

This biography is dedicated to Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa for his incredible service to the SLCOG and beyond, and the members of SLCOG who are committed to the upliftment of maternal health and well-being

LEAPS OF A LEGACY

DR ROHANA HATHTHOTUWA



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Edited By

Prof. Sanath Lanerolle President of Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 21/22





FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure I write this foreword for a book to honour Dr Rohana Haththotuwa, a noble son of Sri Lanka who continues to serve his country and the region with distinction. Rohana has sacrificed his time, energy and effort to improve women's health and rights in Sri Lanka, the countries in the South Asian and the Asia & Oceania region. I have known Rohana since the early 1990s. He has a high moral and ethical compass and operates with the motto 'sacrifice and service' without expecting returns.

Rohana served as a key anchor for the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SLCOG) by serving as Honorary Secretary for more than a decade, during which time the college expanded its activity on CME by conducting National and regional workshops on safe motherhood, use of partograms, foetal surveillance, and treatment of pre-invasive cervical cancer. The culture of organising regular CMEs got embedded in the SLCOG due to Rohana's efforts.

During his Presidency of the SLCOG, Rohana spearheaded the drive to have a permanent home for the SLCOG. The permanent two-storey building with offices, seminar rooms, council chamber and auditorium was completed in record time. The SLCOG is operating from these premises with pride.



Currently, it houses other allied professional organisations such as the Asia & Oceania and South Asian Federations of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Rohana in association with the SLCOG organised several successful international conferences of O&G in Sri Lanka which brought prestige and recognition to Sri Lanka.

Understanding the difficulties thousands of couples had in receiving advanced subfertility services, Rohana left his prestigious academic position at the University of Colombo and undertook training in Assisted reproduction at the National University of Singapore and pioneered the establishment of IVF services in Sri Lanka. This stimulated the establishment of additional advanced fertility services in other centres in Sri Lanka to serve the couples who needed advanced fertility services. To provide respectful, woman-centred care, Rohana with his wife Chandrika established the largest private sector Women's and Children's Hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka – "The Ninewells Care Hospital". He ran the establishment with multidisciplinary services with great distinction as chairman of the hospital.

Realising more important services can be provided for women by public health measures and in association with larger Professional organisations, Rohana gave up the chairmanship of the Ninewells Care Hospital and took responsibility in the regional and global organisations.

He was the chairperson of the 'Abnormal uterine bleeding' committee of the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FIGO) which he served with distinction. Currently, he is the Secretary General of the Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (AOFOG), President of the South Asian Federation of the Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SAFOG) and President of the South Asian Federation of Menopause Societies (SAFMS). He has boosted the activities of these organisations by organising CMEs by the different committees, grassroots projects and by galvanising the younger generation to join the several activities. This has brought pride and prestige to these organisations.

Rohana has always been a forward-thinking inclusive leader and has achieved so much. He is continuing in his stride to do more for women's health and rights in Sri Lanka and the region. Despite his rise to dizzy heights, he is humble, has time for people and has his feet firmly on the ground. He plans his actions and converts strategy to action by his energetic, goal oriented, inclusive and emotional leadership.

Rohana's success in life to help others are achieved by the help from his pillar of support - wife Chandrika. Chandrika provides Rohana with emotional, moral, ethical and religious support. It has been an absolute pleasure for having known Chandrika, Rohana and their family Lasal and Randula for three decades. They have accepted me as part of their family and have helped me in my professional and religious pursuits for which I am most grateful. I join all Sri Lankans in paying tribute to a great son of Sri Lanka who has achieved so much for women's health and rights. Our prayers and best wishes for Rohana's continued success in his chosen field and for his family's health and happiness.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran

Past President of FIGO, RCOG and BMA (British Medical Association)

Visiting Professor, Institute of Global Health Policy, Imperial College & Foundation Professor of O&G, University of Nicosia, Cyprus

PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that I pen the preface of this unprecedented biography on a past president of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This has been based on a historical figure who has been at the helm of the advancement of maternal health and well-being. It is a pride and privilege for me to author this book.

Upon the suggestion of Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, creating this biography has been a long overdue tribute to Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa. SLCOG takes gratification in the achievement of its members which is why we decided to pursue this initiative of compiling a biography on one of the noble sons of SLCOG. He has rendered a yeoman service towards SLCOG, Mother Lanka, and the extension of its borders. He has been the personification of the vision and mission of SLCOG. My acquaintance with Dr. Rohana goes back to the days when I was a medical student. Since then, I've come to know a man who is admired and adored for his selfless commitment and academic flair. To launch this biography, on the Silver Jubilee of the South Asian Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists while Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa serves as its president, is an added honour.

I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude to everyone who came together to make this publication a reality and my sincere apologies for any overlooked pitfalls. Sri Lanka might be a minuscule pearl of the Indian ocean but we boast one of the lowest maternal mortality rates in the region. Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa in this regard has committed three long decades of his life for this goal. So I dedicate this to a man I hold in awe and the world holds in admiration.



Prof Sanath Lanerolle

Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology President - Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Immediate Past President of the Perinatal Society of Sri Lanka Past President of the Menopause Society of Sri Lanka Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Castle Street Hospital for Women, Sri Lanka



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DR. (MRS) MARLENE ABEYWARDENE

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TEAM Q WAVE
AFRAH NIYAS
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INTRODUCTION

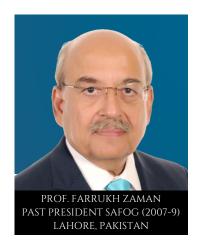
On the surface, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa is a person who has dedicated his life to Obstetrics and Gynaecology, advancing maternal care beyond the borders of Sri Lanka well into the world. From humble beginnings to historical heights, Dr. Rohana has been a trailblazer in his own right. Sri Lanka may lie as a small pearl in the Indian Ocean but the feats of this doctor proved that we have big hearts and bigger dreams. Beyond his role as a physician, he was a student, a mentor, a brother, and a philanthropist. After a lifetime of contributions, it is no surprise he inspires admiration and awe in all those who follow in his wake. His life and legacy are compilations of stories to be told and shared. This larger-than-life icon was once a little boy whose parents laid down stepping stones to ensure his climb. A key player in national and international organizations was once a medical student who had his own trials and tribulations. This book is a compilation of his milestones. Each of them was attained with spirit and soul. This book is a compilation of his leaps. The leaps of a legacy.



TRIBUTES

It's a great pleasure to write about Dr. Rohan Haththotuwa, whom I met for the first time in 1996 at the inaugural Conference of what would be named SAFOG. Since then, we have met regularly and every time I come back having learned a thing or two from him. As we affectionately call him Rohana, I will use that name in the rest of this text.

I have found all Sri Lankan friends to be soft-spoken, Rohana is more so. A man of few words, which are well weighed. His personality exudes sincerity and warmth that makes conversation with him easy and relaxed even on matters of diverging opinions. He goes by the rules and norms expressing his views softly but with emphasis. Rohana has the distinction of being the first Secretary General of SAFOG and served for four terms from 1996 to 2005. The position of the Secretary-General is pivotal in such organizations and more so in the early stages. Rohana played an important role in consolidating the foundations of SAFOG and was instrumental in maintaining continuity through smooth transitions of succeeding Executives over a period of nearly ten years.



During the same time, he teamed with Dr. Malik Goonewardane, another eminent professional, to formulate, first the Charter, and then the Constitution of SAFOG. The outcome was a solid document that was approved with consensus by all the participating country representatives and office-bearers. As a professional, he is a respected and popular obstetrician and gynaecologist. I have had the occasion of referring to him a couple of Sri Lankan patients from Pakistan who knew him and were very comfortable with him. His progressive outlook is manifested by the fact that he was one of the first to install solar panels for electricity at his nice and well-organized hospital.

Besides being a busy obstetrician and gynaecologist, Rohana has served AOFOG in important capacities. His association with AOFOG spans over decades and I am sure that it has been of benefit for both Rohana and AOFOG. His interest in academics and work for the improvement of women's health have made him a well-known figure not only in South Asia but also at the international level.

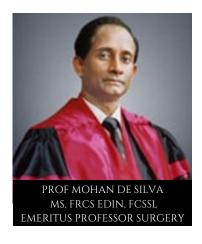
A hallmark of SAFOG evolution has been an increasing pace of activities and growth with successive Executives. Taking over as President of SAFOG, Rohana has not only kept that momentum but sped it up, despite the constraints of covid-19. The academics during his tenure took advantage of webinars for greater reach to benefit the professionals of the region and beyond.

It is a reflection of Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa's professional stature that he has garnered the support of professionals within the country, particularly the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, to hold the Silver Jubilee Conference of SAFOG in association with the Annual Conference of SLCOG in Colombo; and that, in spite of economic difficulties being faced by the country. SAFOG members would be indebted to the President, Professor Sanath Lanerolle, and the Executive of SLCOG for their collaboration.

A note about Rohana will not be complete without mention of his wonderful wife Chandrika, who with her smile makes an amazing couple with Rohana. I take this opportunity to wish them and their family health and happiness.

Indeed I consider it an honour conferred on me as one of the lucky few to be vested with this gifted opportunity to felicitate Rohana Haththotuwa, the nobility of my friend in the pursuit of his duty-bound career spanning over 44 years. In the field of teaching parlance, he is erudite beyond compare. To me, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa is the epitome of simplicity, devotion, and dedication. His unassuming nature always captured everyone around. I strongly believe that his immaculately modest appearance, stoic silence, and judicious use of words are expressions of his will and power. I got to know Rohana in 1973 when we entered the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo.

Young Rohana was identified as a studious, well-behaved student, a rare breed among those who entered Colombo Schools then. Anatomy was his favourite subject before his interest went into Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and by the time we reached the 2nd MBBS examination, he was called 'prof' because by then he could recollect Grey's Anatomy by heart. Not surprisingly he had an excellent undergraduate career. He was a popular student in the batch who had a knack to teach because of the clarity of his knowledge.



Rohana's silent unwavering resilience and perseverance were a great benefit to Sri Lanka to enhance the international reputation of the island in the field of Obstetrics. Rohana has made a pivotal contribution to bringing many projects, workshops, and international training programs by working closely with the Asia Oceania Federation Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology (AOFOG) & the International Federation of Obstetrics and gynaecology (FIGO).

Rohana Haththotuwa is a genuinely committed charity worker. His contribution extends far and wide ranging from helping to develop an operating theatre and labour room in the Northern Province during war-torn times, to his commitment to serve the needy following the Tsunami in 2004, which are only a few of many, in addition to his frequent contributions during floods for the needy and his continuing commitment to help underprivileged children in Sri Lanka. Being a devout practicing Buddhist, going beyond merely offering material requisites, he once set up a mini hospital in his own residence to attend to an ill, bedridden scholar-monk, a rare feat by any means, and thereby amassed many noble blessings of goodness (Punya) achieved by a very few in one's lifetime. Despite his great achievements, Rohana Haththotuwa is a very simple modest human being. To this date, I have known very few, if any, who practiced Obstetrics in Sri Lanka during my time and who have achieved so much and remained so humble as Rohana Haththotuwa.

Dear Rohana,

You can look back on your career that has impacted so many lives and had such a positive effect. You have accomplished more than most in your life and you have so much to be proud of. Congratulations on a job well done. I am proud of all your accomplishments. You've always been an inspiration to me personally and professionally.

I first became acquainted with Dr. Rohana in 2007. We were both attending the AOFOG Congress in Tokyo that year and as serendipity would have it, I joined the Sri Lankan delegation for the Congress dinner, Midway through dinner, during a phone conversation with my sister-in-law from Malaysia, I was informed that she and her family had previously spent 2 years with Dr. Rohana and his family in Dundee, Scotland! Thus began a relationship that blossomed over the years to a close and meaningful one.

Dr. Rohana was already a well-known figure both in Sri Lanka and in the region but in 2017, we embarked on a remarkable journey together. I was installed as the AOFOG President and Dr. Rohana became only the 3rd Secretary-General in AOFOG history.

He had a daunting task ahead, as the Secretariat had to be relocated from Manila to Colombo. He worked tirelessly and diligently and the current well-oiled Secretariat is a testament to his hard work. During my tenure as President, he was a constant source of support and encouragement. We worked well together and at the same time, learned from each other. The most valuable lesson he has imparted to me is the virtue of patience and remaining composed in the face of adversity – traits that no doubt, have deep roots in his religious convictions. He is a gentle and kind person who is always prepared to lend a helping hand. If he has any faults, it would be his inability to say "no". Following in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors, Prof. Shan Ratnam and Prof. Reddie Sumpaico, he had very big shoes to fill! He has nevertheless grabbed the bull by its horns and continues to work assiduously and impress in his current role. I have no doubt that in the years to come, he will leave an indelible mark just as his predecessors have done.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rohana has contributed significantly to the health and well-being of women in this region. He has done both the SLCOG and AOFOG proud and it has been my great honour to have been associated with him both professionally and personally.

Dr. Rohana Hathotuwa is a good friend of mine, and he is in the heart of Bangladesh OBGYN. I have known him since 1991, maybe in FIGO in Singapore. Since then he has travelled with love from Sri Lanka accompanying his wife Chandrika many times in our various scientific seminars. He is a great fighter for MMR, Adolescent health, SRHR, & Menopausal health. On various occasions, he talked about Menstrual hygiene, ART & Infertility, Maternal and Neonatal health, and various aspects of women's health. He is not only a leader in Sri Lanka, but he also showed his diversity in AOFOG and FIGO. In AOFOG I worked with him and he showed his capability and he became the leader of AOFOG, his new thoughts will show the new pathways for our South Asian region.

He played a great role during the pandemic Covid infection. Dr. Rohana during this time did a lot of Zoom Conferences to boost OBGYN in Southeast Asia, and also to fight against the pandemics, encouraging vaccination not only for us but also for the mothers.



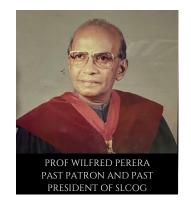
Lastly on Aug 1, 2022, at the start of Breastfeeding week as a president of SAFOG, Dr. Rohana signed a memorandum of understanding with UNICEF to improve maternal and new-born health and nutrition in South Asia, in particular through protecting and promoting breastfeeding to save new lives. He is the first person who worked on this issue from SAFOG.

He is a great leader now in South Asia and will be a future leader for FIGO; he deserves this.

At 94 years of age as the oldest living gynaecologist and Past President and Patron of the College, I am very happy to send this message of appreciation. Dr. Rohana, a Southerner like me, had his primary education first at St. Thomas' Bandarawela and ended up in Colombo at St. Thomas' Mt Lavinia. I had the unique honour of being the President of the SLMA and SLCOG at the same time in 1992. I appointed him as my Secretary for the first time in 1992 and he had the unique privilege of being the Secretary of SLCOG for 13 long years.

The SAFOG was started in 1995 in Colombo where we invited the Presidents of the South Asian region covering initially India and Pakistan only.

Dr. Rohana was instrumental in its work from the very beginning and currently serves as the President. I wish him all the success in his future career and I hope that during his Presidency he will carry SAFOG from strength to strength.

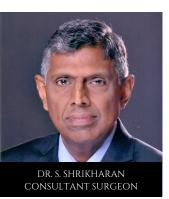


Dr. Rohana Hathotuwa was my classmate from grade 5 at St. Thomas Prep School Bandarawela in 1964, when we were just nine years old, and from grade 6 to Advanced Level at St. Thomas College Mount Lavinia when we finished schooling in April 1972. At the GCE (Advanced Level) examination, he did very well and came in the first few in the ranking. We met again in the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo, and continued to be together.

Even after passing out, we stayed in touch. Rohana selected obstetrics and gynaecology as his specialty. He underwent training and passed his postgraduate exams and became a specialist in that field while I became a surgeon.

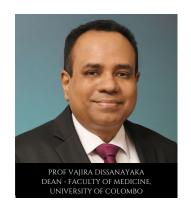
From the time I came to know Rohana at St. Thomas Preparative School, Bandarewella, he was always at the top of the class. He won many prizes in school. He was very meticulous and hard-working in his studies. His very neat handwriting will tell a lot about him. He did not take part in sports or athletics. He was soft-spoken. He never gets involved in unnecessary arguments; he never hurts or bullies anyone; he never disrupts the class or makes fun of or plays pranks on the teachers, as many boys do in those carefree and innocent days. He was a boarding student at prep school, and so was he at Mount until he reached grade 9 in 1968. We sat the Ordinary Level exam in December 1969, and he passed with flying colours, with many distinctions.

In short, he was an academic, and that was his forte. He is not a politician or a businessman. He is an academic, and that is where his strength lies. He is also a professional, dedicated to his job. It is here that we can get the best of him. Of course, to top it up, he is a gentleman. He is certainly a good friend to me. He is on our school class social media and he would read through all we posted but hardly respond. Well, that is him. But when I do communicate with him privately, he promptly replies. I have my best regards for him. He deserves the best as he is such a cultured person.



I am pleased to send this message to the book published to felicitate Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa. I have known Dr. Haththotuwa since my student days in the 1990s in the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Colombo, and had the opportunity to train with him as a house officer in the Professorial Units in the De Soysa Hospital for Women as well as in the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. He was a mild-mannered academic clinician who always encouraged his students to pursue excellence in a very gentle way. He also encouraged them to do new things. I remember the encouragement he gave me when I started my career in genetics and how he encouraged me in critical times in my career and complimented me whenever I succeeded in what I did.

Dr. Haththotuwa's devotion to the teachings of the Lord Buddha also brought a special religious flavour to everything that he did. His entrepreneurial spirit, which resulted in the establishment of the Ninewells Hospital, encouraged many young doctors to follow a similar path. He kept Sri Lanka's flag flying high internationally through the work that he did with the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He has left a lasting legacy in the field of medicine in Sri Lanka. I wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.



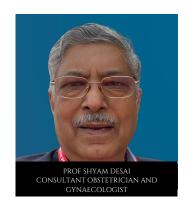
I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa for more than 26 years in various meetings of the Asia Oceania Federation Of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG) in Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bali, Kathmandu, Lahore, Bangladesh, Calcutta, Bombay, and Bangalore. He has always been an active participant in scientific sessions. He emphasizes the need for obstetrics and gynaecology societies to work for the betterment of Women's health problems in these regions. When the South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SAFOG) was established 25 years ago, I had the pleasure of working as deputy secretary general and council member while held the post of Secretary general.

PROF.DR. SANU MAIYAN DALI M.D, FRCOG (LONDON), FNAMS

I found him a vibrant, gentle and kind-hearted person and very easy to work with. He continues to be an inspiration to many obstetricians and gynaecologists. His humble nature and soft-spoken personality are in sharp contrast to his strong determination towards active results in the organization of international help in the mitigation of women's health problems. We are working towards the improvement of women's health globally. As a dynamic Secretary general of the Asia Oceania Federation Of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG), he has contributed to the academic and organizational efforts of the federation even during COVID Pandemic. Now he has been leading SAFOG as the President. I met him during his recent visit to Kathmandu for the launch of the Jeevandhara Project and SAFOG Session during the XVI National Conference Of Nepal Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NESOG). I feel honoured to have been associated with a such dynamic yet humble personality. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours to take AOFOG and SAFOG to greater heights.

Rohana and I first met in Singapore as way back as 1992 when Prof Ratnam held the first RCH Training of trainers workshops at the NUH Singapore. We were both representing our national societies at the forum. Our friendship and the long association began almost immediately. Rohana impressed me with several attributes which have enabled him to go far in his professional life. He is very pleasant mannered, sincere, and dedicated to the task at hand. He is meticulous in detail and achieves whatever he does with a smile. Professionally he has achieved a lot and is well regarded by his peers. His charming wife, Chandrika is his greatest asset and complements him very well in all that he takes on. I have visited Sri Lanka several times for Workshops, CMEs, Conferences and Seminars almost always at his invitation and he affords excellent hospitality.

I have enjoyed visiting Sri Lanka a lovely country and have several friends amongst the obstetricians and gynaecologists. He has made a mark in all the professional organizations he has entered —SAFOG, AOFOG and even FIGO helping in the smooth conduct of proceedings and activities. He has several productive years ahead of him and we will all benefit from his administrative abilities and demeanour. I wish him the very best for the future and value our association and friendship greatly. I have enjoyed visiting Sri Lanka, a lovely country with lovely people and I am fortunate to have several friends amongst the obstetricians and gynaecologists.



In 2010 as president of SOGP I attended the SAFOG conference in Colombo. Behram Anklesaria unceremoniously interrupted a lunch I was enjoying with friends and drove me to Ninewells to participate in a discussion on the SAFOM journal. There I met Rohana, a shy and quiet gentleman who I later learned was our host.

Fast forward to many years of the association through SAFOG and AOFOG activities I realized he was not shy or quiet. Rohana displays that rare strength, quite often missing in successful men, of being confident & comfortable enough to be assertive but not aggressive. Over the years I found, in Rohana, an unlikely kindred spirit (because overtly our personalities are so very different) and got to know him informally on the sideline of conferences whether it was shopping for Saris in Dhaka, (he bought Saris for his wife and I bought saris for my daughters; we both do not wear Saris!) or the wonderful evenings in Thimphu, Bhutan.



More recently as president of SAFOG, yet another layer of his persona unfolds. A true team player, he displays tremendous leadership qualities; he asks, listens, and then makes an informed decision. Through all of the hard work, he is putting in, as a colleague he is always just a telephone call away! I wish him and his family all the best now and always.

Rohana Haththotuwa – my classmate at the school by the sea, Mt. Lavinia

It gives me great pleasure and pride to issue this message celebrating my dear classmate and friend Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa on the occasion of felicitation of his work and medical career by his fellow Doctors of the Sri Lanka College of Gynaecologists. Since I am not from the medical fraternity, I thought I will reflect on our relationship from schooldays till now and hope it is not out of context for the occasion. Rohana and I first met as 10 year old young lads at the school by the sea at Mt. Lavinia, S. Thomas' College, in the Lower 4th Class (Grade 6) in 1965 when he joined College from St. Thomas' Preparatory School, Bandarawela. I guess I found myself more with boys of my own size and interests and as a newcomer Haththotuwa (as he was known in College) easily fitted into the group. Many in our group were not that heavily into serious sports such as cricket, swimming, athletics etc. and enjoyed simple games and sharing comics etc.



Rohana joined College as a boarder since at the time his parents were not in Colombo but most in our group were day scholars. Rohana therefore had another group of friends from the boarding too but was often with the day scholars. My earliest impressions of him were that he was a very soft-spoken guy, of a calm and quiet disposition but very friendly at the same time. I do however remember him quietly slipping away from any naughty and mischievous activities and discussions, being too decent to be part of it. No sooner he entered school he quickly came to be recognized as a studious, clever guy securing his position in class within the highest ranks. This was a ranking he retained throughout his entire career at STC whilst being a regular annual prize winner for academic excellence. His notes and homework were the more sought after study material for folks like us who have callously fallen behind on our school work. Not being a Boarder myself, I have little knowledge and recollections of his Dorm, Dining and Prep time life as a boarder. However somewhere in between he became a day scholar residing close to College.

Rohana having made plans for a medical career fairly early, chose Biology as the choice subject for O Levels. Needless to say, Rohana had excellent O Level results to study in the Biology stream for A Levels while I went on to follow Double Maths, at which point we got separated. Though Physics and Chemistry were common subjects we were in two different classes. In retrospect, he was the lucky one because he fell into the highly sought after Chemistry class of the then renowned teacher, Mr Errol Fernando. Rohana was ever so grateful to Mr. Errol Fernando for he felt that his tutoring made the difference in his A Level performance. Rohana had a never ending devotion for his teacher and was caring for him till his last days which I have personally witnessed in later years. After our A Levels we went on our separate ways, Rohana to Medical College then to Government Service as a renowned VOG and as a Lecturer at Medical College while I made a career in accounting. In between I had several meet ups with Rohana from time to time, mostly for medical needs of my wife. As with most of our classmates' wives, Rohana was my wife's Gynaecologist with all services being complimentary. My renewed close association with him commenced when we consulted him in late 2000 when my wife was expecting our second child.

During the course of our many consultations, he one day broke the news to me that he was planning to start up his own hospital to provide fertility treatment and requested me to help him with the financial aspects and evaluations of the project which I gladly agreed to do. He confessed to me that he is only a medical man and the commercial aspects were handled by his wife, Chandrika, and my professional experience will be helpful to them. Thus, I was involved with the Ninewells project from the planning days, with another classmate of ours, Saro Weerasuriya, being the Engineering Consultant to the project.

Though my role was not full time, I was involved with the Ninewells project at almost every stage and provided Rohana with the support he required to accomplish his goal. At the time when Sri Lankan hospitals were yet to modernize, Rohana's achievement with Ninewells was a significant effort in the medical industry in terms of fertility treatment, obstetrics, gynaecology, and paediatrics. Ninewells in its Stage 2 introduced the first state-of-the-art specialist Neonatal unit in the private sector followed by many in later years. Ninewells Stage 1 was an instant success and before long was a preferred destination for expectant mothers and couples seeking fertility treatment.

The success of Stage 1 and the rising demand for the services encouraged Rohana and Chandrika to undertake an expansion of the hospital. Since the expanded hospital was a much larger operation, Rohana wished to strengthen the Management Team and invited me also to join the expanding team. Thus, in March 2013 I joined Ninewells Hospital on a full-time basis as the General Manager and I am happy to say that I was part of the team that launched Stage 2 of Ninewells, a significant event in my life too. As Chairman of the hospital, Rohana demanded the highest of standards in all aspects of the running of the hospital. Here was a man different to the one I have known hitherto and the "Loku Sir" as he was referred to by the staff, was a rigid taskmaster and a strict disciplinarian but never a loud marshal. He took very serious note of the lapses that got reported from time to time, especially from patients. I suppose the benchmarks set by the founder demanding nothing but the best was the hallmark of Ninewells and its reputation. The new project required a large capital investment and in 2015 ACCESS Group was invited as equity partners around the time I ended my term with Ninewells. Thereafter, Rohana started getting increasingly involved with national and regional professional development work, which to me appeared as the next stage in his career. His accomplishments in this sphere of work, with little comparison, are highly praiseworthy and are of great national significance.

In the midst of his extremely busy medical practice and professional involvements, he was a devout Buddhist, regularly participating in religious activities and meritorious deeds. He also did not lose touch with his childhood friends and was a regular generous sponsor of the Class Group activities. He was also a regular benefactor to his professional Colleges and Associations too. His services were always free to the needy and to his employees with whom both Chandrika and Rohana had a unique connection and bond.

Looking back, what Rohana has achieved is a turning point in Fertility Treatment in this country. The Ninewells Hospital started by him is one of the foremost facilities in the country providing high-end medical services to Sri Lankans. His services are not limited to Sri Lanka but to the region and the whole world and the profession in general. Such achievements by an individual are so rare and am I proud of my association with such a personality. Certainly, I am privileged to be his classmate and longtime friend. "It is the mark of a great man that he puts to flight all ordinary calculations. He is at once sublime and touching, childlike and of the race of giants."

I count it an honour to contribute a few words to the felicitation of my friend and colleague Rohana.

I got to know Rohana well when I started my internship under the late Professor D E Gunatilleke. Rohana was the registrar at the time. He patiently taught me how to assess a woman in labour, suture an episiotomy and the myriad things that have to be done in a busy obstetrics and gynaecology unit. When I showed at interest in pursuing obstetrics and gynaecology as a career Rohana lent me his textbooks for the MS Part 1 exam (in those bygone days it was the MS and not the MD). After getting through the Part i was assigned to the same unit. The day I commenced my training was the day his lovely daughter Randula was born. As we worked together we became firm friends. Once incident that has remained fresh in our minds from those days. A patient presented with what seemed to be a Bartholin's abscess. Rohana said he would show me how to do a marsupialization. When the incision was made grape like vesicles poured out accompanied by profuse bleeding. Needless to say it was a choriocarcinoma.

It was then that I got to know Rohana well.

Dr P C Gunasekera Former UNFPA Reproductive Health Advisor Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Consultant WHO Timor-Leste

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists UK as well as the fellow of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, currently holds the distinction of being the President of the South Asian Federation of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists in its Silver Jubilee year, as well as the current Secretary General of asian & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology since the year 2017 and the current President of the South Asian Federation of Menopause Societies which is a remarkable array of high international offices to be held by an Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at one time. He has been a member of the SLCOG since 1990 and we are greatly proud of his achievements.

A graduate from the Faculty of Medicine University of Colombo who qualified in 1978, Rohana showed in a keen interest in obstetrics and gynaecology, medical education and research. Once he completed the internship, he was appointed as a Specialist Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Professorial Unit of the University of Colombo. Thereafter he proceeded to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, UK where he gained experience in Gyn Oncology and Materno-Foetal Medicine. At this time he passed the MRCOG Great Britain.



On his return to Sri Lanka Rohana joined the SLCOG and he was appointed Deputy Secretary in 1990. Thereafter he became the SLCOG Secretary from 1991 to 2003 a period of 12 years. He was an extremely hard working and committed Secretary during his tenure of office. He served as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Colombo for 14 years during which time he was involved in teaching medical students as well as in postgraduate training. At the same time, he was also appointed as Secretary to the Board of Study in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Post Graduate of Institute of Medicine of Sri Lanka which enabled him to develop skills in medical education.

He was involved in undergraduate and postgraduate training in Sri Lanka from 1973 to 1987. Rohana was involved in introducing the Partogram to Sri Lanka and propagating it throughout the country. This helped in better management of labor and reducing its complications. In the 1990's Rohana was involved in the organization of programs to train trainers in order to conduct workshops on Safe Motherhood programs across Sri Lanka. These programs have since greatly helped reduce maternal mortality over the years. Despite his quiet unassuming demeanour Rohana was an extremely energetic and committed Obstetrician & Gynaecologist who works diligently to improve all aspects of women's health. With respect to collaboration with international societies Rohana was one of the first recipients of the AOFOG Young Gynaecologist Award presented by Prof. Shan Ratnam in 1991 at the 12th asian Oceania Congress of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists held in Thailand. This opened doors for international collaboration and connections and gave him the opportunity to be involved with the AOFOG.

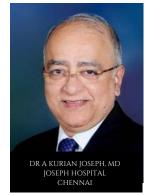
In 2003 he received the AOFOG scholarship on "Reproductive Health" in 2003 to work under Prof. S Y Moon in the National University Fertility Centre in Korea. He was able to visit many IVF Centers in Seoul during this time to improve his skills in IVF. Rohana was elected President of the SLCOG in 2008. During his tenure he organized workshops to create awareness on unsafe abortions in Sri Lanka. During this time the building of the SLCOG premises had started and as Chairman of the building committee he worked extremely hard to collect funds and building maternal as the cost of building had sky rocketed after the Tsunami which happened in 2004 and due to his untiring efforts the building was completed and the SLCOG house was opened during his tenure of office as President. We are extremely fortunate that Prof. Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran was able to be present at the opening ceremony.

Rohana played an important role in the formation of the Federation of the South Asian Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Societies (FOGSAR) in Sri Lanka in 1990's. Once SAFOG was formed in 1995 he was appointed as the Founder Secretary to Prof. Rashid Latiff Khan the Founder President of the organisation. He held this position with great expertise for 10 years thereafter until 2005. Rohana also served as Treasurer and Vice President of SAFOG. He was unanimously elected as the President Elect during the SAFOG conference held in Dhaka Bangladesh 2 years ago. In 2014 Rohana was able to organize the first ever SAFOG FIGO conference in association with the SLCOG. Due to his untiring efforts, this was a great success and he was able to invite the FIGO President and the officers of FIGO to participate at this event. He was also the Organizing Secretary of the Golden Jubilee Congress of the SLCOG in 2017 and for the first time the SLCOG was able to have the presence and participation of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists at this event due to his efficient handling. In the field of International Relations Rohana's quiet geniality, efficiency, and pleasant manner were a great asset to the SLCOG. He together with many of other great leaders, patrons, past presidents and council members of the SLCOG were able to put the SLCOG on the global map over the past 55 years of its existence. A situation which has the SLCOG extremely proud. The South Asian Federation of Menopause Society was the brainchild of the late Dr. Beheram Ankalsaria of India. He requested Rohana to collaborate with the South Asian countries to form the federation and Rohana was able to invite the members from the Menopause Societies of the South Asian countries to Colombo and establish SAFOMS in 2010 together with Dr. M D P Gunaratne, he prepared the constitution of SAFOMS and organized the first SAFOMS conference in Sri Lanka in 2010. He was also the Founder Secretary General of SAFOMS and was in this position until 2015. He has been a member of the FIGO menstrual disorders working group from 2012-2015. He has also been a prime promoter of the FIGO PPIUD Project which was started in Sri Lanka with the assistance of Prof. Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran. This was a measure to reduce postpartum hemorrhage in Sri Lanka which was the main cause of maternal mortality in 2008. This program was a great success and now has being incorporated into the National Family Planning Program.

He has been the Sri Lanka Representative of ASPIRE since 2014 and the organizer of the Master Class in Endometrioses conducted by Aspire in association with the SLCOG in 2019. We the members of the SLCOG are extremely proud of Rohana's achievements in improving the image of the SLCOG globally by working in collaboration with international societies. It is also a great pride for us that he is the President of SAFOG, and SAFOMS, the Secretary General of AOFOG as well as working together with FIGO in order to improve the health of women globally and we congratulate him for his efforts and the achievements made globally which are proudly shared by the SLCOG.

Picture yourself waiting to meet the Secretary General of the AOFOG. Presently a boyish looking man with an impish smile walk by you and you wonder if it was another student. The person you saw was the Secretary General – Dr Rohana. He has been a tireless worker for the federation over many years. Rohana has a very likeable personality and is by nature shy and hardly talks. Now that he is thrust with many responsibilities, he has become more forthright and pushes his points across efficiently. I've been lucky to work with him when he was an office bearer of SLCOG, later many years at the AOFOG and saw his work as a committee member of FIGO. In all these capacities he came through with flying colors.

Rohana and Chandrika are a lovely couple, perfect hosts and I remember working with them at Mongolia. The one memorable trip we made together was to Jaffna for an Endoscopy workshop. It was then I could see his organizational skills and the deeply religious side of him. Sri Lanka is lucky to have him at the helm of the professional body and I'm happy to wish the couple long years of service to the community with their pleasant smiles.

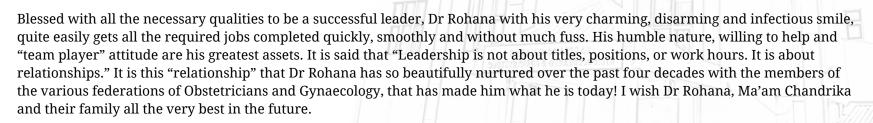


My association with Rohana goes back beyond the latter half of my life, initially, as a member of the staff in the Professorial Obstetric unit in De Soysa Maternity Hospital for Women in Colombo. Moving over the years, being Colleagues and thereafter, Past Presidents of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and gynaecologists, he remains a close friend, omnipresent whenever the necessity demands. Throughout this alliance, he learned the least from me, while I learned the most from him. He is a stickler for discipline, tradition, and accountability, epitomized by his own exemplary behaviour and demeanour, which is well known and admired by his associates, both local and international. His leadership and perseverance in bringing the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and gynaecologists to the international arena of obstetrics and gynaecology as a force to be reckoned with is common knowledge.





It gives me immense pleasure to pen my thoughts on a gentle giant in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology of the AOFOG region. Having seen Dr Rohana in attendance at numerous FOGSI and international conferences over the past two and a half decades, listening to his many presentations and interacting with him, both as a delegate and as a FOGSI and ICOG Office Bearer, I have had the unique opportunity to know him personally for the last decade, and even more closely after being inducted as a member and subsequently being elected Chair of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Committee of AOFOG, 2019–2022. I consider myself uniquely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work directly under his guidance as the Deputy Secretary General of AOFOG from 2022–2024, which will indeed be a great learning experience for me. We are all aware of Dr Rohana's immense contributions to SLCOG being its Past President, FIGO being a past Committee Chair, SAFOG being its current President and AOFOG as its Secretary General, in addition to his tremendous rapport with all the National Societies of AOFOG.





In May 1979, at my sister's house, I met Rohana for the first time. He was introduced to me by my sister's father-in-law. Uncle Withana. I heard stories about Rohana through my cousin Meththa who had friends in the same batch as him. They all had good things to say about him. I was also told that he was from a 'cultured' family in Akuressa that both his parents had land, tea factories and that he had inherited his paternal grandfather's property. Yet, I needed to know who 'he' was as a person and for myself. So, over the next few months I got to know him better and felt that we were on the same path as we had many common interests. I wondered whether we may have even known each other from past lives! We married four months later, in September. We were both in our early 20s then. At the time I remember him saying, that we should address our parents as amma (mother) and thaththa (father) and not aunty or uncle as he felt they were the pillars of our lives. We started our life together in Weligama where he worked in the District Hospital. My father very generously renovated the quarters we were given so that we could stay there comfortably(!) though our own parents home was so close-by and we used to visit there very often as well. During this period, we were blessed with the birth of our son, Lassal and later that year we moved to Colombo for Rohana's postgraduate training. Those were tough times for me as he was very busy with his training, I was to look after a baby and then the birth of our daughter



Randula a year later but we were fortunate to have had the support of our extended family. Then we moved again to Galle as he received a post at the University. Rohana used to play with Lassal in the Galle ramparts. My parents and his sister Kamani lived nearby and we enjoyed the company of good friends. We moved to Scotland for his foreign postgraduate training. He trained at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. It was lonely at times as he worked long hours, but we also made a lot of good friends from all over the world, from Sweden to Malaysia. Our son also started his first year in school whilst we were there. I recall that the very first thing Rohana did when we arrived in Scotland was to buy the children a television and lots of toys and lego to play with! He always wanted our children to do well and be happy. When we left Ninewells after two years in 1987, I told Rohana maybe we should name our future hospital, Ninewells and 13 years later in October 2000 we did just that registering Ninewells Hospital in Sri Lanka. We returned from Scotland earlier than expected as Rohana wanted to look after our ageing parents for which I am very grateful. We were in our 30s at the time. He not only looked after our parents but also our extended family, who often would call upon him for advice and was loved by all.

Outside of our family, he has extended help to his students, patients, teachers, places he worked, Buddhist monks and monasteries and also those in need. He often comes across as quite a strict and stern disciplinarian yet always behind it was a kind, generous heart with good intention. I have often been taken by surprise at the gratitude people have shown him, for example, medical students saying how they were taught to be simple as doctors and patients even in public places such as airports and temples showing their respects. Some have mentioned that it was only after several years that they had come to realise the benefit and truths of his advice. These encounters have been very humbling. Throughout his career he himself was very fortunate to have received the generosity and support of many inspiring teachers – including, Lord Naren Patel, Prof Ratnam in Singapore, Prof. Sir Arulkumaranan in the UK and Dr Tank in India. We got to know them personally as they opened their homes to us, and I connected with their loving wives Gayatri Arulkumaran and Mrs Tank as well as their children who have now become part of our own family. In the 1990's, Rohana was very keen to establish a fertility centre. So, he took a sabbatical from his government post and went to train in fertility medicine, at the University of Singapore. On his return, it took four years for him to find a group of doctors to start a Centre and they founded Vindana Reproductive Health Centre. As the workload of setting up a new centre was very intense, he let go his university responsibilities at this point, contrary to the advice of many of his friends. I was involved in the administrative side. It soon became apparent that there were frictions within the team so first myself, then later Rohana left Vindana and we began our work to start a new centre.

This period was very tough for the both of us yet, we had a lot of support and encouragement from friends, colleagues and family for which we are very grateful. We first started off at home and converted a few rooms into an office, clinic space and waiting areas and purchased a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine. With our small team and limited facilities, we started to set the foundations for Ninewells Hospital from home. It was our good fortune that at our very first meeting with the Board of Investments, in August 2000, Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe, the BOI chairman agreed to give us a plot of land in Narahenpita and the project came to be. Rohana has been a very supportive husband and father over the years. He looks after me when I fall ill and because of him, I get wonderful care from others as well! I was so overjoyed that for my 60th birthday he organised an alms-giving for over a 100 monks. He has given his ancestral home in Colombo to our son, Lassal to establish his successful age care facility - Windsor Gardens and has supported him to set up his own factory. It brings him great joy to know that our daughter Randula is a doctor not only for the body but also through her meditation practice, for the mind as well. Though she lives in the UK, Randula has been looking after him when he has fallen ill and advising him on mindfulness and meditation. Life has not always been a bed of roses or a smooth track for us. Yet like a river flowing over many stones and pebbles, taking many corners and turns, we have been walking this journey together and continue to do so.

FROM THE BEGINNING

LIFE BEFORE MEDICINE

CHAPTER ONE

CHAPTER ONE LIFE BEFORE MEDICINE

"My mother was the reason why I stand independent today and my father is the reason why I value integrity and honesty above all else" $\frac{1}{2}$

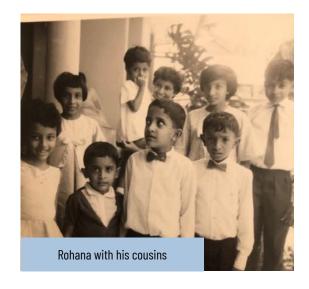
- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

Akuressa, a beautiful town located in Southern Sri Lanka, is twenty-three miles South-West from Matara. Known well for its fertile ground, it also nurtures humble, resolute, and hardworking people. Akuressa was where Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa grew up and formed the core of his childhood.

A snapshot into the childhood of a young Rohana will reveal to us a gentle yet ambitious being. A childhood that would mould him into a highly accomplished erudite scholar and compassionate human being.

The roots for this were laid by his mother, Hyacinth Haththotuwa, a homemaker and land proprietor. She inculcated values of independence and discipline into young Rohana. Under her watchful eye, he was expected to complete his activities with self-reliance. She was devoted to raising Rohana and his three younger siblings to become the best they could be. Her support was inexhaustible. Late nights of study that kept young Rohana awake meant his mother was also right there beside him.

The father of the young lad, Karunadasa Haththotuwa (or Karu Uncle) was a lawyer by day and a caring father by night. He was a very progressive man in the manner he brought up his children. As much as Dr. Rohana looked up to his father's vast knowledge of life with all its dealings, what impressed him the most was his willingness to share his wise counsel with others. And this was done with no expectation of anything in return. The esteemed lawyer always valued helping those around him, extending legal aid free of charge when it was needed. This was a value Dr. Rohana unwaveringly held on to during his career as a doctor. Young Rohana's father did not believe in the power of the dime and the dollar, but instead in the power of human relationships and integrity.



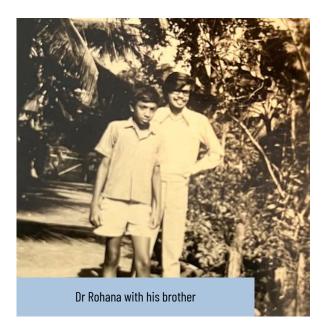


Dr. Rohana was the eldest of four children. His younger brother, Eranga, went on to become a consultant cardiologist in the States. His younger sister, Kamani is an accountant in Australia while his older sister, Amitha managed their ancestral land before moving to the UK. Dr. Rohana was described to be a third parent to his siblings, laying the law of the land within the household. This sense of responsibility he developed as a young child, shone through his life and career.

Dr. Rohana began his education at Akuressa in the village school, a mile away from his house. He enjoyed cycling to school and the one thing he looked forward to was the tea bun that was given during the break. Alas, this time in the village school would soon come to an end when he was transferred to St. Thomas' Preparatory school in Bandarawela, 150 miles away from home. The small child of 7 years was dropped off by his father at the house of Mr. David Edirisinghe, the school's Vice Headmaster, as the school accommodation was at full capacity. His father left the crying boy in the company of a few others who were also occupants of this unfamiliar lodging.

However, little Rohana quickly adjusted to his new surroundings and completed all his tasks independently. He had to walk nearly a mile downhill to school. But even so, the small children enjoyed going up and down the hill to school and back. He considered himself fortunate to have Mr. Edirisinghe as a steadfast and ardent teacher who taught him lessons of commitment and discipline. Lessons that he would carry with him for the rest of his life. Rohana was a bright young boy in his first year at Prep school, receiving 5 prizes in the school prize giving. He recalls receiving the awards from the late Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Ceylon's then-prime minister. Indeed, an overachiever he was from the get-go.

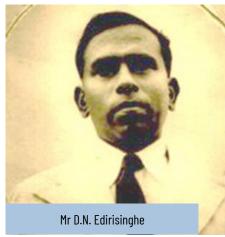
CHAPTER ONE LIFE BEFORE MEDICINE





CHAPTER ONE LIFE BEFORE MEDICINE





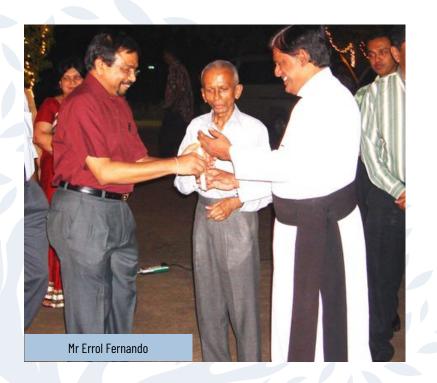
Reciting poetry was formerly a crucial element of school life. Mr. Edirisinghe used to guide little Rohana word for word, sentence by sentence, intending to polish Rohana to become the best at reciting poetry. He died prematurely from appendicitis when Rohana was in third grade. This came off as a tremendous blow to the young student who treasured his teacher very much. Rohana was described as a well-mannered young man who worked very hard. Be that as may, he was not spared of the cane of the Headmaster, Mr. V. D Paul Raj, for reasons he cannot recall. A life away from home had taught him a lot about being on his own, especially about being responsible and keeping away from wayward pursuits.

After graduating the fifth standard, Rohana was accepted to St. Thomas' College in Mount Lavinia in 1965, as St. Thomas Bandarawela only offered classrooms up to the fifth standard at the time. Three of the school's brightest pupils were sent to St. Thomas College in Mount Lavinia, while others were sent to St. Thomas College in Gurutalawa. Shrikaran, the son of the famed Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr. Shanmugalingam was also among the top three students together with Rohana. While Dr. Rohana would move on to become an obstetrician and gynaecologist, Shrikharan would also adorn the title of doctor and become a general surgeon.

Rohana worked hard in school to achieve his ambition of attending the University of Colombo. He considered himself blessed to study in Mt Lavinia under renowned professors like Mr. Arisen Ahubudhu, the greatest Sinhala master, Rev L. G. B. Fernando, and Mr. Errol Fernando. He has fond memories of Mr. Errol Fernando, the small-built, humble Chemistry Master. He taught the young boy how to learn without studying and transformed Chemistry, which was thought to be a tough topic to grasp, into an easy and pleasant subject. Dr. Rohana's early existence was shaped by this teacher's basic way of life and views.

Mr. Errol Fernando kept private tuition classes. But this was made free to the less privileged students. He instructed his students to give him the payment in envelopes. Students who found difficulty in paying would give an empty envelope. This prevented these students who had no means to pay from being identified. Dr. Rohana learned many valuable lessons in school, beyond the books and outside of his classrooms. He learned compassion and kindness in the form of his teachers.

The great teachers at St. Thomas were the ones who laid a solid foundation for Dr. Rohana's future, and guided and pushed him to achieve his goals. Dr. Rohana stayed in the place of boarding until the 8th grade and afterward became a day scholar. His father left his practice in Matara and came to Colombo for his children's education and settled in Mt Lavinia. Dr. Rohan would now walk to school which was about a kilometer from home. While in school, Dr. Rohana wasn't inclined to involve in sports, but he did spare time for cricket and swimming.



CHAPTER ONE LIFE BEFORE MEDICINE

Dr. Rohana was a child of every parent's dream - he knew his roles and played them well. He engaged in a life of studying and sacrifice from an incredibly early age. This young lad with a serious demeanour and high standards, would one day become a doctor that would make his younger self beam with pride.

His uphill academic journey would begin in 1971, with the completion of his Advanced Level exams. A year later his arduous work paid off when he got into the Medical Faculty of the University of Colombo. Expectations were high and excitement was in the air on the fateful day of the release of examination results. His passion to help people was his primary motivation to pursue his career in medicine. Seeing the results in black and white on the noticeboard, he breathed a sigh of relief as he looked forward to the next chapter in his life - the life of a medical undergraduate.



LIFE AS AN UNDERGRAD

CHAPTER TWO

CHAPTER TWO LIFE AS AN UNDERGRAD

"It was in medical school and its teachers that I learnt being a gentleman comes first, then being a doctor"

- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

University life teaches us lessons that no book can ever deliver and allows everyone to engage in trial and error to reach their maximum potential. Dr. Rohana entered the Medical Faculty of the University of Colombo with hopes and dreams. He came with the belief that with hard work, he can transform those dreams into reality. Embracing the university culture was no easy feat. Learning to navigate a life of demanding academics, seniors, and professors took time and effort. But after the first year, young Rohana had discovered a winning formula.

He lived in Mount Lavinia and travelled using public transport to and from the faculty. True to his nature Dr. Rohana continued his triumph through consistent efforts in academics at university as well. His lecturers supported him and stood by him during his university life. They helped him tackle many obstacles that lay in his path. He built a supportive circle of friends with ambitious people all heading towards the same goal of success.

The "body mates" during the "block dates" and the group mates during the clinical appointments were warm, friendly, and supportive. They helped one another so that everyone was able to succeed in a difficult training period. Together we can conquer but divided we will fall was their belief. The group mates included Dr. Saman Gunathilake who'd become a Professor of Medicine, Dr. Ajith Jayasekara - a physician, Dr. Omala Jinadasa who would become a Chief Vaccinologist, and Dr. Hemamali Hettiarachchi, a Consultant Pathologist in Australia. Mohan de Silva who later became a professor of Surgery and the Chairman of the University Grants Commission studied together with Dr. Rohana. He stayed with him at their house in Mount Lavinia when sitting for the 2nd MB examination.

As an undergraduate, he learned the basics of optimum patient care. During the family attachment programme of the curriculum, he was put in charge of a family in Kotte whom he had close ties with. during the undertaking and after. He remembers the father of the family asking him to buy a rubber land belonging to them for Rs.500/= per perch! How unfortunate he didn't!



CHAPTER TWO LIFE AS AN UNDERGRAD

From awareness programs to training sessions, he was committed to ensuring that they got something back. Dr. Rohana would go on for the rest of his life with the same "Patients come first" attitude.

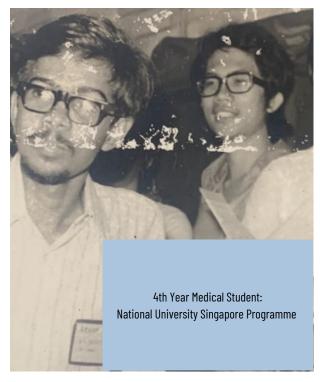
Dr. Rohana was fortunate to receive guidance and advice from great teachers in the medical faculty throughout his undergraduate career. This list included Prof Lester Jayasuriya, Late Prof Carlo Fonseka, Prof Colvin Gunaratne, Prof Bobby Dias, Prof Lalitha Mendis, Late Prof Nandadasa Kodagoda, Prof Rezvi Sheriff, Late Prof K. K Dharmadasa, Prof Sheriffdeen, Prof Geri Jayasekara, Prof Priyani Soysa, Prof Lamabadusuriya, Prof Naradha Warnasuriya, Late Prof Gunathilake, Late Prof Visvanathan, and Prof Nalaka Mendis to mention a few. He was inspired by all of them.

During the fourth year of medical school, Dr. Rohana was given the opportunity to go to the National University of Singapore for a program set for students of medicine. He submitted a winning essay to ensure his spot. Dr. Rohana revelled in the opportunity to go abroad. This was not commonplace for a medical student at the time. He went to Prof Lester Jayasuriya for his advice. He had told young Rohana, "Trust me, this will not be the only opportunity that you will get to go abroad, you will get many more opportunities later but do go if you have no financial difficulty" Dr. Rohana did leave for Singapore where he would have a fateful meeting. During this visit to Singapore as a medical student, Prof Ratnam was the head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department. This was the first time Dr. Rohana crossed paths with Prof Ratnam who would later go on to be a guiding force in Dr. Rohana's career.

Dr. Rohana believes: "Despite everything, learning to be a good doctor should be step one." He learned this as an undergraduate under the supervision of strict but disciplined consultants who expected nothing short of competence. The undergraduate in Rohana did not disappoint - he was prepared for his classes. He equipped himself with prime tools of knowledge and a will to learn. Nothing could hold this undergraduate back. As a medical student, Dr. Rohana understood the importance of being a human before being a doctor. In his words, "You've got to become a decent human first, then a clinician". As a medical student, they were words he lived by.

In 1978, the undergraduate journey of young Rohana would come to an end. He graduated in the Second-Class division in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. As he graduated, little did he know that the next chapter would be the beginning of trial and triumph in his life - life as a clinician.





CLINICIAN

CHAPTER THREE

CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN

"Do what you love doing. If you have the interest, then commit with all your effort and time - and success is assured."

- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

After graduating from medical school, prospective doctors serve a one-year internship, which allows them to learn the practice of medicine at its helm. As an intern, a newly minted doctor will also be a part of a ward team. Following graduation, Dr. Rohana began his internship in medicine under the supervision of late Professor Dharmadasa and Prof Rezvi Sheriff at the National Hospital of Colombo. Prof Dharmadasa was a very strict teacher. Dr. Rohana with two other house officers, Dr. Saman Gunathilake and Dr. Indrani Bhuran Amarasinghe had to work every day well into the night. They had to take histories of all the new ward admissions in exhausting detail just like during med student days.

Afterward, he worked as an intern medical officer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Castle Street Hospital for women. He did this under a very engaging and cheerful physician who was also his father's friend, Dr. Nalin Rodrigo. The internship was by no means an easy feat - it was filled with many exhausting days and sleepless nights, but as he does with everything, Dr. Rohana faced it with raw grit. It was during this time that Dr. Rohana identified his passion for Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medical Education, and Research. He believed that no matter what you do, you need to be invested in it with passion, with love for the profession of your choosing.

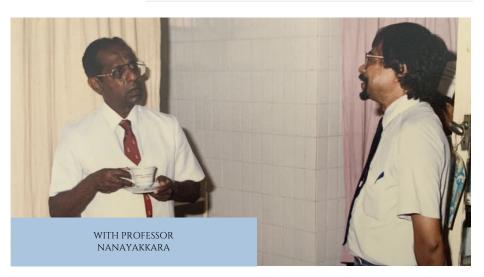


Castle Street Hospital for Women: Internship with other Interns & SHO For two years following his internship, Dr. Rohana worked as the Ja-Ela District Hospital's Medical Officer and at Weligama District Hospital as a Deputy District Medical Officer. The staff in the hospital had told him that the quarters in which he was residing once housed two great doctors, Director General of Health Services Dr. Malinga Fernando, and Prof Nandadasa Kodagoda. This instilled in Dr. Rohana a spark of courage and hope. In Weligama, he added gardens and created a shrine room in the hospital where a Buddha statue was placed by the then Minister of Health. This was him going out of his way, to make a difference with actions big and small.

During this time, his new-found passion for Obstetrics and gynaecology grew. Dr. Rohana completed the first part of his post-graduate exam at the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo, thus completing his integration into the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

On the advice of his batchmate, Hemantha Senanayake, Dr. Rohana applied for the prestigious registrar's post in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Colombo Faculty. Dr. Rohana was selected for the post. He was initially reluctant to accept the position given the professor's strict reputation. Dr. Rohana even wanted to exchange with Dr. Hemantha Perera but, alas, it was not allowed. But, this would pave the way for advancement in his career in the obstetrics and gynaecology department in the Colombo Faculty. Later he was fortunate to work under Prof S. H. P Nanayakkara who was a brilliant surgeon and a teacher. Dr. Rohana was able to master his surgical skills under the watchful guidance of Prof Nanayakkara. During this time, his new-found passion for Obstetrics and gynaecology grew. Dr. Rohana completed the first part of his post-graduate exam at the Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo, thus completing his integration into the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN

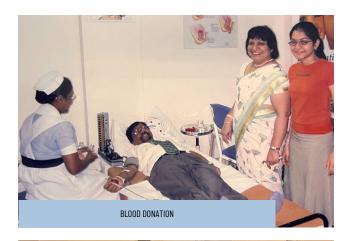


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Working as a registrar was very tough in the professorial unit but the silver lining was Dr. Upali Samarage who was his co-registrar. Dr. Samarage was someone who was there for his assistance at any moment. As Dr. Samarage lived closer to the hospital, there were instances when he was willing to take over looking after patients during occasions when Dr. Rohana needed to go home. This added ease and comfort to Dr. Rohana's work-life. When Dr. Rohana went to the UK for postgraduate training, Dr. Samarage gave him a signed open cheque with the green light to purchase whatever he wanted. Dr. Rohana had a lucky streak when it came to his colleagues when his schoolmate and colleague Dr. P.C. Gunasekara became his next co-registrar. Dr. Gunasekara was always ready with a listening ear and a helping hand.

In 1985, he embarked on a new career path as a lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Galle. Here he worked for about 11 to 12 years. This is where he once again crossed paths with Prof Asoka Gunasekara. Prof Asoka was a sincere friend from school who was serving as the head of the department at that point. Later on, Dr. Malik Gunawardena would go on to become the Prof and head of the department. Dr. Rohana passed the M.S. Part 2 examination with ease owing to the coaching of Dr. Malik. Dr. Rohana subsequently got the opportunity to be a lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo after being selected by Prof Visvanathan. Prof Asoka Gunasekara was gracious enough to relieve him without a replacement to ensure that Dr. Rohana would continue to climb in his career.

CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN







Following M.S. Part 2 and the completion of one-year training Prof Visvanathan found Dr. Rohana an appointment for training at Ninewells Hospital Dundee in Scotland while he was attached to the University of Colombo. This presented the opportunity to collaborate with veterans of the field such as Professor Peter Howie, Dr. Naren Patel, and Dr. Ian Duncan from the University of Dundee & Ninewells Hospital and update his knowledge and skills in foetal medicine and oncology. Dr. Naren Patel who later became a lord in the House of Commons groomed Dr. Rohana for the MRCOG examination which Dr. Rohana passed while in Sri Lanka. Lord Naren Patel made a point of seeing Dr. Rohana's parents in Colombo and Mrs. Haththotuwa's parents in the south when he visited Sri Lanka. Dr. Rohana recalls with delight the occasion Prof Nanayakkara and his wife came to his quarters at Ninewells for dinner with Dr. and Mrs Patel.

Life as a postgraduate was not easy. Dr. Rohana commented once about this, "Postgraduate training was quite taxing. We rarely had time off because we were on call the majority of the time, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. While in the UK I would go to work on Saturday and would find myself coming home only on Monday evening during the on-call weekends." He also mentioned that midwives and nurses also played a key role in his education and training and was able to get their advice on practical facets of medicine. Dr. Rohana had to return to Sri Lanka without staying over in the UK further as he had to look after his parents. Dr. John Mills, one of his Consultants, informed him as he was bidding goodbye to Ninewells, "Rohana, you are not just a doctor but an excellent ambassador to your nation."

Upon his return to Sri Lanka, Dr. Rohana was made Senior lecturer in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department and was engaged in teaching medical students as well as working as an Hon Consultant in the Professorial Obstetrics Unit at De Soysa Hospital for Women and in the Gynaecology ward in the General Hospital Colombo.

Dr. Rohana was successful in securing the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Colombo for 14 years. During this period, he engaged in teaching medical students as well as those in the wider multi-disciplinary team including nurses and midwives.

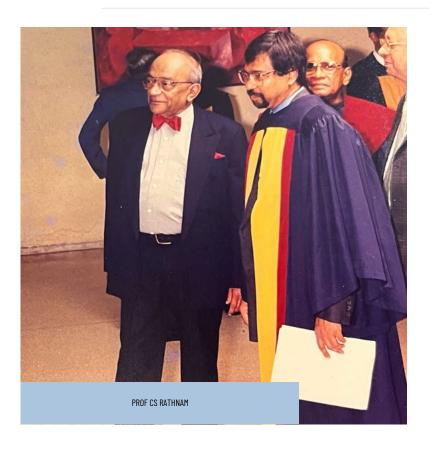
This got him involved in clinical training, organizing, and conducting examinations. He also welcomed the opportunity to participate in postgraduate training when he was named Secretary to the Board of Study in obstetrics and gynaecology at Sri Lanka's Post-Graduate Institute of Medicine. This allowed him to hone his talents in medical education while simultaneously teaching and assessing postgraduate students, which included planning teaching courses, creating examination papers, organizing, and administering exams, and serving as an examiner. He has also served as an examiner at Peradeniya, Ruhuna, and Colombo Universities.

Dr. Rohana was considered a tough but encouraging teacher. He expected his students to appreciate punctuality and discipline and to be presentable at all times. He also expected them to be respectful and truthful to those around them and to observe good manners. His prescribed code of conduct for students polished them into caring and compassionate doctors that prioritised patient care more than anything else. Dr. Rohana's teaching days can be traced back to when he was a medical student teaching his fellow batchmates. His knack for teaching was marked by an intense clarity about the subject content and immense love for the knowledge disseminated.

Dr. Rohana also worked as Hon. Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist following his post-graduate training at the De Soysa Hospital for women in Colombo and the General Hospital of Colombo. He was committed to his work, coming to the awards early in the morning and staying till late and answering any call within a short time. He stayed with critical patients until they were stable, and the registrars were left disgruntled wondering when Dr. Rohana would go. Dr. Rohana gave his all while working as a clinician. This is evidenced by the numerous anecdotes about him. One fateful rainy night, when there was a shortage of blood - Dr. Rohana found himself outside hailing passersby to donate blood for a woman who was having a postpartum haemorrhage. Days later when Dr. Rohana bumped into the husband of patient in a restaurant, he eagerly whipped out his wallet to show the startled Dr. Rohana all the donor slips that he had saved up in remembrance and gratitude. Dr. Rohana was the reason for countless lives touched and saved - and as a clinician, he did remarkably well. He also recalls having to run to the Cardiology Unit from Ward 39 in the General Hospital to bring down a cardiologist in an emergency.

Dr. Rohana was introduced to Prof. Shan Ratnam of the National University of Singapore, whom he had met before as a fourth-year medical student, in 1995. Meeting this legendary man was a turning point in Dr. Rohana's career. Prof Ratnam had asked Dr. Mututhamby who was a senior respected Obstetrician & Gynaecologist and the father-in-law of Prof Arul Kumaran to locate him a doctor who could help him with his sexual reassignment procedures in Sri Lanka.

CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN



Prof Ratnam was introduced to Dr. Rohana by Dr. Mututhamby. As a result, Dr. Rohana was given the chance to collaborate with Prof. Ratnam and learn new surgical techniques and hone his expertise in the field. Professor Rathnam was admired by Dr. Rohana for his temperament. Despite being a senior official, Professor Rathnam never failed to communicate pleasantly, treating everyone around him with welcoming warmth. Dr. Rohana had the pleasure of working with this outstanding personality who left an imprint on the doctor in the years to come. This also cleared the route for Dr. Rohana to undertake an attachment at the National University of Singapore's Department of Obstetrics and gynaecology when Prof Ratnam offered him the opportunity. During his attachment, he was able to expand his understanding of infertility and US scanning by collaborating with Prof Ratnam, Prof S.C Ng, and Prof Ananda Kumar, who were all pioneers in ART and US scanning.

CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN

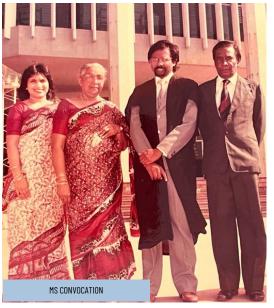
In subsequent years, Dr. Rohana collaborated with Prof Arulkumaran who became Dr. Rohana's teacher, advisor, guide, mentor, friend, and brother. Prof Arulkumaran was at the center of the ensuing achievements and successes of Dr. Rohana. For this Dr. Rohana's eternal gratitude is to Prof Arulkumaran. In Singapore, Dr. Rohana and his wife stayed in Prof. Ratnam's house. Prof Ratnam has treated them as family. While in Singapore Dr. Rohana's father-in-law passed away. Prof Ratnam hearing this news has at once bought him a ticket and had asked him to go to the funeral and come. Such was the kindness of the professor. Soon Prof Ratnam's home became a second home to Dr. Rohana. He would stay there during his visits in Singapore with his wife.

Dr. Rohana felt the need for establishing IVF in Sri Lanka. Subfertile women were losing out on the opportunity of having a baby of their own since IVF was not available in Sri Lanka. With the training he received internationally including in Singapore in this field, he was motivated and enthusiastic about offering IVF to treat subfertile couples in Sri Lanka given that he was mindful of its potential.

Dr. Chandrika Wijeratne who was a Senior Lecturer in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department invited Dr. Rohana to establish an IVF Centre alongside Prof Harsha Seneviratne, Late Dr. P. Dissanayake and Late Mr. Mahanama Dodampegama. He accepted the invitation with joy and Vindana reproductive health centre was established. In the year 2000, he resigned from his academic position at the university owing to the time commitment required. With the assistance of world-renowned Embryologist Prof Ariff Bongso and Prof C Ananda Kumar of the National University of Singapore, IVF was commenced at Vindana and to everyone's satisfaction 33% success was achieved from the 1st cycle itself.

The novelty of IVF was met with resistance in Sri Lanka against the plethora of myths and misconceptions. The misbelief that the baby was grown in a test tube was firm in the minds of people attributing to the misnomer "test tube babies". Dr. Rohana together with a team of committed individuals took on the mantle of educating the public on IVF. He believed in doing his part as a responsible citizen. He did this by clearing the many fallacies surrounding it through several educational programs, TV interviews, and newspaper articles. Since then, Dr. Rohana has had the privilege to witness the growing acceptance of IVF therapy throughout the years and the advantage it brings to couples otherwise left desperate and destitute.





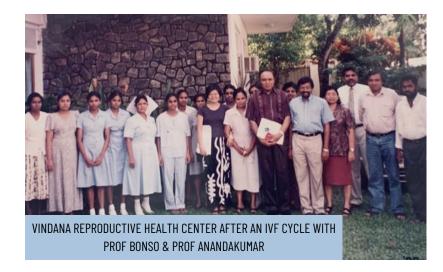
CHAPTER THREE LIFE AS A CLINICIAN

Following 'Vindana,' Dr. Rohana identified the lack of a specialized private hospital dedicated to the care of women and children. The absence of a neonatal intensive care unit to take care of premature babies was a source of worry for Dr. Rohana. Dr. Rohana has witnessed the loss of many premature babies who could have otherwise been saved if not for this gap in care.

To address this, he moved out of Vindana to his next venture. This was alongside his wife Chandrika and Son Lassal. With their determination and commitment, they converted a marshy land in Kirimandala Mawatha, Colombo 5 from the Board of Investment into a state-of-the-art women's and Children's Hospital in no time. Dr. Rohana appreciated the untiring efforts of his wife in this venture and the assistance received from, relations, friends, well-wishers, and the banking institutions to reach his vision. The hospital was named. 'Ninewells Care Mother and Baby Hospital' as a remembrance of the hospital Dr. Rohana had his postgraduate training in Scotland. In keeping with the acronym CARE, a center for Assisted Reproduction and Endocrinology was established in the hospital with the state of the art facilities to provide almost all the assisted reproductive techniques available elsewhere.

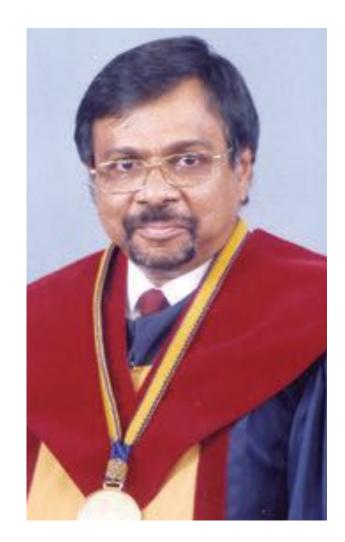
Soon, the hospital was unable to meet the demand, so Dr. Rohana and his wife embarked on the second phase of the project, adding more facilities that had previously been lacking, such as a well-equipped Neonatal intensive care unit, adult ICU, state-of-the-art operating theatres, and labor rooms where the companion could be with the mother during labor and delivery. As a result, this hospital improved the quality of care provided to Sri Lankan patients and was able to introduce services that were previously unavailable to Sri Lankan patients. This prompted all private-sector hospitals to raise their standards in order to compete. The hospital currently manages around 400 births per month at Ninewells.

From its inception, Ninewells was envisioned to be a hospital that inculcated ambitious standards for its values of patient care. Ninewells flourished under the care of the founder directors, Mr. Lasal Haththotuwa and Mrs. Chandrika Haththotuwa who also served as the managing director and the founder chairman, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa. Dr. Rohana in his lifetime has never limited himself to one compartment but has always branched out. And this is how he got to opening chapters of his life - A life in the national arena.



NATIONAL ARENA

CHAPTER FOUR



CHAPTER FOUR IN THE NATIONAL ARENA

"We need more people to bring development into the country. Find the gaps and help bridge them - that is the way forward."

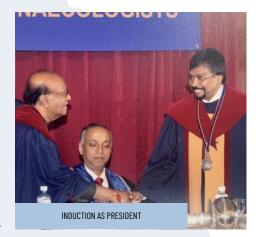
- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

Dr. Rohana Hatthotuwa is a household name in the field of gynaecology and obstetrics for his immense contribution to the enhancement of women's reproductive health and the empowerment of the stakeholders of the services: women. He was fated to become a doctor, a trailblazer given his extraordinary ability to conceptualize a vision and his endless commitment to translating that vision into reality. When it came to the national arena of gynaecology and obstetrics, the service rendered by Dr. Rohana was nothing short of awe-inspiring. Working at the grass root level to formulate national guidelines and protocols, this doctor made his mark.

Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and gynaecologists is known to be the apex body in the provision of maternity services, improvement of adolescent health, and post-reproductive health of women in Sri Lanka. As a professional body, it is committed to the training of the workforce to ensure that patients receive optimum care of competence and compassion. Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa joined the Council of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists in 1990 as Deputy Secretary and then was appointed as Secretary for 12

years fondly remembered as the longest-standing secretary at the time. Subsequently, he served as President of the Society in 2008. As he climbed the ladder, SLCOG grew under his tenure to encompass a spectrum of initiatives that would go on to contribute to the continued improvement of maternal health in Sri Lanka. To say that Dr. Rohana contributed in paramount service during his many years in the Council would be a massive understatement.

A partogram is currently an indispensable tool in the management of labour in Sri Lanka, however, this was not the case 40 years ago. Dr. Rohana's thesis was on the partogram. This made him question why the partogram cannot be introduced to Sri Lanka. After all, it is not a tool that would sponge up resources. In time, he was instrumental in bringing the partogram to Sri Lanka. This monitoring chart that is no more than a piece of paper has made labour infinitely simple to manage.





CHAPTER FOUR IN THE NATIONAL ARENA





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One evening Dr. Rohana received a call from Dr. Nalin Rodrigo, his previous boss, and Dr. W.H. Fernando, Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, requesting him to join the SLCOG Council as the Deputy Secretary. This offer came as an unexpected surprise, so he replied saying that he will ask his Head of the Department Prof Nanayakkara, and respond. Prof Nanayakkara readily permitted Dr. Rohana's request, and he became the Deputy Secretary in the Council presided by Late Dr. S.P. Kularatne in 1989. Then in the following term in 1991, the most senior and respected Obstetrician in the country, Prof Wilfred Perera who had done much service to the SLCOG, asked Dr. Rohan to become the Secretary of his council. This, too, Dr. Rohana accepted and thereafter continued to serve as the Secretary for 12 long years, as per the wish of the President and the membership. He served as Secretary in the councils of Late Dr. Lakshman Fernando, Prof Harsha Seneviratne, Prof Mahasra Gunaratne, late Dr. Rohan Perera, and finally under Prof. W. I Amarasinghe. Thus, he is fondly remembered as the longest-standing secretary at the time. Thereafter he continued to serve in the council in various positions, and in 2008, he was inducted as the 21st President of the SLCOG in a ceremony where Prof Sir Arulkumaran was the Chief Guest. As he climbed the ladder, SLCOG grew under his tenure to encompass a spectrum of initiatives that would go on to contribute to the continued improvement of maternal health in Sri Lanka. To say that Dr. Rohana contributed to paramount service during his many years in the Council would be a massive understatement.

When asked about the SLCOG in those early days, he said the SLCOG office was only a single room in the Sri Lanka Medical Association building, but the Secretarial work was done by the Secretary of Past President Late Dr (Mrs) Siva Chinnatamby in her residence. The communications were difficult and were done by post, personal telephone calls, and paper advertisements.

The concept of Workshops was not familiar to the SLCOG. During President Prof Wilfred Perera's time, with the assistance of AOFOG Secretary General Prof Ratnam, training of the trainers' workshops was held by Prof Arulkumaran. Dr. Rohana was behind organizing these workshops as well as the workshops conducted to introduce CTG to the SLCOG members, and treatment of early cervical cancer. Furthermore, Dr. Rohana has been involved in organizing workshops on Safe Motherhood for doctors and other health workers in various parts of the country during his Presidency with the help of Dr. Hemantha Perera who was the academic committee chair. All of these have contributed tremendously to improving maternity services and reducing maternal deaths in Sri Lanka. Further, during His presidency, as Post-Partum haemorrhage had been a leading cause of maternal deaths, workshops were carried out on the management of Post-Partum haemorrhage in collaboration with the RCOG while Prof Arulkumaran was the President Of RCOG. Also, to address the issue of maternal deaths due to unsafe abortions, programs were carried out on how to avoid such deaths.

During Dr. Marlene Abeywardhana's Presidency, the SLCOG, with the assistance of Dr. Kapila Gunawardena, obtained land to construct an office building. Dr. Rohana has served as a member of the Building Committee and later gone on to become the chairman of the Building Committee of SLCOG. Dr. Rohana was associated with planning, collecting funds, and finding material for the project. The hard work done by the Presidents Dr. Lakshman Senanayake, Dr. Hemantha Perera, Dr. Ananda Ranatunge, and Prof Hemantha Senanayake, with the assistance of the membership and well-wishers, enabled us to complete this excellent building finally amidst numerous hardships. Today the SLCOG building stands tall in all its pride with office rooms, board room, an auditorium with amenities that can house up to 170 personnel, an air-conditioned dining area, parking for over thirty vehicles, and most importantly a fully functioning skills lab.

During the post-conflict days in Sri Lanka in 2009, Dr. Rohana was appointed by the Secretary of Health as the Chairman of the SLCOG Task Force for Maternity care for Internally Displaced Persons. Dr. Rohana, with the other members of the committee which included Dr. Hemantha Perera, Dr. Kapila Gunawardena, Dr. Sarda Hema Priya, Dr. Kanishka Karunaratne, Dr. Sarath Amarasekara, and many more, with the help of the doctors in the north looked into the maternity care of the internally displaced women in the camps in Chettikulam. They also supervised and assisted in developing the operating theatre and labor room in the Chettikulam hospital which served these displaced women. To attend to these the team travelled to Chettikulam frequently starting early morning and returning in the early morning of the following day.

CHAPTER FOUR IN THE NATIONAL ARENA





CHAPTER FOUR IN THE NATIONAL ARENA

Dr. Rohana was an initiator and a key player in getting the PPIUD (Post-Partum) IUD Project with the assistance of Prof Arulkumaran who was the Chair of the FIGO PPIUD project. One night returning to Ninewells Hospital after dinner he gave a call to the anonymous donors of the project and convinced them to start the project from Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was selected out of the 135 FIGO member countries to commence the project and introduce PPIUD to Sri Lanka. Dr. Rohana helped in starting the project and continuing the project by overcoming many problems which were faced during the implementation of the project with the assistance of many SLCOG officers and health ministry officials. Now PPIUD has been included in the national list of Family Planning methods, and, furthermore, the project has brought about much money to the country and SLCOG.

Dr. Rohana could get the cooperation of other organizations. He has been responsible for organizing the first-ever congress in association with FIGO. It was mostly due to the efforts and his relationship with officers of other organizations that it was possible to get FIGO, RCOG, AOFOG, RANZCOG & SAFOG to participate in the SLCOG Golden Jubilee congress, and thereby making the congress a fitting success for the Golden jubilee celebrations. He has also been the primary mover in getting the first ever joint conference with FIGO and SAFOG and the SLCOG in 2014.

Moreover, due to Dr. Rohana's relationships with Prof Jack Sciarrah, Past President FIGO allowed the possibility to have the participation of the American College of Obstetrics and gynaecology (ACOG) in a SLCOG congress for the first time in the history of SLCOG. This paved the way to develop a relationship between ACOG & SLCOG.

Dr. Rohana was the promoter and the facilitator of the PPIUD project in Sri Lanka. It was at Dr. Rohana's request Prof Sir Arulkumaran, one day after dinner while in Ninewells hospital phoned the anonymous donor and FIGO and requested to start the FIGO Postpartum IUD (PPIUD) from Sri Lanka. FIGO selected Sri Lanka out of the 135 countries of FIGO. Dr. Rohana played a major role in getting the project started and moving it forward with the help of some senior officers of SLCOG and the Family health bureau, overcoming the numerous obstacles which had to be faced. Now the PPIUD has been introduced to the National Family planning methods also the country and SLCOG received many funds for this project.

Everyone agrees that Dr. Rohana played a significant role in the progression of SLCOG from its humble beginnings to this day. Dr. Rohana as such was a key player in substantiating efforts to advance maternal well-being and care. But he did not limit himself to the local scene of Sri Lanka, he extended his expertise and experience to the world which opened more pages in the subsequent chapters of his life – A life in the international arena.



INTERNATIONAL ARENA

CHAPTER FIVE

CHAPTER FIVE In the international arena

"The world is moving fast, improving rapidly. We need to keep up. We've got a lot to learn and to a lot to give back"

- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa was involved in the forming of yet another Federation. In 2010 he established the South Asian Federation of Menopause Societies, SAFOMS for short. It was the brainchild of late Dr. Beheram Ankalsaria from India, who approached Dr. Rohana and requested him to pioneer the organization. Dr. Rohana then collaborated with the members of the Menopause Societies of South Asian countries, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. With the help of Dr. M.D.P. Gunaratne, he prepared the constitution and organized the first meeting in Sri Lanka to establish the South Asian Federation of Menopause Societies. There everyone unanimously agreed and signed the constitution, and thus SAFOMS was born.

Dr. Rohana with the assistance of the members of the Sri Lanka Menopause Society organized the inaugural SAFOMS conference in Sri Lanka in 2010. He plays an enormous role in the federation, serving as the Founder Secretary-General from 2010 - 2015, bringing up SAFOMS in its early stages. Then he continued to serve as Treasurer from 2015 - 2017, and Vice President from 2017 - 2019. Then, in 2019, he was unanimously voted in as the president Elect and was finally inducted as President in 2021 amid the Covid outbreak.

He was also involved with the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO) for a total of six years from 2012-2018. He was invited to be a member of the FIGO Menstrual disorders Working Group in 2012 by its Chairman, late Prof Ian Fraser, and for three years after that, he served as a member of the FIGO Menstrual Disorders Committee (MDC) till 2015.

In 2015, the President of FIGO and a dear friend of Dr Rohana, Prof C.N. Purandare appointed him as the Chairman of the MDC. He held this post for the next three years. During his time at FIGO, he was involved with cultural issues on menstrual disorders and Investigations of abnormal uterine bleeding in rural areas & with the FIGO-AUB Classification Systems 1 and 2. As the Chairman, he held workshops on developing sub-classification of Adenomyosis. He was also a member of the team of the FIGO that revised the PALM-COEIN classification in 2018.





He also served as the track leader in the General Gynaecology stream in the Scientific Programme Committee of the XXII FIGO Congress in Rio in 2017 where he oversaw organising sessions related to this topic. Due to his involvement with the AOFOG as secretary general, Dr Rohana had to pass on his role as Chairman of the MDC in FIGO.

Dr. Rohana has an important presence in the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE). and has been the Sri Lankan representative of ASPIRE from 2014 to 2021. ASPIRE is a task force composed of clinicians and scientists who are dedicated to promoting awareness concerning subfertility and assisted reproductive technology and improving the services related to subfertility in the Asia Pacific region.

The Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG) was founded in 1954. The organisation aims to not only promote the science and art of obstetrics and gynaecology but to also promote total health care in females throughout life. The AOFOG comprises the obstetrics and gynaecology societies of twenty-eight countries in Asia and Oceania including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka. At the AOFOG congress in Hong Kong in 2017, he was unanimously elected to the most prestigious and responsible post of Secretary General. He became the third Secretary general he joined ranks with the great Prof S Ratnam of Singapore who was secretary General for 21 years and then Prof W.W. Sumpaico of the Philippines who held the post for 17 years. With Dr Haththotuwa becoming the Secretary General of AOFOG, the Secretariat was shifted to Sri Lanka and is now situated at the SLCOG house and was declared opened by Prof Sir Arulkumaran.

Dr Rohana was one of the first beneficiaries of the AOFOG Young Gynaecologist award when the awards commenced in 1991 at the 13th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Thailand. Dr Hemantha Perera and Dr Ananda Ranatunga were the other two young gynaecologists who received the award with Dr Rohana.

This unfolded many career opportunities for Dr. Rohana and opened the gates for his international collaborations. The very next year he was invited to the Annual congress in Surat India by Prof. Pankaj Desai with whom he made friends in Thailand as he was also a YGA recipient from India. Dr. Pratap Kumar and Dr. P K Shah and the other two who were the YGA recipients from India also became lifelong friends of Dr. Rohana. Since then, Dr. Rohana has been an avid traveler in and out of the region attending various scientific activities and maintaining the Sri Lankan identity at various forums.







CHAPTER FIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA



His involvement with the AOFOG started in the 1990s as a member representing SLCOG in the AOFOG council in the 1990s Then in 2006, the late Dr. D. K. Tank elected him as the Chair of the Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Committee, a post he held for three terms till 2011. As Chairman of the Committee, he organized workshops on managing infertility and preventing unsafe abortions in various countries. Along with Dr. Jaydeep Tank, his committee formulated the consensus statement on "Preventing Unsafe Abortions in the Asia Oceania region", which was adopted as the Tokyo declaration in AOCOG 2007 in Tokyo Japan.

He co-edited "Preventing Unsafe Abortions," by the AOFOG REI (Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility) committee which was released at the 2009 AOFOG conference in Auckland, New Zealand. In 2011 Dr. Rohana became a member of the AOFOG Exec Board as Deputy Secretary General and after that, in 2013 he was appointed as the treasurer, a post he held till 2017 when he was appointed as Secretary General.

Adding to his roles in the international arena, Dr. Rohana was engaged with the South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and gynaecology (SAFOG) and its genesis, previously called "Federation of Obstetrics and gynaecology Societies of the South Asian Region" (FOGSAR). Dr. Rohana has been involved in SAFOG from its very inception. As the secretary of SLCOG, Dr. Rohana was requested by the then President of SLCOG to invite members from the South Asian countries to participate in a meeting to form the federation.

CHAPTER FIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

At the invitation of Prof Rashid Latiff Khan whom he had met in Singapore during a workshop, President of FOGSI - The Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India: Dr. Kamal Bakshi and Secretary General of FOGSI Dr. D.K. Tank, and Prof Shrish Sheth from India participated in this initial meeting at late Dr. Lakshman Fernando's residence to form SAFOG. During this visit, Dr. Rohana who was the Secretary of SLCOG was asked to look after Dr. Tank as he was the Secretary General of FOGSI & Mrs. Tank at his residence. This was another golden opportunity for Dr. Rohana and his family as they developed a lifelong relationship between the two families like relatives. The relationship and bonding are continuing with Dr. Tank's children Jaydeep, Parikshit, Nivedita, and their families. Dr. Rohana remembers with gratitude Dr. Tank promoting him to start his hospital at a time when doctors in Sri Lanka did not own hospitals unlike in India. Dr. Tank was the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of the Ninewells hospital where the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest.

Dr. Rohana was appointed as Founder Secretary of SAFOG under the Founder President Prof Rashid Latiff Khan and continued to serve as Secretary General for 10 years under the Presidents, Prof. T. A. Chowdhury, late Dr. Lakshman Fernando, Late Dr. D.K. Tank, and Dr. Sudha Sharma. As Secretary General, Dr. Rohana was responsible to move SAFOG forward. He has also been associated with the preparation of the initial constitution. Thereafter, he served in the council in various positions such as treasurer, director, and in International relationships. In 2019 he was unanimously elected as the President-elect and in 2021 was installed as President.

As President Dr. Rohana has been able to bring international organizations and their resources into South Asian health, revitalizing our healthcare.

Dr. Sanjay Gupte, Secretary General of the World Gestoses Organization, invited Dr. Rohana to join the organization. Subsequently, Dr. Rohana was elected as the President. Dr. Rohana coordinated the formation of yet another organization, the Asia Pacific Society of Infections in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 2010 along with Prof W. W. Sumpaico and Dr. Kurian Joseph.

In recognition of his contributions to women's health, Dr. Rohana has received several honors, including the Fellowship of the Indian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Award by Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of Bangladesh and Fellowship from Mumbai Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society.



COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE VACCINATION IN SOUTHASIA



PHILANTHROPIST

CHAPTER SIX

CHAPTER SIX LIFE AS A PHILANTHROPIST

"As a Buddhist I believe in being humble and respectful, associating oneself with right-minded people, being a helpful person and leading a frugal lifestyle. My moral and religious beliefs go hand in hand and lead me toward the right path during challenging times.

- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

In addition to his countless medical contributions on a national and international level, Dr. Rohana also extended his philanthropy to the underprivileged of Sri Lanka. Being a product of the educational system of Sri Lanka and knowing the importance of education he generously provided essentials for children without an education, donated relief material after the devastating tsunami of 2004, and assisted his staff at Ninewells Hospital with financial, medical, social, and educational aid. As a Buddhist, he contributed abundantly towards religious monuments like the construction of four entrance gates at the largest Buddhist temple, Jethawanaramaya Stupa, and the reconstruction of the Shrine room. He has also helped construct and renovate multiple Buddhist temples in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Rohana's relentless dedication to helping people in need stems from his Buddhist principles. A notable contribution by Dr. Rohana was the establishment of a retreat center (Kuti) for the forest monks in his ancestral estate in Akuressa. Beginning in 2019, this has been a home and refuge to many monks who have been expressive in their gratitude for the warmth and welcome of the Haththotuwa family.

"The family are joyous in their generosity. They are supposedly retired – their hospital in Colombo have been purchased from them – but the loss of that has enabled Mr. (Haththotuwa) to take up the role of Secretary General of the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. They had just returned from a conference in the Philippines which was attended by 4000 delegates. Mrs used to be the managing director of the hospital but now she is seemingly full-time on the Dhamma support circuit – they know her everywhere – at the Jetavana, at the Ratnamali, the gates are opened for us and we are met with welcoming smiles in no small part due to the vipaka-kamma of the maha-upasika's generosity"

-An excerpt from "*Copper Isle Mines*" by *Ajahn Amaro*, a photo-journal record about a pilgrimage made in Sri Lanka



CHAPTER SIX LIFE AS A PHILANTHROPIST

සුවසේ වහණදුව් පිරීවට වෙහි ඇති පරිසර හිතකාවී බව හා ඉන් ලැබෙන නිරාවිස සුවය අති වහත්ය. "සදා පුඤ්ඤ_ී පවඩ්ඩති" පින්වත් දොස්තර වහත්වාටත් ඔබ තුවියටත් තුනුරුවන්ගේව සරණ යි - A message of gratitude

Dr. Rohana has been forthcoming in extending assistance to take care of the personal and health needs of many senior monks including Late Most Venerable Nauyana Ariyadhamma Thero

"As a Buddhist, I believe in being humble and respectful, associating oneself with right-minded people, being a helpful person, and leading a frugal lifestyle. My moral and religious beliefs go hand in hand and lead me toward the right path during challenging times." – Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa





LIFE AS A HUMAN CHAPTER SEVEN

CHAPTER SEVEN LIFE AS A HUMAN

"I am lucky to have been a part of a supportive family. In the past and my present.

- Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

We all know Dr. Rohana was a generous humanitarian who enriched both the medical and social aspects of Sri Lanka. But who is the person behind the name Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa and how did this person become who he is today?

He was brought up by two extremely hardworking parents, who considered an enriched education to be the best possible gift for their children. His jovial personality would make people gravitate toward him. He would also always lend a helping hand to his community in Akuressa, a characteristic that no doubt was passed down to his son. He had an easygoing temperament in stark contrast to Dr. Rohana's mother, who had a rather strict approach to parenting. His mother donned many hats. She was a landed proprietor and plant enthusiast looking after estates. She was also Dr. Rohana's biggest supporter. She taught him skills that at the time were not taught to little boys, like cooking, sewing, gardening, and more. She exposed him to the realities of the world without sugarcoating the bad parts. With her strong lead, he had a childhood that set up the platform to become the man he is today.

Dr. Rohana's life changed for the better when he met the lady who would aid him in carrying out his life's work and vision, his wife, Chandrika. Mrs. Chandrika has always been ardent and tenacious in her pursuit of goals. She has a diploma in business and marketing, and she would go on to facilitate Dr. Rohana's pursuits while also pursuing her passions. She was an equal who was committed as a mother to their children, a wife to her husband, and a philanthropist to her core. She worked tirelessly to ensure and augment the success of her family and its feats.

Dr Rohana often comments about the freedom with which he pursued his goals because of the assured support from his wife. And while Dr. Rohana is remembered by his colleagues, Mrs. Chandrika also carved a special place in the minds of those she met.





Dr. Rohana has been a pillar of support to his wife as well as encouraging her and lending his strength to her as and when needed. Together, they formed the ultimate power couple.

Dr. Rohana is the proud father of his son and daughter.

His son is Lasal Haththotuwa who has always shown a keen eye and an adept mind for the field of business completing his education at the University of Adelaide, Australia. Being the founder director of Ninewells, he was an integral part of the furthering of the hospital's mission and vision. He currently conducts an aged care facility in Havelock Gardens going by the name of "Windsor Garden" which is committed to delivering a comfortable and positive life as a distinct reality instead of a distant dream to its residents. He is also the mind behind the book "Amma" which is focused on maternal and child health.

Dr. Rohana's youngest – Dr. Randula Haththotuwa followed in her father's footsteps and assumed a career in medicine completing her degree at the University of Birmingham. She is currently a General Practitioner in the United Kingdom. His children, reflect the values of Dr. Rohana in building the world to be a better place with the promise of compassion and care.









Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa's life has been nothing short of an account of milestones sequencing themselves one after another. He has brought honour to our motherland — Sri Lanka through a journey towards the enhancement of maternal healthcare. He was an honest and true doctor but also a kind and warm human being. He has invested years of effort into perfecting the art of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Today his effort has been transformed into tangible products that aid and assist in the delivery of the best care for patients. Undeterred and unwavering, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa's life is a summary of Leaps of a Legacy.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

 $\left(01\right)$

YOUNG GYNAECOLOGIST'S AWARD

13th Asian and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Thailand on February 1991

(02)

GLOBAL WOMAN'S HEALTH AWARD

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of Bangladesh awarded this to Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa in 2019 in recognition of his service

03

AOFOG SCHOLARSHIP

On Reproductive Health on the August 2003. Worked under Prof S.Y. Moon in the Seoul National University Fertility Centre Korea for two weeks. Also visited other IVF centres in Seoul

 $\left(04\right)$

HONOURARY FELLOWSHIP

Awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Indian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 2009

 $\left(05\right)$

MOGS FELLOWSHIP

The Mumbai Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society awarded this for his lifelong commitment and yeoman service rendered for women's health

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Sri Lanka Medical Association

SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS

SRI LANKA CANCER SOCIETY

MENOPAUSE SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The Independent Medical Practitioners Association of Sri Lanka

Androgen Excess and PCOS Society

SOUTH ASIAN FEDERATION OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

The Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

SOUTH ASIAN FEDERATION OF MENOPAUSE SOCIETIES

International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

ASIA PACIFIC INITIATIVE IN REPRODUCTION (ASPIRE)

WORLD GESTOSES ORGANIZATION

National University of Singapore



In the lab



With Prof SC Ng

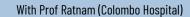


At the art course, with Prof Bongso

Mentors



With Prof Arulkumaran





With Prof Ratnam

Days at Ninewells Dundee

A lifetime of generosity



With colleagues and nurses at Ninewells Dundee



With Dr Ian Duncan, Dr Mary Crowder and other Doctors



With Dr Naren Patel & wife, and Prof Nanayakkara & wife







SAFOG Events





AOFOG Events

















In the media

BOI approves new fertility clinic

Lankan born world famous specialist Prof. Bongso among promoters



A MOTHER AND BABY CARE HOSPITAL BY NINEWELLS CARE

Ninewells Care mother and Baby Hospital was recently declared open by the Hon. Prime minister Mahinda Rajapakse. Picture shows Mr. Chandrika Haththotuwa MD of the hospital lighting the traditional oil lamp. Closely watched by Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa chairman at the Hospital. Also present at the many was Hon. Minister of Health Nimal Siripala

With Dr. Tank, President of SAFOG



gives hope & happines childless-couples

ntre for those yearning for that bundle of joy



HOME NEWS



rime Minister Mahiada Rajapakse and Ministers Anura Bandaranaike and Nimal Siripala de Silva in con-teial mood at yesterday's opening of NINEWELLS CARE - Mother and Baby Hospital (Pot) Ltd., at arabenpita. (Pic. by Siripala Halwala)



With the RCOG president

Exclusive 'mother and child care' at Ninewells completes one year

pher to considerably reputation had grown considerably after importantly not through advertisement but standards maintained which widered its reputation and growing popularity He said.

the crelibility and transparency of Hathbutwa.

the crelibility and transparency of Hathbutwa.

Hospital staff were on call and despital staff were on call and despitations.

Nurses' graduation



The Opening Ceremony - 31st July 2004

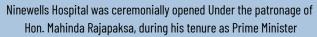


















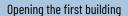
Ninewells Hospital

A Premier Hospital for Women and Children



Signing the BOI agreement







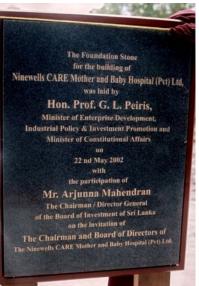
Foundation - second phase





Laying the foundation - 22nd May 2002





Ninewells Hospital

A look inside the facility

























A look inside the facility















Ninewells Hospital

Building the new wing







Laying the foundation





Opening the new wing







A look at the second wing











The Menopause Society of Sri Lanka Council of 2008/2009





With Prof. Carlo Fonseka

Menopause Society of Sri Lanka -

Menopause Society Workshop

Chettikulam Hospital Reconstruction of labour room and operating theatre



A key player in the national arena: Dr Haththotuwa



During construction



Sir Arulkumaran **Felicitation Ceremony**









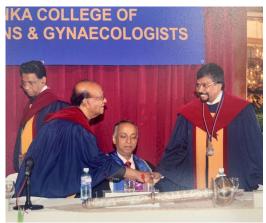
SLCOG - AOFOG INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN 1997

Sir Arulkumaran's felicitation ceremony as the first Sri Lankan president of RCOG

SLCOG

Induction as President

- 2008











SLCOG - Golden Jubilee





SLCOG

Events

Sri Lanka Night (below) Congress (right)



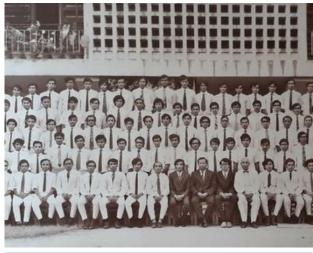
SLCOG - PPIUD with Prof Arulkumaran



National Business Excellence Awards - 2008 for NineWells



Faculty Fellowships



Batch photograph - 1973

With groupmates



Batch of '73 felicitation



Donation by the batch to the faculty





With Dr Ravichandran



With Dr and Mrs DK Tank



Presentation of inaugural copy of SLJOM at Menopause society of Sri Lanka by Prof Sanath Lanerolle

Notable Encounters



With Founder President of SAFOG



With Mr Errol Fernando, teacher, and friends



With High Priests of Amarawathi and Ruwanweliseya



With Hon. Chandrika Kumaranathunga



With Hon Mahinda Rajapakse at SLCOG Golden Jubilee



With Hon Anura Bandaranaika



With AOFOG President Prof Ratna Samil



With Prof Y.S Chang & Prof Sumpaico Secretary General



BIRTH of SAFOMS SAFOMS: Signatories in Inaugural Meeting 2010 Colombo



SAFOMS Council Meeting in Karachchi



Sri Lanka Menopause Society Congress in 2011



Secretariat of Asia-Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology shifts to Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 2008-2009

A Final Thanks



Our parents who gave guidance throughout their life



Mr. D.N. Edirisinghe Vice Head Master, St. Thomas Prep Bandarawela



Mr. Errol Fernando - Chemistry master of St. Thomas Mt. Lavinia



Prof. S. S. Ratnam



Prof. Sir Arulkumaran



Dr. J. N. Rodrigo – Past Patron & Past President of SLCOG



Prof. S. H. P. Nanayakkara – Prof of 0 & G Past Patron & President SLCOG



Lord Naren Patel



Dr. N. T. Kurukulasuriya



Prof. Ariff Bongso & Dr. Anandakumar



Dr. D. K. Tank and Mrs. Nalani Tank



Dr. Jaydeep Tank



Dr. Ravi Chandran



Prof. Harsha Seneviratne



Prof. Malik Goonewardena and Dr. Upali Samarage



Wife, Mrs Chandrika Haththotuwa

"Lord Buddha once proclaimed, "It's not just half but everything in life depends on "Kalyani Mithrayo" (Sincere Friends). True to this saying, everything that has been possible in my life is attributable to the true friends I've made in each and every stage of my life"

Dr Rohana Haththotuwa

"If you want to pursue anything in life, do it with passion. Do it with love for what you are pursuing. You keep at it for as long as it takes. Practice this and you will always find yourself opening doors to opportunities!" - Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa