

## Message from the Honorary Secretary



Another year has gone by and it's that time of the year that the cardiothoracic and thoracic fraternity of Sri Lanka come together in organizing and participating in the Annual Academic Session of 2024. Although it is only the second time that we as the Association of Cardiothoracic and Thoracic Surgeons of Sri Lanka (ACTSSL) are organizing this event there has been exponential popularity of this clinical meeting over this short period of time. This I believe is largely due to the confidence gained during the last congress on the quality of what was being presented and the nature in which the sessions were organized.

ACTSSL Annual Academic Sessions 2024 has upgraded itself from last year to have six satellite workshops and a fully loaded academic programme running over two days. The Workshop for Cardiothoracic Doctors which was held for the first time this year received huge popularity among the intermediate grades of medical officers. The Workshop for Nurses and the Workshop for Perfusionists will certainly help to update these categories of staff who will take back what they learnt to their respective theatres, intensive care units and wards, the ultimate beneficiary being the patients. A post-congress workshop on instrument handling and maintenance will get underway shortly after the main conference. This being the second edition of its kind is extended this time to 'Hospital Decision Makers' who will be given recognition for their training in safe and effective handling of surgical instruments.

I applaud Dr Palinda Bandara who so willingly shouldered the responsibility of getting the Journal of ACTSSL and the Abstract Book in order.

On a more personal note, I enjoy deep contentment of how things have worked out and progressed for ACTSSL. Bearing the yolk of the Secretary for nearly 3 years has not been a walk in the park with so many challenges and demands to meet. However together with the steadfast leadership of the Presidents I worked with, first Dr Aruna Kapuruge and then Dr Rajeeva Pieris, and the support that the membership has given me, I pursued great satisfaction and endurance to work for the common good of the cardiothoracic and thoracic community of our land.

While wishing everyone a fruitful Academic Session of learning and updating knowledge I like to reiterate the fact that Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery is a "TEAMWORK" and the bonding of the team members will certainly have an impact on the ultimate goal of healing patients. I close with a quote from Henry Ford "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself".

**Dr Malik De Soysa**

**Secretary, Association of Cardiothoracic and Thoracic Surgeons of Sri Lanka**

(April 2021 – January 2024)