Yes

7. Sources of funding for Organization/Group

Grants

8. One Health Course/Certificate/Training Offered by Organization or Group

Title of Course/Certificate/Training: One Health Intensive short course
Contact person's name and email: earajapaksha@gmail.com

Sri Lanka – Summary of One Health International Conference-2014

<http://www.pdn.ac.lk/ic/ohic/>

One Health International Conference 2014 was very successfully held in faculty of medicine, University of Peradeniya on 5th and 6th of September 2014. The Conference, collaboration between the University of Peradeniya and University of California focused on the interface of environment and health. All

the eight faculties of University of Peradeniya were involved in organizing this event. Prof. Malik Peiris (University of Hong Kong) a distinguished alumni of University of Peradeniya was the chief guest and the guest of honor was Professor Palitha Abeykoon (President, Sri Lanka Medical Association). Inauguration ceremony was held on 5th of September 8.15am-9.40am in the fully packed physiology lecture theatre with the presence of Prof. Atula Senaratne (Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya), Prof. Patricia Conrad (Associate Dean, Global Programs, University of California Davis), deans of eight faculties, distinguished guests, and registered participants.

There were 12 key note presentations from world renowned speakers on One Health Concept (Prof. Geoff Isbister: University of Newcastle, Australia, Prof. Michael Wilkes: University of California Davis, Prof. Patricia Conrad :University of California Davis, Prof. Jiro Arikawa: University of Hokkaido, Dr. Paul Dargan: Guy's and St Thomas' London, Prof. David Bunn: University of California Davis, Prof. Mohan Edirisinghe: University College, London, Prof. Stig Halvard Jørgensen: Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Mr. Jason Gale: Bloomberg News/Melbourne, Prof Tudor Silva: University of Peradeniya, Prof. Asgi Fazleabas: Michigan State University and Prof. Kai-Fai Lee: University of Hong Kong). Participants were able to ask questions and develop collaborative projects with these experts. Each keynote session was chaired by a distinguished academic from University of Peradeniya. At the end of keynote sessions speakers were presented with a souvenir and a certificate of appreciation.

There were technical sessions that had 51 oral presentations of selected abstracts in three main themes: One Health in Education, Health Social Science and Environmental health. Each session was chaired by two academics with expert knowledge on the presented abstracts. Many questions were asked from the presenters. At the end of each session presenters were given certificates. There was a very big enthusiasm in the audience and three lecture rooms were always full with the participants that very actively engaged with the presenters. One factor that was noted by many was that the lecture room that had the health social science session had the highest attendance. In addition to oral presentations there were 12 poster presentations. Posters were exhibited in the lecture hall that was arranged for the refreshments. Therefore many participants had time to go over the posters during the tea and the lunch break. Poster presenters were also given a certificate to appreciate their effort. 8.30-9.30AM time slot on 6th of September was allocated to the sessions by world health organization. This session consisted of a 30 minutes presentation by Dr. Eric Brum on human rabies elimination and a 30 minute panel discussion

The panel discussion "One Health; Way Forward in Sri Lanka" was the last item of the conference. Panel consisted of Prof. M.Wilkes (Director of Global Health, University of California Davis), Prof. I. Gawarammana (Co-Chair, One Health Conference), Prof. I.D.Silva (President Sri Lanka Veterinary Association), Dr. Paba Paliawadana (Chief Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health) and Dr. D.B.T.Wijeratne (Additional Secretary, ministry of Agriculture) Prof. Lamawansa and Dr. Ashoka Dangolla were the moderators of this panel. It was discussed to have a structure to coordinate the One Health related activities and to establish this in University of peradeniya. Also it was decided to collect data on One Health research, find funding sources and training programs.

On 4th of September 2014, pre conference workshops were arranged in the faculty of Medicine. There were four workshops (Zoonotic diseases: 9.00am -12 noon, Forum Theater as a mode of delivery of health messages: 1.00pm-2.30pm, One health in education: 3.00pm-4.30pm Communication of the one health concept: 3.00pm-4.30pm) attended by sixty two registered participants and thirty invitees. All four workshops were very interactive with lively discussions.

There was a banquet and a cultural show arranged in the Vice chancellors lodge on 5th evening from 7-9pm and Professor C.B Dissnayake was the chief guest of this event. Around 250 people attended the banquet dinner. Participants enjoyed the cultural show and readily mingled with each other. One week before the conference a press conference was called and local media were updated on the importance of One Health concept in Sri Lanka.

For the conference there were around 400 participants. Each registered participant was provided with a proceeding book, docket, participation certificate and backpack with the One Health conference logo. All the participants were provided with refreshments (breakfast, morning tea and evening tea) and lunch on both days of the conference. For the pre-conference workshops participants were given morning tea, evening

tea and lunch. Vehicles were arranged to pick-up and drop the keynote speakers from the hotel, Oak ray regency Kandy on 4-6th September. Vehicles were sent to the Bandaranayake International Airport to pick-up and drop the keynote speakers.

One Health International conference -2014 was an eye-opener to overcome some of the barriers created among the academies of different disciplines. The conference introduced the concept of “one health” to Sri Lankan community and brought together scientists from diverse backgrounds (medicine, veterinary medicine, agriculture, and physical, environmental, and social sciences). Attendees were introduced to environmental, animal, and human health problems that are the root of global health concerns and they were exposed to research that is addressing these problems. They had the opportunity to be involved in workshops intended to introduce tools and methods used to implement global health solutions. This conference was successful in resurgence of “One Health” concept and it establish the foundation to make University of Peradeniya the One Health hub in south Asia.