CoMSAA AUSTRALIA

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM 2025

& Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, 6 September 2025

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

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Together, improving life

Testament to the global impact of Colombo Medical School



Dr Ruwan Wijesuriya
President
CoMSAA Australia

Dear friends,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you all to Perth for the Colombo Medical School Alumni Association of Australia (CoMSAA Australia) academic sessions and fellowship dinner 2025. As an extension of our esteemed alma mater, this association serves as a platform to reconnect, collaborate, and support one another while continuing to uphold the values of excellence, service, and lifelong learning.

Our alumni community in Australia and New Zealand is a testament to the global impact of Colombo Medical School and the high standards of medical education we received. Whether you are an established professional, a newcomer to the Australian healthcare system, or a recent graduate navigating your career path, CoMSAA Australia is here to foster unity, mentorship, and professional development.

Since we established as an incorporated organizations in Australia in 2022, so far we have together have contributed to the medical school students scholarship fund, supported the family medicine unit of the faculty to function as it moved to a new location and refurbished the medical students (girls) hostel.

As we continue to grow, I encourage each of you to take an active role in shaping the future of this association. Your engagement, ideas, and contributions are invaluable in making CoMSAAA a vibrant and impactful community.

I express my sincere gratitude to the organising committee including the CoMSAA Australia committee 2025-26 and resident CoMSAA Australia members in Perth, who supported us in different ways and worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

My appreciation also goes to the sponsors and advertisers for their generous support.

Finally, a big thank you for attending the CoMSAA Australia Medical Symposium 2025.

Let us celebrate our shared heritage, build lasting connections, and work together to make a difference in the field of medicine and beyond.

Wishing you all a very pleasant and memorable night.



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Message from CoMSAA Sri Lanka President

Prof M. I. M. De Zoysa
President of CoMSAA
FRCS (England), FRCS (Edinburgh), MS (Colombo), MBBS (Colombo)
Merit Professor in Surgery
Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to COMSAA Australia on the eve of your Biennial Medical Symposium and Fellowship. This event will bring together our distinguished alumni who live in different parts of Australia enabling them to deliberate on the recent advances in our ever changing medical fields and to meet in fellowship.

This year COMSAA has arranged a variety of activities in Colombo including cricket matches between batches, a musical evening, a weekend reunion, COMSAA lecture and the annual Colombo Medical Congress.

I am happy to see COMSAA Australian chapter has also been very active and it is by far the most active overseas Chapter of COMSAA.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for your annual symposium and fellowship dinner.

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Dr. **Rasika** Perera
MBBS, FRACGP

Dr. **Sanath** De Silva
MBBS, FRACGP

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM 2025

& Fellowship Dinner

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Dream Home







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Vajira Karunaratna
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Message from the Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
University of Colombo

It is with great pleasure that I send my warm greetings and best wishes to all participants of the COMSAA Australia Medical Symposium and Fellowship, scheduled to be held in Perth on the 6th of September 2025.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to COMSAA Australia for your generous donation to enhance the facilities at the Centre for Family Medicine and the De Saram Women's Hostel at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. These contributions have a direct and lasting impact on the learning environment and wellbeing of our students, and we are truly grateful for your continued commitment to your alma mater.

The support of alumni is an essential pillar in the advancement of our faculty—both in terms of improving infrastructure and providing opportunities for our students to thrive academically and personally. Your generosity not only strengthens our institution but also inspires a culture of giving and mentorship among our wider alumni community.

As Dean, I deeply value the bond we share with our overseas alumni and look forward to building on this strong partnership in the years to come. I am confident that with your continued support, we can further elevate the standards of medical education and student welfare at our faculty.

Wishing you all a successful and enriching symposium and fellowship.



BIO

Dr Thilina Palihawadana
MB BS(Col.), MRCOG, MSc in Clin Embryo(Leeds), MPhil.
Senior Lecture (clinical).
Northern Territory Medical Program
Flinders University

- Graduated from FoM, Colombo in 2001. The First batch of the new curriculum.
- Joined the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in the University of Kelaniya soon after internship
- Clinical training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in Sri Lanka and the UK, with an interest in infertility and IVF.
- Joined Flinders University, Northern Territory Medical program as a senior lecturer in 2023.
- Currently based in Darwin, holding a full-time academic post.
- Currently following a Master of Clinical Education program, and the main interest is in the Introduction of AI into medical education

Abstract

AI in Healthcare: Redefining the Landscape

Artificial Intelligence (AI), once a conceptual innovation from the 1950s, has rapidly evolved into a transformative force across industries—with healthcare at the forefront. Drawing from a spectrum of scientific disciplines, AI now plays an increasingly vital role in redefining how we deliver, manage, and think about health services. Early deterministic (rule-based) AI systems laid the groundwork, but recent advances in computational power, data availability, and deep learning have accelerated the rise of probabilistic or generative AI.

Today, AI is enhancing diagnostic precision in data-intensive specialties such as radiology, dermatology, and pathology. However, its future extends far beyond. AI holds promise in clinical decision support, personalized treatment planning, preventive care, and population health management. It is also poised to optimize workflow by automating administrative tasks, supporting triage systems, and enhancing communication between clinicians and patients.

Despite its promise, AI introduces significant challenges. Concerns around data privacy, algorithmic bias, explainability of AI decisions, and the need for robust regulatory and ethical frameworks remain critical. As the integration of AI continues, clinicians must be equipped with new competencies.

Tomorrow's healthcare professionals will require AI literacy tailored to their roles—be it as users, developers, or administrators. This includes emerging technical skills such as prompt engineering, data interpretation, coding, and ethical governance, alongside enduring human qualities like empathy, adaptability, and collaboration with intelligent systems. Crucially, the cognitive impact of AI on clinical reasoning and decision-making must be acknowledged and incorporated into both healthcare delivery and medical education frameworks.

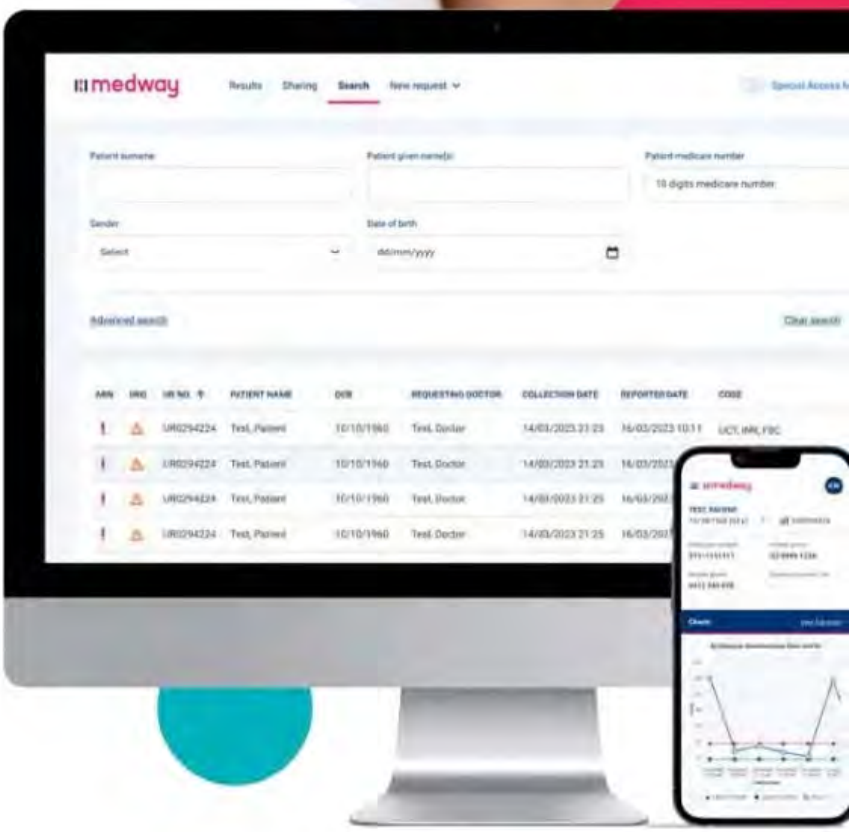
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BIO

Prof. Panduka Karunanayake
MBBS (NCMC), MD Medicine (Col.), FRCP (Lon.), FCCP (SL), PGCert Teaching in HE (Col.) with SEDA (UK) certificate, PGDip Applied Sociology (Col.)

Panduka Karunanayake has taught in the Department of Clinical Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo for 23 years. During this time he also helped to introduce medical humanities to the MBBS program, and was the chairperson of its Humanities Society & Professionalism Stream (formerly Behavioural Science Stream). This included pioneering the program Humanitas, which is a novel way that utilises the humanities to promote attitudes that uphold the Faculty's values, among students and staff. He and his colleagues have also explored this method and the role of cinema in medical education at international symposia, and also recently concluded a randomised controlled trial of music therapy in the management of diabetes.

Abstract

Medical Humanities and Clinical Practice

Medical humanities is an emerging field which explores the interface between medicine and the humanities. The University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine (UCFM) pioneered the introduction of the medical humanities in medical education in Sri Lanka, and in 2016 set up the country's first Department of Medical Humanities. In this talk, I will first briefly explore the role of medical humanities in medical education, for both medical students and medical professionals. Next, I will show how the cinema can help us understand how society saw the medical profession in the nineteenth century and how our relationship with patients has changed since that time. I will do this by relating to the famous movie, The Elephant Man (1980) by David Lynch.



Dr Bastiaan de Boer

BIO

Bastiaan de Boer has been an Anatomical Pathologist in Perth since 1995, spending 27 years in the public sector before moving to Western Diagnostic Pathology.

His diagnostic interests include liver, GIT and pancreas histopathology and non-gynaecological cytopathology and he was the lead pathologist for the WA liver transplantation service for 27 years.

He has been very active in training the next-generation of pathologists and was coordinator of the WA Anatomical Pathology training network 2010-2017. He is also an examiner for the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

He has also had a long-term teaching role at UWA of both science and medical students.

There has been active contribution to several National professional societies including the Australian Society of Cytology (National President 2005-2006), the Australasian Branch of the International Academy of Pathology (Convenor of the liver companion meeting 2011-2015) and the Australasian Gastrointestinal Pathology Society (Treasurer 2018-2022) as well as multiple presentations, invited lectures and workshops. He has authored and co-authored several chapters on Liver cytopathology and contributed to over 80 peer-reviewed papers.

Bastiaan is a keen open water swimmer.

Abstract

FOBT to PCR: an Update on Colon Cancer

Over the 30 years of my working life as an Anatomical Pathologist there has been significant progress in the detection, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of colorectal carcinoma. This is the result of many small innovations coming from many sources, all adding to improving the outcomes for our patients.

My talk will be a brief tour through the management of colorectal carcinoma from population screening through to "personalised" oncological treatment, highlighting the changes which I think have contributed improving patient outcomes. It has been a truly multidisciplinary effort by public health administration, scientists, clinicians, professional bodies and drug companies.

Many of the points I will be making are equally applicable to many other common malignancies that we deal with on a day-to-day basis. We live in exciting times.

Message for the Colombo Medical School Alumni Gathering - Perth

It is with deep nostalgia and immense pride that I write this message for our gathering in Perth.

I feel truly privileged to be connected with all of you, fellow alumni of the Colombo Medical School, who have come together today. Some of the most fulfilling moments in my academic journey have been witnessing so many of you deliver exemplary healthcare across Australia, our adopted home. The continued praise about Colombo graduates that I receive from colleagues here fills me with pride and profound gratitude for the country where our journeys began.

Reflecting on my years at the Colombo Medical School, where I began my professional career immediately after graduation, I am flooded with vivid memories. The Faculty of Medicine, and especially the Department of Pathology was my second home for nearly 19 years. From my early post-intern days to my appointment as full professor, I grew within those hallowed halls. It was there that my passion for academic pathology took root, a passion I carried with me to PathWest as a fellow in 1989/90, and where I have now served for nearly 18 years.

Balancing academic responsibilities with the demands of diagnostic anatomical pathology was no easy feat. I recall one early challenge: convincing a revered academic surgeon that a case was not cancer, but granulomatous mastitis, then a relatively unknown diagnosis made on cytology. That case became the subject of an international publication and has since been widely cited.

I was fortunate to join the Colombo Medical School immediately after my internship, one of the few who entered medical school just after turning 18 and completed it without interruption. I was still very young when I delivered my first lecture in the grand Pathology lecture theatre. Standing at the same podium once graced by giants like the late Professor Cooray and the gracious Professor Daphne Attygalle, who recruited me, was both humbling and daunting. I remember barely lifting my head from the overhead projector as I spoke, my students were only a few years younger than I was. Teaching and maintaining discipline with a straight face was no small task!

In those pre-digital days, we used coloured pens and transparencies instead of PowerPoint, and taught pathology using 'pots', specimens preserved in jars. Even while still in training, I was asked to conduct oral exams. Students brought record books with their photographs for identification, and again, I was struck by how close in age we were.

One student stands out in my memory, now a brilliant clinician. He/she answered every question I had prepared and was on track for a distinction. To test the limits, I posed a hypothetical scenario I thought would stump him/her, but the response was flawless. I felt nothing but pride and knew the distinction was well earned.

Former students often joked (I hope!) that my practical classes felt like torture because I would randomly point and quiz them. But every question came from a place of passion, for teaching, for excellence, and for nurturing potential.

I also recall walking into the microscopy lab and overhearing a distinction student tutoring those who had failed. Using creative analogies, he explained slides with phrases like, "The round section with the big hole, that's an atheroma. The one with the small hole, that's appendicitis." I stood quietly, amused and proud. Though I gave him a stern talking-to, I knew he had earned his distinction.

There were darker times too. I remember the days of bomb blasts, when our lab faced the state mortuary. I sometimes taught while victims of violence were being brought in just metres away. It was a stark reminder of life's fragility and the vital role we play as doctors and educators.

Looking back, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have taught, mentored, and walked alongside so many of you. To see you thrive, serve with excellence, and carry forward the spirit of our shared beginnings is deeply moving.

Though time and distance may separate us, we remain united by the values instilled at the Colombo Medical School, resilience, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to knowledge and care.



Clinical Professor M Priyanthi Kumarasinghe
MBBS, MD, Dip. Cytopath (RCPA), FRCPA
Chief Pathologist and Consultant Anatomical Pathologist, PathWest Laboratory Medicine, Department of Health, Western Australia
Clinical Professor, School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Western Australia
Clinical Professor, Curtin Medical School, Western Australia

Prof Stephen's Citation



Prof Benitta Eugene Stephen had her primary & secondary education at Holy Family Convent Jaffna, her tertiary education from Fac of Medicine University of Ceylon (the one and only Med Fac at that time), and graduated in 1966.

During her internship in GH Jaffna, she met Dr S J Stephen consultant Cardio thoracic surgeon, Jaffna , married him in1967, and had a daughter and son. (. Dr SJ Stephen became Sr. Cardiothoracic surgeon NHSL and Hunterian Prof.)

She resigned from Ministry of Health, and joined the Dept of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine Colombo in 1975 and was the first lecturer in Anatomy to be sent by the University to UK, to qualify in a subspeciality. She obtained her Diploma in Ophth (Lond], FRCS (Eng), & FRCOphth(UK) and in 1980, was appointed Sr lecturer in Anatomy and Consultant ophthalmologist. She continued her commitment to university as a teacher and examiner to all medical undergraduates , and other medical faculties across the island, and paramedical students whenever her services were called upon .

She was appointed Visiting Lecturer and Examiner to post-graduate trainees in Ophthalmology & General surgery. She was promoted to Professorship in Anatomy by merit in 1999 and was the Head of the Dept of Anatomy from 2003 till her retirement in 2006.

She was the President of the Ophthalmological Society of Ceylon. (second oldest association after SLMA) in 1983 & 84 and again in 1991 &92.

She along with the interim committee drew up the constitution and in 1991, pioneered the formation of the Coll.of Ophth SL (COSL). She inducted Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr P Sivasubramaniam, as the First President of COSL, & was the Founder Secretary of COSL.She was the President of COSL in the year 1996 -the first Anatomist cum Ophthalmologist, and a female elected to this prestigious post.

Dr Benitta Stephen was the Editor of the - Transactions of the Ophth Society and later the Sr. Editor of the Journal of the College of Ophthalmologists of SL for years. Recognising her contribution , was awarded Hon. Fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of SL in 1999.

Dr Benitta was a member of the organising Committee that set up the 'School of Optometry' of the Health ministry to train ophthalmic technologists , sponsored by WHO and CBM (Christobel Blinden Mission) . She was nominated SL member to the Advisory committee of Ophthalmologists of the SAARC countries (. India , Pakistan , Bangaladesh, Maldives . Nepal, Brunei, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan) for 1998 & 1999.

Dr Benitta served in PGIM as Member- Board of Study in Ophthalmology for 24 years (from 1982 till retirement), and with the Sub Committee , prepared the initial Prospectus and Handbook in Ophthalmology for MD Ophth Part 1&11 postgraduate trainees.

She set up. Dr SJStephen Gold medal , awarded annually by Coll of Surgeons , and the'Prof Benitta Stephen Gold medal', awarded annually from 2018, to the best successful candidate in MDOphth Part 1.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) decided to change the old medical curriculum to the current integrated curriculum, the Introductory Basic Science module (IBS)

Dr Benitta Stephen, was awarded WHO fellowship to UNSW ,to be trained in evaluation of the new anatomy curriculum & undergraduates assessment. The integrated teaching curriculum was implemented initially in Cbo , Peradeniya , Ruhuna Med faculties and presently adopted in all the faculties in SL.

Dr Benitta Stephen as Chairperson Building Committee from 2004- 2006, with Dr Vajira Dissanayake. (present Dean) , then as coordinator, worked with representatives from each department, architects and engineers, designed and had the building plans approved by Cbo Municipal Council and soil tested before she retired. This project now completed, is the landmark 14 storey UCFM tower, of Med Fac Cbo.

'After retirement, Dr Stephen and she migrated to Australia in 2010 to be with both their children and families. After Dr Stephen's demise, is involved in volunteering work in the local church community in Sydney. In 2024: she authored her memoirs. ' To love is to Live.

CoMSAA Australia Officials



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Dr Radika Karunaratne



Dr Ranjalee Liyanasuriya



Dr Suminda Welagedara

CoMSAA
AUSTRALIA MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM 2025

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA

Program

6:00 pm
Doors Open - Arrival of Guests

6:30 pm
Welcome / Housekeeping
MC: Maliththa Muwanwella & Arunajith Amarasinghe

6:35 - 7:45 pm
Academic Session - Canapes + Entree

6:35 - 6:55 pm
AI in Healthcare: Redefining the Landscape
Dr Thilina Palihawadana

6:55 - 7:25 pm
Medical Humanities and Clinical Practice
Prof Panduka Karunanayake

7:25 - 7:45 pm
FOBT to PCR: an Update on Colon Cancer
Dr Bastiaan BeBoer

7:45 - 8:00 pm
Presidents Welcome
(Honorary Membership for Dr. B Stephen)
Dr Ruwan Wijesuriya

Dean Faculty of Medicine
Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake

President CoMSAA SL
Prof Ishan De Soyza

8:00 - 8:15 pm
Performance 1
Binara Jayasinghe / Iruka Kumarage/Nalin Priyadarshana / Niroshan Muwanwella

Performance 2
Duet by Niroshan & Apurva Muwanwella

8:15 - 8:45 pm
Social Dancing

8:45 - 9:40 pm
Dinner

Platinum Sponsor Presentation

Skit by Ishan De Soyza

Raffle Draw

Duet by Dinan and Seran Perera

9:40 - 9:45 pm
Vote of Thanks
Mahi Ranasinghe

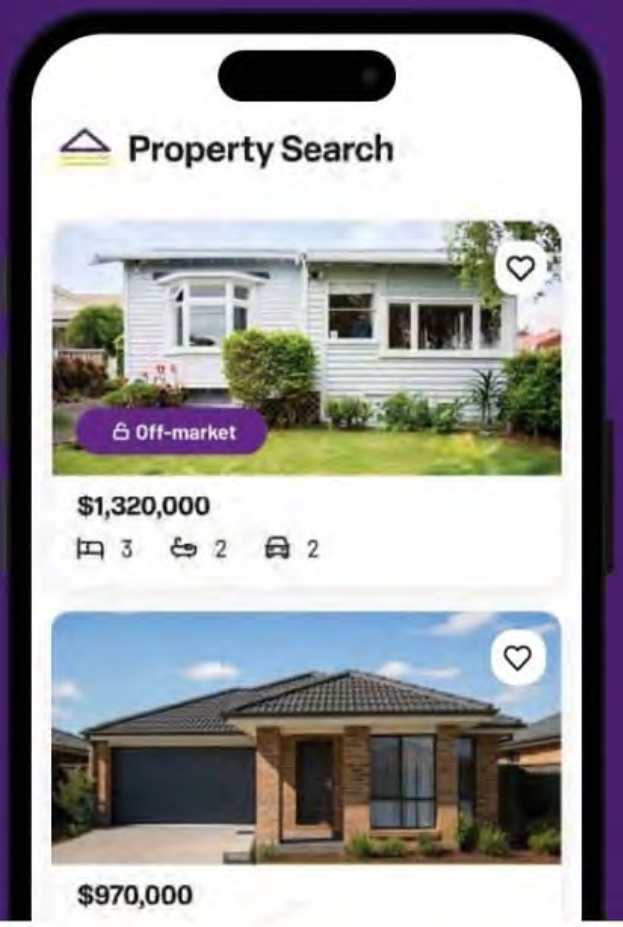
9:45 - 11:45 pm
Social Dancing

11:45 pm
Announcement to vacate by 12:00 am

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CoMSAA Australia

The Journey so far



CoMSAA Australia was officially launched on the 6th of March 2022 following our inaugural AGM. Prior to that a core group worked very hard to find Colombo Medical Faculty alumni scattered around this vast country and to hash out our constitution. Dr. Aruna Kodituwakku was spearheading this and became our inaugural president. CoMSAA Australia was a much-felt need for us as many other universities had their own alumni associations that have been operating for many years. Since inception, we have strived to keep to our founding objectives of promoting fellowship among migrant doctors from Colombo faculty while helping our alma mater in whatever way we can.

From our humble beginning, so far we have successfully conducted two fellowship events, first one in Gold Coast in 2022 May and second one in Adelaide in 2023 September . Each of these events generated net profits of close to 10,000 A$. The current committee is working very hard to make our third fellowship in Perth an even bigger success. The profits made from these events have been channeled to the Colombo Medical Faculty in consultation with the parent body CoMSAA Sri Lanka.

The projects we have been involved in so far are summarized below:

1. Colombo Medical Faculty Scholarship scheme – this scheme aids needy undergraduates who have no access to any other form of scholarship funding. Each undergraduate under this scheme receives LKR 10,000/per month. CoMSAA Australia has so far contributed 7000 A$ towards it.
2. Provided funding for fitting out community health centre in the new faculty building at a cost of close to 4000 A$.
3. Members were approached by the warden of the girls hostel requesting help with furnishing common rooms. Many members came forward to help this project and we were able to raise 4700 A$. We have been informed by the warden that these spaces are now fully functional, and the undergraduates have been very appreciative of our help.

So far we have 155 members. We believe there are close to 400 alumni of the Colombo Medical Faculty living in Australia and we want to see as many of them as possible becoming life members. The association aims to conduct a fellowship meeting biennially and our next meeting will be in 2027 in Melbourne.

My Wildflower Journey in Western Australia



Every year one of my favourite journey to go on wildflower trails in Western Australia. The city's own Kings Park, I find myself surrounded by blooming kangaroo paws, everlastings, and grevilleas - a mere prelude to what lay ahead.

Most years we would go to Mid West - around the towns of Mullewa, Mingenew, and Coalseam Conservation Park. Driving along the Wildflower Way, I was greeted by endless fields of pink and white everlastings. The way they danced gently in the wind made the whole countryside feel like a living, breathing artwork. Mullewa was especially captivating, known for its wreath flowers (Lechenaultia macrantha) - intricate rings of red-edged blossoms growing right on the edge of dusty gravel roads. It was as if nature had perfectly arranged them with the precision of a florist.

All along the way, It was pleasant drive with a landscape decorated by the canola bloom.



All along the way, It was pleasant drive with a landscape decorated by the canola bloom.



Continuing toward Kalbarri National Park, the terrain turned more rugged. The deep red gorges and dramatic rock formations formed a spectacular backdrop for vivid wildflowers such as the Kalbarri spider orchid, banksias, and desert peas. Hiking through Nature's Window and the Loop Trail, I paused often - not just to admire the views, but to crouch beside the delicate blooms eking out their existence in rock crevices and sandy soil.



In addition to beautiful wildflowers, Kalbarri has always treated me with a magical site of the pink lake (Hutt laggon).



Either I will continue from Kalbarri, or plan a separate journey to the northern Wheatbelt - a region I had wrongly assumed would be too dry and sparse for blooms. Instead, I found myself surrounded by the surreal beauty of Lesueur National Park. Here, biodiversity exploded: trigger plants, smoke bushes, dryandras, and thousands of tiny orchids, many of which exist nowhere else on Earth.

I am always determined to spend some time outdoors and set up a camera. A blanket of stars can be captured as the Milky way as it is or as star trails. I reflected on the delicate timing of this journey avoiding full moon to appreciate the dark sky . A few weeks earlier or later, and many of these flowers would also have disappeared. This brief blooming window, so dependent on winter rains and temperature, felt like nature's secret show for those willing to seek it.

When I catch the peak season, it would be even harder to drive through the bush without ploughing through large fields of wildflowers. We had to watch every step to avoid stepping on the flowers.



As September turned to October, I usually venture south into one of the world's most significant biodiversity hotspots - the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks. Towering peaks were cloaked in mists and edged with stunning blooms: mountain bells, royal hakeas, and the flamboyant Qualup bell. The wildflowers here felt almost primeval - larger, brighter, more complex.

This costal drive allowed me to stop at Lake Clifton, where earliest life forms on earth live, dating back to 3.5 billion years. Driving further toward Albany and then west to Margaret River, the landscape transitioned into towering karri forests. Even in the dense shade, the undergrowth was alive with wildflowers: native wisteria, wattles, and the vivid blue Leschenaultia. The floral diversity mirrored the complex wine profiles of the region, making every vineyard stop an experience of both taste and colour.



Dr Ruwan Wijesuriya
President
CoMSAA Australia

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Best Wishes





Refurbishment of the Common Room

De Saram Hostel

Sponsored by CoMSSA Australia

De Saram hostel provides accommodation to female medical students of the Colombo Medical Faculty, especially in the final year of their medical training.

In addition to the basic facilities which includes shared rooms and bathrooms, the hostel is equipped with a comfortable reading room for the students to engage in their group discussions. However, a dedicated place for them to relax and unwind after a tiresome and stressful day was a dire need. Further, the students did not have a space to talk and entertain their parents and friends who visit them time to time. Witnessing them talking to their loved ones near the hostel gate was very disturbing. These observations compelled us to start thinking of a well-designed Common Room area for them.

So, our next step was to identify an abandoned store-room area within the hostel premises which can be refurbished as a functional and comfortable Common Room. A project proposal was developed, but our biggest obstacle was to find funds for the project. At this point, I contacted CoMSAA Australia through a colleague, who took up the challenge of making our dream project come true. We managed to complete the refurbishment of the Common Room and officially open it for the students on 9th July 2025.



The students now have a space to relax and strengthen their social interactions, enjoy some leisure activities and host their visitors in a welcoming environment. This will undoubtably improve their mental well-being, strengthen peer relationships and increase their satisfaction regarding hostel facilities, which in turn will boost their academic success.





The Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo extends its heartfelt gratitude to CoMSSA Australia for the generous sponsorship for this important venture. Your support will have a lasting impact on the daily lives of female medical students, not only present but so many generations to come, helping them to thrive academically and





CoMSAA Australia

Friendship Day

6th September
9.30am - 1 pm
at the Kings Park

Let's meet for a Scenic walk,
and a game of Cricket

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA

Gala Dinner

6th September 2025
at The Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre
6PM onwards

Music by Rohan and The Dynamix

Medley by Binara Jayasinghe, Iruka Kumarage,
Nalin Priyadarshana & Niroshan Muwanwella

Duets by Apurva & Niroshan Muwanwella
Seran & Dinan Perera

Skit by Ishan De Zoysa

Social dancing

Canapés, drinks and three course meal

Prizes to win

CoMSAA AUSTRALIA

2025

MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM & GALA DINNER

BLACK TIE EVENT

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
6PM ONWARDS

PERTH CONVENTION CENTRE, RIVER VIEW ROOM

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CANAPES, DRINKS, AND THREE-COURSE MEAL

PRIZES TO WIN

DANCE WITH LIVE BAND

TICKETS
AUD 190
PAYMENT TO: COMSAA Australia BSB 065163 ACCOUNT 10344068

CONTACT: MAHI comsaaaustralia@gmail.com

COMSAA AUSTRALIA

2025 MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM





AI in Healthcare: Redefining the Landscape
Dr. Thilina Palihawadana
Senior Lecturer (clinical)
Northern Territory Medical Program, Flinders University

Medical Humanities and Clinical Practice
Prof. Panduka Karunanayake
Specialist in General (Internal) Medicine
Professor in Clinical Medicine, FoM, UoC
Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine, Charles Darwin University





FOBT to PCR: an Update on Colon Cancer
Dr. Bastiaan de Boer
Anatomical Pathologist
Western Diagnostic Pathology, Perth

Saturday	6.30 pm	@Perth Exhibition

infinityspecialists

CHOSEN FOR EXCELLENCE



Memories from 2023 Fellowship






















4




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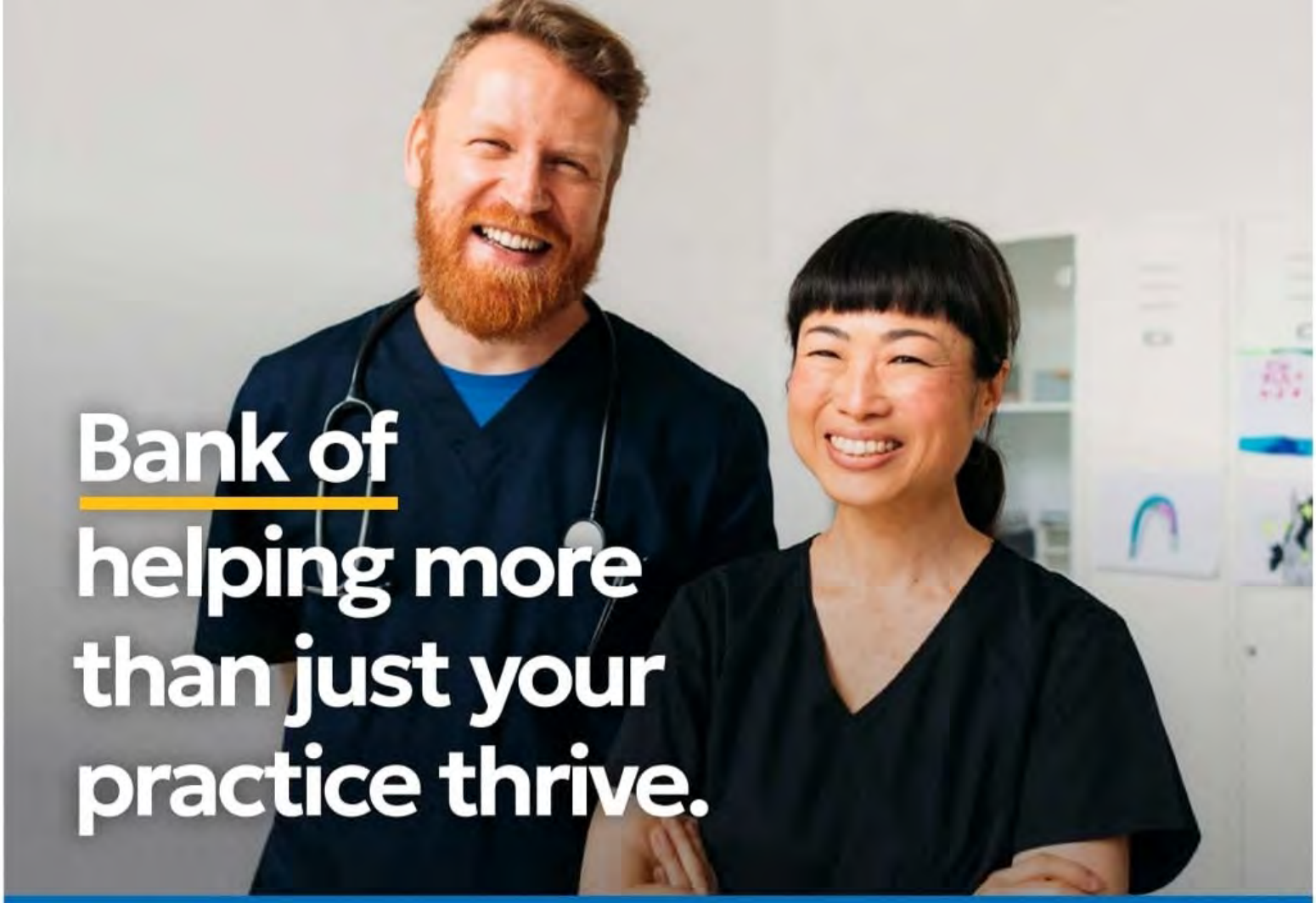





MSAA Australia
l Symposium 2023
&
Fellowship Dinner




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Next fellowship

CoMSAA

AUSTRALIA MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM 2027

& Fellowship Dinner



VENUE

Melbourne – Australia

Acknowledgements

- We thank all the Colombo alumni for becoming members and taking time off to attend our event. Without your participation, this event would not have been a success. We also thank all the invited guests for their presence.
- All the speakers who took the trouble to prepare their timely presentations and making time to attend this event
- Our Premium sponsor is Western Diagnostics. Without your financial support this event would not have been a reality.
- Our Silver sponsor is BOQ and we thank them for their generous contribution to support our event.
- All the other individuals/companies who provided advertisements and sponsorships for the event
- We like to acknowledge our current president for taking up the presidency this year and shouldering the heavy burden of making this event a success.
- The wonderful team in Perth led by our president for organizing our medical symposium and the pre-event activities.
- All the committee members who made time to attend the many Zoom meetings, sometimes at a short notice that went in to planning and organizing this event.
- We thank Perth organizing committee for arranging a wonderful array of pre-event activities in the morning.
- Special thanks go out to Maliththa Muwanwella for being a fantastic Master of Ceremony
- Rohan and Dynamix for providing music for a great night of entertainment
- Hall decorators for making the venue look lively for the evening.
- Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre staff for ensuring smooth functioning of the venue.
- Mithila Wanigatunga for designing and printing of the souvenir.

Aussie

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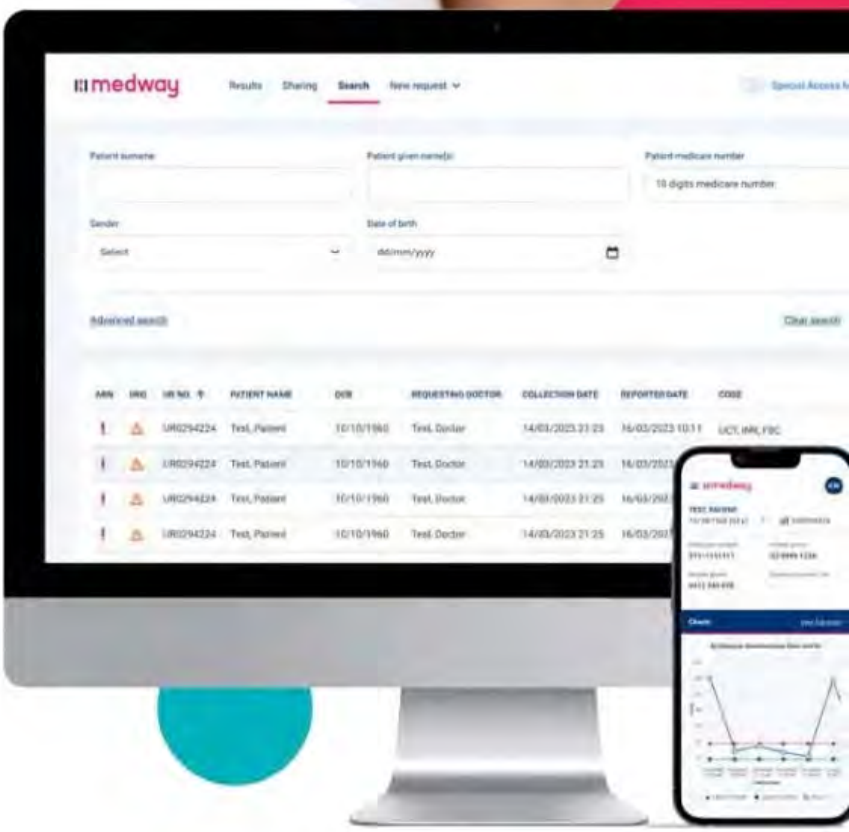
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