

Message from the President for the 2nd Issue of the *Sri Lankan Journal of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery*



This issue is dedicated to the 2024 Annual Academic Sessions, featuring abstracts from plenaries, symposia, lectures, and free papers.

Over the past year, we've expanded our educational programs, providing valuable opportunities for junior members to compile and present lectures. We've successfully introduced three models for conducting satellite symposia, resulting in six satellite symposia carried out this year.

Among our achievements, we've developed the ACTSSL Position Paper on Cardiac Surgery domains and outlined a seamless transition plan towards a National Thoracic Service. Additionally, we've created an authoritative Quality Assessment of Surgeons, a document to address performance, educational, attitude, health, and patient care issues objectively.

As an association, we've actively contributed to various national scientific advancements, notably contributing to the rewriting of Sri Lanka's Tissue Act.

The culmination of our busy year is the Annual Sessions, accompanied by six satellite events, including pre and post-congress workshops. On the 6th of January, we hosted the Cardiothoracic Doctors Symposium at Lanka Hospital, featuring insights from 12 experts discussing pertinent topics aimed at junior doctors. The following day, the Nurses Symposium held at Durdans Hospital in collaboration with Addmac was a resounding success.

Looking ahead, the Perfusionists Conference is scheduled to take place on the 11th of January at Asiri Surgical Hospital, facilitated in collaboration with AJ Medichem. Additionally, the symposium on minimally invasive Cardiac Surgery, in partnership with Medtronic, is slated for the 12th of January at Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital.

Furthering our educational initiatives, we're excited about the upcoming Instrument Workshop for Decision Makers on the 20th of January at the Neuro-trauma auditorium of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, conducted in collaboration with the Aesculap Academy and B Braun. To wrap up our series, the last satellite symposium on Trans Thoracic and Trans Oesophageal Echo will be held at Asiri Hospital, Kandy, in collaboration with the College of Cardiology on the 21st of January.

Our collective commitment and enthusiasm for these academic endeavors aim to significantly elevate the knowledge base within Sri Lanka's cardiothoracic community. We anticipate this will directly impact and enhance patient care across the country.

Dr. Rajeeva Pieris

MBBS (Hons, Colombo), MS (Hons, Colombo), FRCS (England), FRCS (Edinburgh), FCS (Sri Lanka)

President, Association of Cardiothoracic and Thoracic Surgeons of Sri Lanka