



THE PROFESSIONAL

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Autumn 2007

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We have a new President



Dr Andrew Nayagam was unanimously elected President of the Association at this year's annual general meeting. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal Col-

lege of Physicians (FRCP) and a Consultant Physician in Genito-Urinary Medicine with the Worthing & Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust. He chairs the Brighton & West Sussex Research Ethics Committee and is also the Regional Chair of the South Thames & West Division of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV. Andrew has been in-

involved with the APSL since its inception, serving as one of its vice-presidents. Totally in keeping with the Association's prime objective of applying experiences gained – and skills acquired – in the UK for the ultimate benefit of Sri Lanka, he has been instrumental, both as past president and as a co-opted member of the Sri Lankan Medical & Dental Association, in helping undergraduate medical students in Sri Lanka to successfully achieve their professional ambitions. This he has done for over 17 years. What can we expect from this distinguished medical man in his role as our President? We put this question to him shortly after his election. His vision, he told us, is to develop the Association into a family of professionals (Continued ->)

New Executive Committee

President:

Dr. Andrew Nayagam

Vice Presidents:

Prof IM Dharmadasa
Dr Marc Dissanayake
Dr. Keerthi Devendra

Secretary:

Mr. Mervyn Silva

Deputy Secretary:

Mr. Leslie Dep

Treasurer:

Mr. I. L. Ariyasena

Deputy Treasurer:

Mr Suraj Wijendra

Committee Members:

Mr. Rohan de Alwis
Dr. Ruwani Gunaratne
Dr Gaspar Gomez
Dr Suman Fernando
Mr Sam Goonetillake
Mr Sam Jayasena
Mr. Piyatissa Liyanage
Mr Sanjaya Kodituwakku
Mrs Lushani Kodituwakku
Mr Ranjan Perera
Dr Athula Sumathipala
Mr Leslie Gunaratne, IPP

A date for your diary

A family event for all Sri Lankans, friends and well wishers:

- Come and be entertained by aladin the famous magician see his tricks and hear his environment message,
- Listen to the renowned Sri Lankan Barrister Sir Desmond De Silva, QC, about his recent work at the International War Crimes Tribunal at the Hague,
- Meet and network with like-minded people,
- Enjoy delicious Sri Lankan cuisine,
- Dance to Sri Lankan music.

Vision Lanka & APSL Autumn Event 2007

Date Saturday, 10 November 2007

Place Broadfields Country Club, Broadfields Headstone Lane, Harrow Middlesex HA2 6NN.

Chief Guest: Mr Sudantha Ganegama-Arachchi
Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka
the Keynote Address - Sir Desmond de Silva Q.C

Tickets: £20.00. Available from

Sam Goonetillake 07963 331 138
Suraj Wijendra 07798 617764
Rohan de Alwis 0126 8292545
Mervyn Silva 07967 688971
Andrew Nayagam 01273 501894

Forthcoming events

November 10: The Autumn Event, Broadfields Country Club, Harrow

Dec 1: The High Commissioner's Reception, SL High Commission, London,

January 26: 'Ask the Doctor' Event, SL High Commission, London, (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE)

Association address

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Are you up for it?

We are in the process of setting up a database of Sri Lankan talent who could be invited to speak at our future events, who would be an inspiration to others, whose achievements we could celebrate. Who could serve as role models to our younger people, and/or provide them mentoring support.

If you fall into this category, or if you know anyone who fit the bill, we like to hear from you. Please go to the website and complete the form *I'm up for it*.

(New President -> continued from page 1)

where their racial or religious backgrounds and their personal affiliations were of no consequence. What really mattered was their commitment to supporting Sri Lanka reach her full potential. Accordingly, his priority will be to focus on working together towards that end.

Andrew's mild manner and gentlemanly ways hide a steely determination to set achievable goals and then go all out to secure them. The Association is very fortunate indeed to have such a man as this at its helm, particularly at a time when it is embarked on making itself the premier body of Sri Lankan professionals in the UK. We believe we are destined to reach new heights under Andrew's direction and leadership.

The Spring Event 2007

The APSL Spring Event was held on 26th May at Salford University, Manchester. Salford University has a number of Sri Lankans in key roles. Our main contact, Prof. Terrence Fernando is the Scientific Director of the Future Workspaces Research Centre. The guided tour of the famous Think Lab and keynote address by Dr David Hill were the highlights of an eventful day.

We would like to thank Professors Fernando and Amarathunga; Drs Pathirage and Siriwardene and their colleagues for their hard work in organising such a memorable event. ([For the full story visit Spring event on our website](#))

Annual General Meeting 2007

The 3rd AGM of the Association was held at the Holiday Inn, Brentford on Saturday, 21 April. The APSL met not only to receive annual reports from the President, General Secretary and Treasurer for the preceding year - and to elect its office-bearers for the next - but also to consider some far-reaching changes to its constitution which would have the effect of significantly expanding the membership base of the Association. A lively debate took place on the proposed changes at the end of which they were agreed on a basis which would allow the APSL to have access to new membership resources whilst preserving its distinctive Sri Lankan character. The Keynote Speech was delivered by Dr Oswald Fernando, Retired Renal Transplant Surgeon from Royal Free Hospital, London. [View full report and new membership categories on our website](#)



Prof. Fernando in Think Lab

New membership fees

From the inception of the APSL its membership fee had remained at £10 per annum.

In order to cover the increasing cost of postage and phone bills as well as have enough funds to further improve the services we provide to the members, the Executive Committee at a recent meeting decided to increase the membership fee to £15 per annum as from 1st November 2007.

To make it easier for members to pay their subscriptions, we have now introduced the Standing Order facility. You can download a Standing Order Form from our website.

Alternately, you could avoid all the hassle and guard yourself against future fee increases, by making a one-off payment of £150 and becoming a **life member**.