



Colombo North Centre for Liver Diseases

# Newsletter

2025

Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya - Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama



## Redefining liver care with innovation and compassion

### *The story behind the frame*

A living-donor liver transplant of a 5 month old baby is underway in a state-of-the-art operating theatre, where expertise, precision, and teamwork define every moment. From the break of dawn to the long past sun set every minute counts towards a single purpose. As the evening sky fades beyond the theatre windows, a new life is gently placed into waiting hands. Dedication becomes hope, and hope becomes a new liver, giving a second chance at life.

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# M.H. Omar liver care facility completes the first successful calender year of service since its establishment



Colombo North Centre For Liver Diseases (CNCLD) is the leading multispeciality liver centre in Sri Lanka which provides services for both adults and children, with complex liver diseases. CNCLD is affiliated to the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya and Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama.

M. H. Omar Liver Care Facility is the most recently installed state-of-the art infrastructure of the CNCLD, while its biggest strength is the expert multidisciplinary team.

The services of CNCLD includes clinical care, teaching and research.

CNCLD is the premier liver transplant centre, which has produced the highest number of adult liver transplants in Sri Lanka (deceased donor and living donor). Further, it is the only centre which offers a paediatric liver transplant program to the country (mostly living donors ; a total of 40 paediatric liver transplants performed by December 2025).

In addition to lifesaving liver transplants and critical care, the other services of CNCLD include specialised hepato-pancreatico-biliary (HPB) surgical service, interventional radiology procedures including microwave ablation for liver cancers and the hepatology service for adults and children. Multi-disciplinary Team meetings for liver cancers is a demanding healthcare provision at CNCLD, receiving islandwide referrals.



Liver resection surgery in progress



Outpatient service

The clinical services, teaching and research activities of CNCLD progressed remarkably over the last year with the upliftment of the well equipped up to date infrastructure at the M. H. Omar Liver Care Facility. This was officially declared open in February 2024 and progressed to commence its services in May 2024.

The last year - 2025 had been the first full calendar year for the newly launched M. H. Omar liver care facility - Colombo North Centre For Liver Diseases to achieve its full potential.



Microwave ablation for a liver cancer



Multidisciplinary team meeting for liver cancer



Paediatric hepatology clinic



Adult hepatology clinic



Anaesthetising a 5-month-old infant for liver transplant



Pre-operative anaesthesia assessment and optimization clinic

# In remembrance of Mr. M.H. Omar



Mr. M. H. Omar stands as a visionary philanthropist whose extraordinary generosity laid the foundation for a specialized liver care facility attached to the Colombo North Centre for Liver Diseases (CNCLD). His principal contribution transformed a long-cherished vision into a reality. His foresight led to the establishment of Sri Lanka's only dedicated, comprehensive liver care facility and transplant centre. Today, with the clinical services of the CNCLD, the lives have been given renewed hope and a future, once thought unattainable.

In December 2024, Mr. M. H. Omar passed away, leaving behind his legacy and inspiration for future generations. The product of his generosity brings all Sri Lankans under one roof seeking life in their times of need.



Mr. Omar's visit to the construction site



Mr. Omar with the construction team



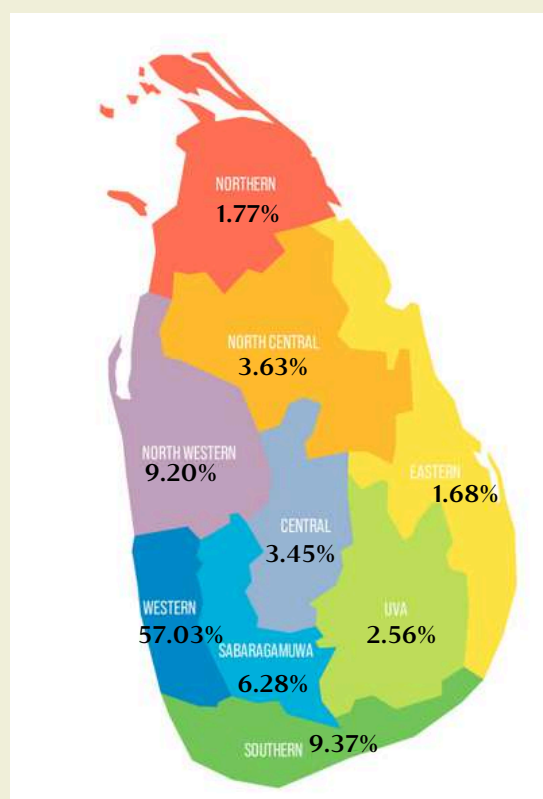
Soft opening ceremony on 14th Feb 2024



Mr. Omar was greeted by little liver transplant recipients

# Annual CNCLD statistics - 2025

Hepato-pancreatico-biliary clinic new referrals (Adult)	769
Hepatology and liver transplant new referrals (Adult)	175
Hepatology and liver transplant new referrals (Paediatric)	187
<b>Total number of liver transplants</b>	<b>23</b>
• Number of adult liver transplants	10
• Number of paediatric liver transplants	13
Microwave ablations of liver cancer	86
Hepato-pancreatico-biliary surgeries	101



# Success stories

Some of the patients who successfully underwent liver transplantation during 2025.

\*All the photos are published with the consent from the patients and the parents of the children.



Faces lit with smiles and the lives renewed through liver transplantation.

# Patient Feedbacks



“We think the only reason for our happiness is the CNCLD team . We never forget it for our life.

We don't have enough words to thank. Thank you so much. Every second, God Bless you”

-Baby lyzal family -

“The team of medical consultants with multi-faced disciplines specialized in liver care provided meticulous attention and care, from the time of considering a treatment plan up until the time of discharging after the procedure, for our father. Environment and set-up too supported speedy recovery for our father.”

-Family of a patient treated for Hepatocellular carcinoma-

“I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire CNCLD staff. This facility is incredibly peaceful, clean, and welcoming. As this was my first-ever surgery, I was naturally nervous, but thanks to the theater staff, I never felt panicked. I sincerely appreciate the smooth, clean, and successful surgical experience. Thank you all for your kindness and support”

-A patient who underwent surgery-



A memento from baby Bivon to us

“From the moment we arrived, every staff member, starting from security to the consultant doctor, was incredibly kind, professional, and supportive. The entire process was well-planned, efficiently managed, and conducted on time, ensuring a smooth and stress-free experience.


The cleanliness and hygiene standards at CNCLD exceeded our expectations. Unlike other medical facilities, there were no long waiting lists, making access to care much easier for patients in need.”

- A patient who underwent MWA-



Visit for more on Google reviews

# International Collaborations



**International iLDLT Group**  
Living Donor Liver Transplantation  
New Horizons Committee Webinars

The NHC Webinars cover problems and issues commonly faced by LDLT specialists.

### Setting Up & Overcoming Early Challenges in an LDLT Program

Feb. 1 (Saturday), 2025 | 12:00-13:00 UTC

Local Starting Time	City	Time	City	Time	
Minsk	Belarus	15:00	Tbilisi	Georgia	18:00
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	20:00	Jakarta	Indonesia	19:00
Chennai	India	17:30	Tehran	Iran	15:30
Amaly	Kazakhstan	17:00	Seoul	Korea	21:00
Ulaanbaatar	Mongolia	09:00	Yangon	Myanmar	18:30
Moscow	Russia	15:00	Colombo	Sri Lanka	17:30
Dushanbe	Tajikistan	17:00	Chiang Mai	Thailand	19:00
Hanoi	Turkey	15:00	Tashkent	Uzbekistan	17:00
Hanoi	Vietnam	19:00	Pittsburg	USA	1:00AM

**Organizers**  
Director of the 4th New Horizons Committee Webinar : Rohan Siriwardana (Sri Lanka)  
Chair of the New Horizons Committee : Abhinav Kumar (USA)

**Opening Remarks :**  
Rohan Siriwardana (Director of the 4th NHC Webinar)  
Abhinav Kumar (Chair of the New Horizons Committee)

**Challenges in Starting a Living Donor Liver Transplant Program in a Country**  
Rohan Siriwardana (Colombo North Center for Liver Diseases, Sri Lanka)  
Discussion

**Essential Components of a Living Donor Liver Transplant Program**  
Tiffany Wong (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)  
Discussion

**3 Case Presentations - What is the Right Time to Take Up the Challenge?**  
Sachintha Thillekaratne (Colombo North Center for Liver Diseases, Sri Lanka)  
Meranthy Fernando (Colombo North Center for Liver Diseases, Sri Lanka)  
Panel Discussion

**Panel Discussion**  
Bolat Baimbekhanov (Natl Scientific Center of Surgery named after Iyaganov, Kazakhstan)  
Deniz Balci (Bahçeşehir University School of Medicine, Türkiye)  
Gomathy Nersisyan (Dr. Rela Institute & Medical Centre, India)  
Le Van Thanh (108 Military Central Hospital, Vietnam)

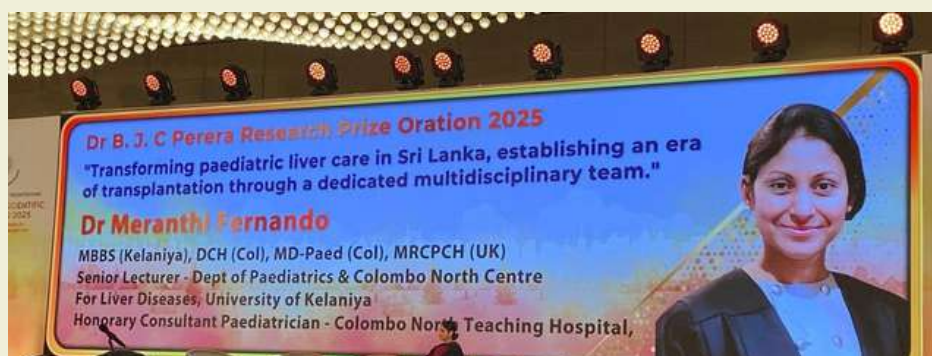


Prof. Rohan Siriwardana and the CNCLD's multidisciplinary hepatology and liver transplant team contributed with expert inputs for a webinar organized by the International living donor liver transplantation group (iLDLT) on 01.02.2025.

The experience from South Asia, drawn from a newly established centre dedicated to living donor liver transplant surgeries, provided a significant and valuable contribution in representing Sri Lanka, highlighting the country's emerging expertise, commitment, and growing capacity in advanced hepatobiliary and liver transplant care.

## Orations

Dr. Meranthy Fernando delivered the Dr. B.J.C. Perera Prize Oration on "Transforming paediatric liver care in Sri Lanka, establishing an era of transplantation through a dedicated multi disciplinary team" on 10.06.2025 at the Annual Academic Scientific Congress of Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians.



## International guest lectures



Prof. Bhagya Gunetillake delivered a lecture on “Apnoeic Oxygenation” at the All India Difficult Airway Association, 16<sup>th</sup> national airway conference (NAC-25), 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at RNT Medical College, Udaipur Rajasthan.



Prof. Madunil Niriella delivered an invited lecture on “Concomitant non-liver alcohol syndromes in patients with ALD-Alcohol Use Disorder”, for the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) - Single Topic Conference February 2025, which held in Mumbai, India.



Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy provided his expertise representing Sri Lanka, as a panelist in the 19<sup>th</sup> Image Guided Endovascular Therapy (IGET) symposium, 2025 in Seoul South Korea.

## National guest lectures

### Annual Academic Congress 2025 – Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology

- Prof. Rohan Siriwardana delivered a lecture on “Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer: surgical criteria and multi-disciplinary approaches”.
- Prof. Anuradha Dassanayake delivered a lecture on “Diabetes in ACLD Challenges and Interventions”.
- A lecture was delivered by Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy on “Radiological evaluation of Pancreatic space-occupying lesions”.
- Dr. Suchintha Tillakaratne delivered a lecture on “Challenges and opportunities in developing paediatric liver transplantation services in Sri Lanka”.
- Dr. Uditha Dassanayake delivered his expertise with a lecture on “Non-invasive tests and artificial intelligence in Hepatology- Prediction detection and prevention of progression of liver diseases”.

## National guest lectures - cont.

- Prof. Madunil Niriella delivered an invited lecture on “Optimal utilization of the liver transplant services in Sri Lanka – A guide to the refreshing clinician” for Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology – Southern province Regional Meeting in Collaboration with Galle Medical Association on 27.06.2025
- Prof. Anuradha Dassanayake delivered a lecture on”Optimising diabetes care in patients with liver diseases” at SIMCON 2025, Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine.
- Dr. Uditha Dassanayake delivered a lecture on “Multidisciplinary management of MASLD”, at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Sessions of Ceylon College of Physicians, 2025.
- “A case of acute liver failure: CBD”; Prof. Bhagya Gunatillake, Prof. Rohan Siriwardana and Dr. Uditha Dassanayake served as panelists in the symposium on Liver at the Scientific Sessions of Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists on August 2025.
- Prof. Meranthi Fernando delivered a lecture on paediatric liver conditions at the Regional Liver Disease Update, which was organized by the Batticaloa clinical society on 09.07.2025



- Symposium on liver transplant of 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of Ceylon College of Critical care specialists, August 2025, was facilitated by the participation of Dr Akila Rajkumar, Dr. Rela Institute, India together with CNCLD members including Prof. Rohan Siriwardana, Prof. Bhagya Gunatillake, Dr. Uditha Dassanayake and Dr. Anushka Mudalige.

## Webinars

- Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy delivered a webinar on “Modern image guided treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma: Ablation, Embolization and Beyond” which was organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Minimal Access and Digital Surgeons.
- Prof. Meranthi Fernando delivered a webinar on “Liver diseases in children; all that a General Practitioner should know”, as webinar for the community of general practitioners in Sri Lanka.

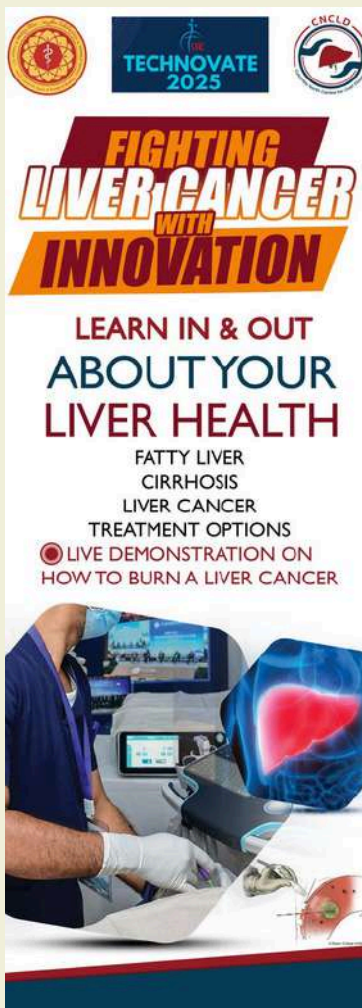


## TECHNOVATE 2025

A medical exhibition was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 at St. Thomas' Catholic International College, Seeduwa which was contributed by CNCLD.

The exhibition concentrated on disseminating advanced knowledge regarding hepatic malignancies, interventional radiological techniques, and thermal ablation therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma which resulted in remarkable enthusiasm and engagement from the attendees.

The knowledge contribution was from the Division of Radiology, CNCLD lead by Dr. Chinthaka Appuhamy, Consultant Interventional Radiologist.



A demonstration of microwave ablation (MWA) of liver cancer

# Continuous professional development through global engagement

## The 2025 International Congress of International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) - Singapore.

The CNCLD team participated in the ILTS - 2025 Congress held in Singapore, gaining valuable international exposure and the opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise on a global platform. The team presented several abstract presentations at the academic sessions conducted alongside the congress, contributing meaningfully to scholarly discussions in liver transplantation and hepatology.

We were privileged to engage with leading liver care professionals and transplant surgeons from diverse regions of the world, enabling the exchange of best practices and build up collaborations. The insights and experience gained through these interactions have been brought back to Sri Lanka, strengthening our ongoing efforts to advance liver care and transplantation services at CNCLD.



## Achievements of CNCLD team members



Prof. Bhagya Gunatillake was awarded the fellowship of the Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists, in recognition of his outstanding contributions, clinical excellence, and leadership in the field of critical care medicine.

Prof. Madunil Niriella was appointed as a Co-Editor of the Ceylon Medical Journal, in recognition of his academic leadership, scholarly contributions, and continued commitment to advancing medical research and publication standards in Sri Lanka.



Dr. Chamila Liyanage, Consultant Anaesthetist, Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children Colombo, a valued team member of the paediatric liver transplant programme of CNCLD since its inception, was inducted as the president of College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka. We wish her tenure the best to innovate, collaborate and excel with her passion to uplift the health care of the country.

Dr. Anushka Mudalige, Consultant Intensivist, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, a valued team member of the CNCLD for many years, was inducted as the president of Ceylon College of Critical Care Specialists. We believe her commitment and dedication will assist to raise the standards of critical care in Sri Lanka.



Dr. Meranthi Fernando was promoted as a professor in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. This accomplishment was a result of her invaluable contributions towards the upliftment of paediatric hepatology and liver transplantation in Sri Lanka, along with her academic achievements.

# Awards and accolades



- Team CNCLD received the **E.M. Wijerama Award** for the study on “A double blinded randomized control trial – the impact of intraoperative religious chanting vs standard care on post operative pain and recovery following laparoscopic cholecystectomy”.

The paper was also honored at North West London International Medical Graduate Induction Programme in UK.



- Prof. Meranthi Fernando received the award for the **Best High Impact Research Publication by an early career paediatrician** at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians.

- Prof. Niriella and the team won the **Professor Daphne Attygalle Award for the Best Paper in Cancer**, for the paper titled “Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology Collaborative Hepatocellular Carcinoma Snapshot Audit (SLSG CARSA): A Nationwide, Cross-Sectional Snapshot Study”.
- The oral presentation for the paper on “The Association Between Telomere Length and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in a Sri Lankan Cohort” presented at the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) 138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Medical Congress at July 2025, was awarded the **Dr. H.K.T. Fernando Award**.
- CNCLD team won the **Dr. P.R. Anthononis Research Award** for the study, “The long-term impact of post cholecystectomy major bile duct injury on liver stiffness”.



# Workshops

CNCLD regularly organizes structured educational sessions for nursing staff and medical officers to enhance practical knowledge and promote continuous professional development. We ensure that our healthcare teams remain updated with current best practices and evolving standards in order to deliver the highest quality of patient care.

## How to handle a CUSA machine

A workshop focused on the operation of the CUSA machine, which plays a crucial role in liver resection surgeries and liver transplants, was conducted on 31.05.2025. Over 50 nursing officers from 7 hospitals participated in the event.



## Insights on suture materials

A workshop was conducted for nursing staff focusing on suture materials. The participants received a valuable knowledge and hands-on experience during the session.



## Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy

A valuable knowledge sharing workshop was conducted for nursing officers and medical officers of CNCLD on Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT).



## Training of anaesthesia workstation

A training was conducted for medical officers and nursing officers on how to handle the newly installed anaesthesia workstation.

# Enhancing the knowledge and skills

## Collaboration with Dr. Rela institute, Chennai, India via the MOU with UOK

Dr. Gomathy Narasimhan and Dr. Naresh Shanmugam from the Dr. Rela Institute, India, visited CNCLD to share their clinical expertise in liver transplantation, and it was helpful with the management of complex patients. Their engagement provided valuable academic and clinical insights, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening collaborative efforts in advancing liver care services.



## Post graduate training



Training in HPB and liver transplant Surgery

CNCLD serves as a recognised teaching centre for postgraduate trainees in HPB and liver transplant surgery, Anaesthesia and critical care, Gastroenterology and hepatology, and Paediatrics. For the year 2025, nearly 60 postgraduate trainees completed their clinical rotations at CNCLD. They gained invaluable hands-on experience and advanced skills through a structured training program and supervision given by consultant specialists.

A key feature of the training programme is exposure to regularly conducted multi disciplinary team (MDT) meetings, where they actively participate in high-level clinical discussions and shared decision-making. These forums provide experience to the comprehensive management of complex and challenging cases, fostering a collaborative approach.



MDT meeting in progress



Training in Anaesthesia and critical care



Training in Gastroenterology and hepatology



Training in Paediatrics and paediatric hepatology

## Undergraduate training

Medical students of Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya attend to CNCLD for their respective clinical training in their fourth and final year. Their learning is strengthened through active engagement in outpatient clinics, operating theatres, Intensive care, and multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings. This comprehensive exposure enables students to integrate their theoretical knowledge with real time patients.

The undergraduate training at CNCLD provides not only a formal training for medical students but also a vision and inspiration on providing up-to-date clinical care in resource limited settings.



## Student electives



Fourth-year medical students from University of Colombo and University of Peradeniya, successfully completed a four-week elective placement at CNCLD, on their request. This elective programme provided a unique platform where students from different universities came together to learn, share perspectives, and collaborate within a single academic and clinical environment.

CNCLD was privileged to provide a common space and supportive environment that nurtured inter-university cooperation in shaping the future generation of medical professionals.

# A reflection from a past post graduate trainee

## A Year of Growth, Grit, and Gratitude: Through the eyes of a surgical trainee

Completing one year of surgical training at the Colombo North Center for Liver Diseases (CNCLD) has been one of the most intense yet rewarding periods of my professional life. This period was marked by steep learning curves, demanding clinical responsibilities, emotional highs and lows, and above all, the privilege of training in an environment defined by excellence, teamwork, and humanity. I write this as the first senior registrar in surgery trained at the 'M.H. Omar Liver Care Facility' of the CNCLD, having completed a year of training that unfolded alongside the growth of the institution itself. The year was physically and mentally exhausting, with demanding hepatobiliary and transplant workloads, long nocturnal surgeries, busy clinics, MDT meetings, and complex peri-operative responsibilities that often pushed personal limits. Balancing this with fatherhood while working far from family—frequently sacrificing even rare weekends off for emergency transplants—required resilience, family support, and growth beyond previous expectations. Yet, it was precisely within this demanding atmosphere at CNCLD that true learning occurred. Each challenge became an opportunity to develop not only surgical knowledge and technical skills, but also resilience, discipline, and clinical judgement. Exposure to complex liver disease, advanced surgical procedures like transplants and resections, and multidisciplinary care significantly strengthened my confidence and competence as a trainee. Notably my untrained eyes were able to sufficiently decipher the wealth of hidden information in the grey shadows of CT and MRI images. To a surgeon, this is a superpower!

What transformed this intense year into a deeply meaningful experience was the people at CNCLD. The 'bosses' were not only exemplary surgeons and demanding clinicians, but also remarkable mentors. Their dedication to patient care, insistence on high standards, often amid busy schedules, created an environment where learning was constant and purposeful, although most of the learning was not 'spoon-fed'. During this period, I developed my research skills, as CNCLD has transformed into a research hub, facilitated by the guidance of esteemed consultants. I was part of the very first surgery performed at the center, a moment that embodied this approach completely. It took place before everything felt 'ready' in the traditional sense, yet it marked the true beginning of CNCLD's identity as a functioning unit. Looking back, that surgery was more than a clinical milestone; it was proof that commitment, trust, and shared resolve could carry us through the uncertainty of those initial days. Our shared teamwork mightily countered the shortcomings, leaving little impact on the outcome.

Equally invaluable was the supportive and friendly culture among trainees, doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals. The warmth, approachability, and teamwork within the unit made even the most stressful days bearable. I still fondly recall the 'tea and biscuit' breaks that were customary during busy clinics and theaters. Training at CNCLD has been defined not by ideal conditions, but by resilience, adaptability, and collective learning. What began as a challenge to simply function has evolved into a foundation for professional growth, shaped by real responsibility from the very first day. Ciao!

### **Dr. Raayiz Razick**

Senior registrar in Gastrointestinal surgery (2024-2025)



# Donations and patient support



**The visit from His Excellency Qi Zhenhong, the Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka together with Buddhist delegates from Guangdong province, China.**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, CNCLD was generously donated an ambulance by the Guangdong Buddhist Association of China. This meaningful contribution coincided with an invitational visit by Buddhist delegations from Guangdong Province, China. This event was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, including His Excellency Mr. Qi Zhenhong, the Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka and Dr. Anil Jasinghe the Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. This occasion marked a significant milestone in strengthening international goodwill and supporting the advancement of healthcare services at CNCLD.



**Strengthening national liver transplant services through a collaborative endeavour.**

The Sri Lanka Foreign Service Association (SLFSA) donated 3 million LKR to CNCLD at a special event held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025, attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, Hon. Minister Vijitha Herath. The funds were generated by the International Bazaar and Cultural Extravaganza 2024, jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the SLFSA in support of liver transplant services at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama.





**Inner Wheel Club Colombo West: Bringing hope and support to liver transplant patients**

The team from ‘Inner Wheel Club, Colombo West’ District 322, recently visited M.H. Omar Liver Care Facility - CNCLD, extending their generous support to the liver transplant programme. Their visit was marked by the donation of essential medical equipments and financial assistance provided to two liver transplant paediatric patients. This heartfelt gesture exemplifies the power of collective compassion and community-driven support in transforming lives and advancing critical healthcare services.



Anesthesia workstation, ventilator and multi para monitors donation by China Guangzhou Huadu Huayan Temple, Shenzhen Mindray Biomedical Electronics Co. Ltd, Guangzhou Foundation for International Exchange and Cooperation (GIF), which was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The Altrium pvt Ltd, generously supported CNCLD with several valuable donations, including laptops to facilitate research activities, a smart board stand, and 8 wall sucker units worthy of Rs. 800 000 for the operating theatres and intensive care unit. These contributions significantly strengthen our clinical, academic, and surgical capabilities, further enhancing the quality of care delivered to our patients.

## Donations cont.

- Mr. Alwis a patient who underwent a HPB surgery in our centre during 2025, donated Rs. 300 000 worthy of materials to renovate the patient dining area.
- Liver's Life Group made a donation for the medications of a child who underwent liver transplant and several other patient supports during post liver transplant period.
- Dr. Shehan De Silva supported a patient with a donation of Rs. 100 000.
- Dr. Malindu Gunawardena from Australia donated a specialized high functioning desktop computer worthy of Rs. 275 000 on behalf of his father who underwent MWA at our centre. Dr. Chinthaka Jayakody a former demonstrator of CNCLD, dedicated to provide technical support on this.
- Lakshmi Niwasa Buddhist society made a donation of Rs.150 000 donation to utilize for a paediatric patient with poor economic background.
- Dr. Dulaj gifted a wall - painting to be displayed in the ward.
- A kid's family from the Paediatric clinic made a donation worthy of Rs. 30 000 to support the cleaning solutions of the liver centre.
- Dr. Buddhima Premaratne who served as one of our 2025 demonstrators, donated Rs. 25 000 to purchase an infant weighing scale.
- Mrs. Priyani Hettiarachchi and family donated equipments for ICU kids and a smart play board to facilitate a less stressful recovery period in ICU for children undergoing surgery.
- Baby Yonellee (a child underwent liver transplant at CNCLD) donated an infant blood Pressure cuff and a saturation probe worth of Rs 100,000.
- Family of master Nathan, a patient who is followed up in paediatric liver clinic donated gift packs for the paediatric inward patients.
- Mr. Gayan Perera ,a liver transplant recipient donated 5 digital wall clocks and a cupboard.
- Dr. G.P. Samarawickrama who underwent surgery at the unit donated a digital wall clock.
- Ferozons laboratay Pvt. Ltd. donated essential items for the transplant theatre.
- Mr. Nath who underwent surgery at the unit donated wall lamps and a computer table.
- Mr. Jayathilaka donated shoe racks for the clinic areas.
- Dr. S. Gishanthan, a surgical post graduate trainee, trained at CNCLD donated a laptop for the liver transplant theatre.



Pictures of some of our generous donors and their contributions

1. Suchintha Bandara Thilakarathne, Buddhima Premaratne, Razick Mohamed Raayiz, Mahiman Bhagya Gunathilake, S.P.A.L. Ranaweera, Rohan Chaminda Siriwardana. **Local Strategy for Pancreaticoduodenectomy in Sri Lanka's Evolving Healthcare System: Twelve-Year Trends, Outcomes, and Insights.** *World Journal of Surgery.* Aug 2025. DOI: 10.1002/wjs.70001
2. Uditha Dassanayake, Buddhima Premaratne, Suchintha Tilakarathne, Bhagya Gunetilleke, Madunil Anuk Niriella, Rohan Chaminda Siriwardana. **Waitlist mortality in the early stages of a deceased-donor liver transplant program in Sri Lanka.** *Indian Journal Gastroenterology.* Nov 2025. DOI: 10.1007/s12664-025-01892-3
3. Sandeep A. Jayasekera, Suchintha B. Tillakarathne, Gayana Mahendra, Rohan Siriwardana. **Organ Donation in Marfan Syndrome: Is It a Case to Stretch Boundaries?** *Cureus.* May 2025, DOI: 10.7759/cureus.84523
4. Sayuri Serasinghe, Umanga Geekiyanage, Buddhima Premaratne, Rohan Siriwardana. **Use of a Social Media Platform for Undergraduate Medical Writing: Experience From a Developing Country.** *Cureus.* July 2025. DOI: 10.7759/cureus.87971
5. Madunil Anuk Niriella, Uditha Bandara Dassanayake, Charith Priyanga Madurapperuma, Indeewari Prathibha Wijesingha, Arjuna Priyadarshin De Silva, Hithnadura Janaka de Silva. **Mistakes in the utilization of vibration-controlled transient elastography in the evaluation of liver fibrosis: a narrative review.** *Expert Review of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.* Nov 2025. DOI: 10.1080/17474124.2025.2586690
6. Asanka Sudeshini Hawage, Sumadee De Silva, Saumya Madushani Samarasinghe, Kamani Hemamala Tennekoon, Usman Umar Liman, Rohan Chaminda Siriwardana, Madunil Anuk Niriella. **Association between single nucleotide polymorphisms in PNPLA3, TM6SF2 and MBOAT7 genes and markers of cancer aggressiveness in a Sri Lankan NASH-related HCC cohort.** *BMC Gastroenterology.* March 2025. DOI: 10.1186/s12876-025-03738-w
7. Usman Umar Liman, Asanka Sudeshini Hawage, Sumadee De Silva, Saumya Madushani Samarasinghe, Kamani Hemamala Tennekoon, Rohan Chaminda Siriwardana, Madunil Anuk Niriella. **Pathogenic effects of telomerase reverse transcriptase (TERT) promoter mutations in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) related hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and its potentials as a diagnostic biomarker.** *Egyptian Journal of Medical Human Genetics.* June 2025. DOI: 10.1186/s43042-025-00738-z
8. Wathsala Hathagoda, Samaranyake Rajindrajith, Madunil Anuk Niriella. **Gaps and challenges in the management of pediatric steatotic liver diseases: a narrative review.** *World Journal of Pediatrics.* April 2025. DOI: 10.1007/s12519-025-00902-w
9. Wasana Wijenayake, Raveen Thennakoon, Hashan Pathiraja, Dayananda Bandara, Roshitha De Silva, Anuja Premawardhena, Meranthi Fernando, Sachith Mettananda. **Hepatic and renal functions of paediatric patients with thalassaemia: a cross-sectional study from two large thalassaemia centres in Sri Lanka.** *BMJ Open.* Feb 2025. DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-089784
10. Niriella MA, de Silva T, Hasna F, Martinus K, Wijesingha IP, Dassanayake UB, Dassanayake AS, De Silva AP, De Silva HJ. **The economic burden of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in Sri Lanka: A 35-year Markov model analysis.** *Gastroenterology.* May 2025. 3;169(1):S-1722.
11. Douglas Chee, Christen En Ya Ong, Darren J H Tan, Jörn M Schattenberg, George N Ioannou, Daniel Q Huang; M. Niriella, A. Daasanayake and HCC Policy Study Group. **Global Health Policies for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Cross-Sectional Study.** *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology.* May 2025. 12:S1542-3565(25)00364-7. DOI: 10.1016/j.cgh.2025.04.014

## Abstract presentations

### International

1. U. Dassanayake, N. Hendawitharana, S. Tilakaratne, A. Dassanayake, M. Niriella, R. Siriwardana. **Waitlist mortality in the early stages of a deceased-donor liver transplant program in Sri Lanka.** International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) congress 2025 - Singapore.
2. M. Fernando, S. Tillakaratne, B. Gunetillake, A. Weerasooriya, C. Liyanage, B. Premaratne, R. Siriwardana. **Acute liver failure in paediatric patients: Insights from a newly established Liver Transplant program in a developing country.** International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) congress 2025 - Singapore.
3. M. Fernando, S. Tillakaratne, C. Appuhamy, A. Weerasuriya, E. Ganewatte, C. Liyanage, P. Herath, B. Gunetilleke, R. Siriwardana. **Demographic features and Genetic variant Profile of Wilson Disease in Children Presenting at a Specialized Liver Centre in Sri Lanka.** International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) congress 2025 - Singapore.
4. M. Fernando, S. Tillakaratne, B. Gunetillake, C. Liyanage, A. Weerasooriya, C. Appuhamy, E. Ganewatte, K. Sathsara, R. Siriwardana. **Can living donation support the successful establishment of paediatric liver transplantation programs in developing countries-Insight from Sri Lanka.** International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) congress 2025 - Singapore.
5. B. Premaratne, B. Gunetilleke, C. Appuhamy, H. Gunawardana, S. Gunawardana, G. Padmasiri, C. Jayakody, U. Selvaratnam, K. Kavinda, R. Perera, J. Dissanayake, T. De Silva, V. Kerner, U. Dassanayake, M. Niriella, M. Fernando, S. Tillakaratne, V. Siriwardana, O. Amarasekara, R. Siriwardana. **Pushing the boundaries: Safety of Microwave ablation of hepatoma in cirrhotics with uncorrected thrombocytopenia and abnormal INR in a resource-limited setting in Sri Lanka.** International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) congress 2025 - Singapore.
6. Niriella MA, de Silva T, Hasna F, Martinus K, Wijesingha IP, Dassanayake UB, Dassanayake AS, De Silva AP, De Silva HJ. **The Economic Burden of Non-alcoholic Fatty liver Disease in Sri Lanka: A 35-Year Markov Model Analysis.** Digestive Disease Week (DDW) 2025, USA.

### National

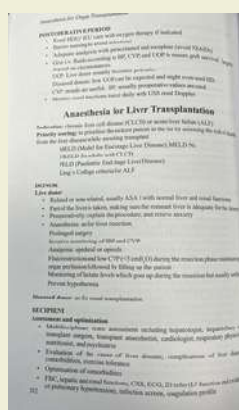
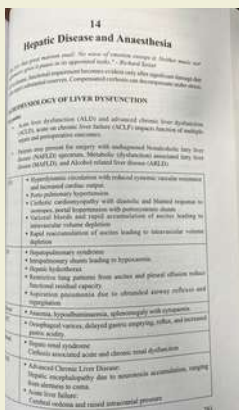
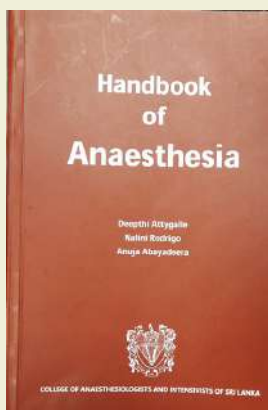
1. M. Fernando, P. Herath, S. Tillakaratne, B. Gunetilleke, A. Weerasuriya, C. Liyanage, B. Premaratne, R. Siriwardana. **Living Donation is a Viable Option in a Developing Infrastructure: Insights from a Newly Established Paediatric Liver Transplant Programme;** Proceedings of the 27th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP). June 8-10, 2025.
2. M. Fernando, B. Premaratne, S. Tillakaratne, C. Appuhamy, A. Weerasuriya, E. Ganewatte, C. Liyanage, P. Herath, B. Gunetilleke, R. Siriwardana. **Demographics and Incidence of Genetic Variants of Wilson's Disease in Children Presenting to a Specialized Liver Centre in Sri Lanka.** Proceedings of the 27th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP). June 8-10, 2025.
3. M. Fernando, P. Herath, S. Tillakaratne, B. Gunatilleke, C. Liyanage, C. Appuhami, A. Weerasuriya, L. Ranaweera, R. Siriwardana. **Liver Transplantation as a Salvage Option in Paediatric Multifocal Hepatoblastoma: Insights from a Newly Established Liver Transplant Programme.** Proceedings of the 27th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP). June 8-10, 2025.

## Abstract presentations - national - cont.

- 4.S. Tillakaratne, N. Hendavitharana, M. Fernando, B. Gunetilleke, C. Liyanage, A. Weerasuriya, C. Appuhamy, E. Ganewatte, K. Sathsara, R. Siriwardana. **Can Living Liver Donation Support the Successful Establishment of Paediatric Liver Transplantation Programs in Developing Countries - Insights from Sri Lanka.** Proceedings of the 27th Annual Scientific Congress of the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP). June 8-10, 2025
- 5.Samarasinghe SASM, Hewage AS, Siriwardana RC, Tennekoon KH, Niriella MA, Silva SD, Abeysuriya V. **The Association Between Telomere Length and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in a Sri Lankan Cohort.** Sri Lanka Medical Association 138th Anniversary International Medical Congress. July 2025.
- 6.Niriella MA, Ranathunga VS, Nirasha S, Siriwardana RC, Kodisinghe KS, Kumarasena SR, Liyanaarchchi T, Tillakaratne SB, Wijewantha H, Dassanayake UB, Rishikesawan V, Ranawaka CK, Kajendran A, Balendran K, Aryasingha S, Subasinghe D, Fernandopulle N, Senanayake SM, Dassanayake AS, De Zoysa I, De Silva CV, Subasinghe C, Udumalagala S, Kulathunga S, Aponso T, Vijitharan V, Upanishad I, Dinamithra N, Pathmeswaran A, De Silva HJ. Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology **Collaborative Hepatocellular Carcinoma Snapshot Audit (SLSG CARSA): A Nationwide, Cross-Sectional Snapshot Study Sri Lanka** Medical Association 138th Anniversary International Medical Congress. July 2025.
- 7.Tillakaratne MSB, Appuhami C, Gunathilake B, Niriella MA, Dassanayake UB, Madubashana SAKS, Siriwardana RC. **Laparoscopic Approach in Managing Small Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Cirrhotics** Sri Lanka Medical Association 138th Anniversary International Medical Congress. July 2025.

## Book chapters

- Prof. Bhagya Gunatilake and Dr. Rachini Withanage authored the chapter on “Hepatic Diseases and Anaesthesia” in the Handbook of Anaesthesia (page 281-289)
- Dr. Rachini Withanage co-authored the chapter on “Anaesthesia for Organ Transplantation” in the Handbook of Anaesthesia (page 382-383)



## A tribute to Dr. Sampath Liyanage Ranaweera



Dr. Sampath Liyanage Ranaweera, former Director of Colombo North Teaching Hospital (CNTH) Ragama, is an administrator whose vision and dedication has left a lasting mark on the advancement of the activities of CNCLD and the establishment of the newly built infrastructure.

Once the construction of the M.H. Omar liver care facility was completed, it was a major challenge to install human resources and to create a stable pathway for the maintenance of the facility. His strategic thinking, strong knowledge and experience as an administrator was instrumental in overcoming this challenge.

Dr. Ranaweera's vision, integrity and dedication not only strengthened the services under his care, but also set a standard of excellence, making him an inspiration and a role model.

The regular progress meetings held at M. H. Omar Liver Care facility premises with his leadership truly assisted in stabilising this newly established state-of-the art facility and its human resources where he was the strong link with ministry of health and CNCLD.



At a religious event held at CNCLD



Dr. Ranaweera with Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena

# New members of the team

## Academic staff members:



### Dr. Rachini Withanage

MBBS(Peradeniya), MD(Colombo), Fellowship in Liver Transplant & Hepatobiliary Anaesthesia (Birmingham, UK), SEDA (UK)  
Senior Lecturer & Consultant Anaesthetist  
Division of Anaesthesia, Critical care & Pain management,  
Dept of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

As CNCLD, we are privileged to welcome Dr. Rachini Withanage as a new team member. Her specialised training and experience in liver transplantation and hepatobiliary anaesthesia will add a significant strength to the services provided by CNCLD.

## Medical officers:

Dr. Ishanki Perera (RHO)  
Dr. Vishnukanthan Thuwaragesh (RHO)  
Dr. Navoda Sathsarani (RHO)



## Demonstrators:

Dr. Kavithri Tennakoon  
Dr. Indeewari Epitawala  
Dr. Chamali Thanthiriwatta  
Dr. Chamath Basnayake



## Nursing staff :

N/O Sanduni Pathirana  
N/O Wanshani Senevirathna  
N/O Dinithi Chandrasiri  
N/O Helani Senaratne  
N/O Chamila Keeragala  
N/O Malki Weeraratne



## Our Vision

"To be a leading center of excellence in South Asia, providing world-class liver transplant surgeries and related medical care, free of charge, with a commitment to sustaining top-quality infrastructure, advancing medical technology, and fostering a compassionate, skilled workforce."

## Our Mission

"We are dedicated to creating a self-sustaining, globally recognized center for liver that upholds the dignity and well-being of our patients while fostering a culture of accountability and continuous improvement."



### Final vignette:

Three children from the same family were under our care with suspected Wilson disease. The eldest child underwent a successful liver transplant. The second child tragically passed away while awaiting liver transplant due to complications of neuro-Wilsons.

The youngest child had been labelled and was on treatment for Wilson disease on referral to CNCLD. However with the financial assistance of the donors the genetic testing cleared her from Wilson Disease.

The youngest child gifted us this beautiful drawing – a heartfelt expression of the warmth, support, and care they experienced throughout their journey with us. And it also reflects the silent psychological battle this little souls go through with these types of chronic diseases.

# How to find us



**077 5544015    Adult liver clinic**  
**0779252095    Paediatric liver clinic**



**<https://cnclد.kln.ac.lk>**



**Colombo North Centre for Liver Diseases**



**Colombo North Centre for Liver Diseases**



**[cnclد@kln.ac.lk](mailto:cnclد@kln.ac.lk)**



**M.H. OMAR LIVER CARE FACILITY**  
**COLOMBO NORTH CENTRE FOR LIVER DISEASES**



**Colombo North Centre for Liver Diseases**  
**Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.**  
**No. 06, Thalagolla road, Ragama, Sri Lanka.**

