Editorial

The development of Venereology in Sri Lanka in the last fifteen years

Editor

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The College of Genitourinary Physicians of Sri Lanka was formed on 7th October 1995. In 1998 the name of the College was changed to the College of Venereologists of Sri Lanka

The objectives of the College are:-

- i. To advance the knowledge, promote research and post-graduate education in venereology;
- ii. To act as an authentic body in venereology;
- iii. To promote fellowship among those engaged in the practice and research in venereology.

As the Founder President, I am proud of the achievements of our College. Scientific Sessions and College Dinner have been held annually from 1996.

With the establishment of the Anti Venereal Diseases Campaign in 1952, venereology was recognized as a separate speciality by the Ministry of Health. The post graduate qualifications were DPH/DTPH/MPH with special work in venereology abroad for a part-qualified specialist, with the addition of the MD or MRCP for a fully-qualified specialist.

With the establishment of the Post-graduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) in 1980 training in venereology became MSc and MD in Community Medicine with special work in venereology. In these programmes the training in venereology is inadequate. Therefore, the College sought to establish a Diploma in Venereology. For this the establishment of a Board of Study in Venereology was found necessary. As a result of hard work for seven years we realized our objective on 1st October 2001 when the Board of Study in Venereology was inaugurated.

The Diploma in Venereology Course commenced on 19th July 2002. Three batches of seven to eight trainees each have followed this course. A total of 22 have obtained the Diploma in Venereology, which is recognized as a post graduate qualification for promotion to Grade 1 of the Medical Officer's Service of the Ministry of Health.

The Diploma in Venereology is the stepping stone to the MD in Venereology.

The MD Course commenced in 2003. The first two MDs in Venereology qualified in 2006. The Ministry of Health has recognized the MD in Venereology as the specialist qualification in venereology. We now have six MDs in Venereology.

The Proceedings of the Annual Academic Sessions for the years 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 were published in 2000, for the years 2000 and 2001 in 2002, for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 in 2004, and for the years 2005 and 2006 in 2006 (ISSN 1391-6114).

The first three volumes of the Proceedings were edited by me and the fourth volume by Thiloma Munasinghe.

The College of Venereologists has decided to replace the Proceedings with a Journal.

I am proud to be the editor of Volume 1 Number 1 of the Sri Lanka Journal of Venereology.

Lucian Jayasuriya