



COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS 2025

PROGRAMME

“Shaping the Future Doctor through Education, Research and Innovation”



COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

“Shaping the Future Doctor through Education, Research and Innovation”



PROGRAMME (AT A GLANCE) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Pre Congress: 25th November 2025

8.00 – 8.45 hours: Registration

9 00 – 10 30 hours	Health in a Changing Climate: Research, Education, and Policy Pathways (Symposium) [Multi-Purpose Hall]	Nature-Inspired Neuroprotection (Symposium) [Mini Auditorium 1]	Eye in the Digital Era (Symposium) [Mini Auditorium 2]	25 Years of Graduate Pharmacy Education and Beyond – Pharmacology symposium
10 30 – 11 00 hours: Refreshments				
11 00 – 12 30 hours	Climate Change and NEXTGEN (Symposium) [Multi-Purpose Hall]	Mindful Workplaces: Cultivating presence, compassion and well-being for institutional sustainability (Symposium) [Mini Auditorium 1]	Use of Gastrointestinal Physiology Investigations in diagnosis (Symposium) [Mini Auditorium 2]	[Main Auditorium] [Invitation-only]
12 30 – 13 30 hours: Refreshments				
13 30 – 15 30 hours	Planetary Health hackathon [Multi-Purpose Hall]	Art based expressions on the ritualistic healing culture of Sri Lanka on ‘sanni masks’ [Atrium]		
15 30 – 16 00 hours: Refreshments				

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PROGRAMME (AT A GLANCE) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Inauguration & Main Congress Day 01: 26th November 2025

8 00 – 8 45 hours: Registration

Inauguration

09 00 hours	Academic procession
09 10 hours	National Anthem & Faculty Song
09 20 hours	Lighting of the oil lamp
09 30 hours	Welcome address by Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo Vidya Jyothi Professor Vajira H.W. Dissanayake
09 45 hours	Introduction to scientific sessions by the Academic chairs: Dr. Maduka de Lanerolle Dias & Prof Eranga Wijewickrama
09 55 hours	Address by CoMSAA President Prof Ishan de Zyosa
10 05 hours	Address by the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo: Professor Indika Karunathilaka
10 15 hours	Keynote address: <i>Doctors in AI Era</i> Dr. Muditha Darshana Senarath Yapa, Chief Innovation Officer National Innovation Agency
10 45 hours	Address by the Chief Guest: Prof. Chrishantha Abeysena Minister of Science and Technology
10 55 hours	Faculty Oration: <i>Empowering Public Health: The Critical Role of Viral Diagnostics in Disease Control, elimination and Eradication Efforts</i> Dr M A Y Fernando Lecturer and Specialist in Virology, Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
11 35 hours	Vote of thanks, Secretary CMC Dr. Dilusha Fernando
11 45 hours	Cultural event
12 00 hours	Reception

Main congress: DAY 01

13 00 – 14 30 hours	Symposium 01: Pearls in Geriatric medicine
14 30 – 16 00 hours	Symposium 02: Will AI replace Doctors?

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17 00 hours

Refreshments



PROGRAMME (AT A GLANCE) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Main Congress Day 02: 27th November 2025

8 00 – 8 45 hours: Registration

9 00 – 10 30 hours	Symposium 03: Evidence to action: Enhancing diet quality to optimise nutrition
10 30 – 11 00 hours	Morning Snack
11 00 – 12 30 hours	Free Paper sessions
12 30 – 13 30 hours	Afternoon snack
13 30 – 15 00 hours	Symposium 04: Medical Humanities

Closing Ceremony & CoMSAA Oration

15 00 – 16 00 hours	Closing Ceremony
16 00 – 17 00 hours	CoMSAA Oration: <i>An Overview of the Evolution of Medico-legal System and Its Current Status-quo in Sri Lanka</i> Senior. Prof. Muditha Vidanapathirana Chair Professor of Forensic Medicine Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Uva Wellassa University
17 00 – 17 30 hours	Refreshments & Fellowship
17 30 – 18 00 hours	CoMSAA Council Meeting
18 00 – 19 00 hours	CoMSAA AGM

Post Congress: 28th November 2025

8.00 – 8.45 hours: Registration

9 00 – 16 00 hours	Non academic day 2025. “Empowering membership: improving career growth and efficiency” [Main Auditorium]
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COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

DETAILED PROGRAMME

“Shaping the Future Doctor through Education, Research and Innovation”



PROGRAMME (IN DETAIL) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Pre Congress: 25th November 2025

9 00 – 10 30 hours

Health in a Changing Climate: Research, Education, and Policy Pathways Symposium

Symposium Chair:	Dr Santhushya Fernando <i>Senior Lecturer, Department of Medical Humanities</i> Dr Roshan Hewapathirana, <i>Senior Lecturer, Department of Medical Technology</i>	
Title	Speaker	Time Allocation
Opening the Dialogue: Health in a Changing Climate and the CePH Approach	Prof. Tharanga Thoradeniya, <i>Director, Centre for Planetary Health, UCFM</i>	15 minutes
Climate-Health Research in Action	Dr. Piyumi Gamage Mr. Roshan Delabandara	20 minutes
Integrating Planetary Health into Medical Practice and beyond through Student Empowerment	Prof. Piyusha Atapattu, <i>Deputy Director, Centre for Planetary Health, UCFM</i>	15 minutes
Innovation Showcase: Undergraduate Initiatives in Planetary Health	Shiromy Srisaravanapavananthan Dulyana Wanigasooriya Ravindu Jayaweera Medini Kannangara Sandhithi Illangasinghe	15 minutes
Bridging Research and Policy for Climate-Resilient Health Systems	Prof. Tharanga Thoradeniya & Dr. Vindya Kumarapeli, <i>Director, Policy Analysis and Development, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</i>	15 minutes
Q&A and Wrap-up		10 minutes

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Nature-Inspired Neuroprotection

Symposium Chair:	Prof. Dilshani Dissanayake, <i>Director, Neurophysiology Research Centre</i> Dr.Kumarangi Vithanage, <i>Deputy Director- Services, Neurophysiology Research Centre</i>	
Title	Speaker	Time Allocation
Natural Compounds for Brain Health: Phytochemicals, Oxidative Stress and Oxidative Damage	Prof.Nimal Punyasiri, <i>Professor and Chair of Biochemistry, Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo</i>	20 minutes
Herbal medicine in Parkinson's disease models	Prof.Shermali Gunawardena, <i>Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo, USA</i>	20 minutes
Challenges in conducting clinical trials of herbal medicine	Prof. Pathirage Kamal Perera, <i>Dean, Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo</i>	20 minutes
Panel Discussion		30 minutes

Eye in the Digital Era

Symposium Chair:	Prof.Madhuwanthi Dissanayake, <i>Director, Eye Care Centre & Consultant Eye Surgeon, UCFM</i> Dr. Dineshani Hettiarachchi, <i>Deputy Director- Services, Eye Care Centre & Family physician and Specialist in Genetics, UCFM</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
From retina scans to AI : Modern tools detecting eye diseases early	Dr K. A Salvin <i>Consultant Eye Surgeon & Senior lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya</i>	20 minutes
Can I go without glasses? : Laser Vision Correction, techniques,Principles and complications	Dr Pabakara Costa <i>Consultant Eye Surgeon & Cornea Specialist, Kahawatte base Hospital.</i>	20 minutes
Are you screen smart: A smart approach to digital eye strain	Prof Madhuwanthi Dissanayake <i>Consultant Eye Surgeon & Professor, Department of Anatomy, Genetics &</i>	20 minutes

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Beauty and the eye: trends and techniques in cosmetic oculoplastic surgery	<i>Biomedical Informatics, UCFM</i> Dr Nirodha Jayawickrama <i>Consultant Eye Surgeon & Orbit & Oculoplasty Specialist, National Hospital, Karapitiya, Galle.</i>	20 minutes
Panel Discussion	All speakers	10 minutes



PROGRAMME (IN DETAIL) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Pre Congress: 25th November 2025

11 00 – 12 30 hours

Climate Change and NEXTGEN (Symposium)

Symposium Chair:	Dr. Ashwini de Abrew , <i>Lecturer, Department of Medical Education,</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Inner climate- outer climate': mindfulness for a healthier planet	Senior Prof. Piyanjale de Soysa <i>Professor in Psychology, UCFM</i>	20 minutes
'Eat right for you and the planet': inculcating better dietary habits in children	Prof. Tharanga Thoradeniya <i>Professor at Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UCFM</i>	20 minutes
'Climate change and Child Health': physical health impact and the role of the paediatrician	Dr. Prasad Chathurangana <i>Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician</i>	20 minutes
'Generation Climate': The mental toll on our Children and Youth	Dr. Anuradha Herath <i>Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist:</i>	20 minutes

Mindful Workplaces: Cultivating presence, compassion and well-being for institutional sustainability (Symposium)

Symposium Chairs:	Prof. Sashika Manoratne , <i>Head of the Department of Management and Organization Studies, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo</i> Dr Santushi Amarasuriya , <i>Head of the Department of Medical Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo/ Deputy Director (Training), CMR.</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Navigating ambidextrous	Dilshan Samarawickrama (DBA, UoC) , <i>Entrepreneur</i>	20 minutes

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demands of workplace through mindfulness	<i>Experienced Marketing & Management Professional .Founder,Managing Director, Manubi Digital Solutions</i>	
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and compassion at work	Nikeshala Weerasekara	20 minutes
Happiness at the workplace	<i>Senior Lecturer, University of Sri Jayewardenepura</i>	
	Prof.Tanusree Datta,	20 minutes
	<i>Professor and Dean Academics at Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, Jharkhand, India</i>	
Panel Discussion		30 minutes

Use of Gastrointestinal Physiology Investigations in diagnosis (Symposium)		
Symposium Chairs:	Prof Shaman Rajindrajith <i>Chair Professor & Consultant Pediatrician, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colombo</i> Dr Sanjeewa Ariyasingha <i>Consultant Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Understanding Esophageal Disorders through esophageal manometry & pH Impedance testing	Prof. Niranga Devanarayana <i>Chair Professor, Department of Physiology, University of Kelaniya</i>	20 minutes
Evaluating Gastric Motor Function through gastric motility and gastric emptying tests	Prof Lakmali Amarasiri <i>Head of Department & Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, UCFM</i>	15 minutes
Reading the Gut's Electrical Code: Electrogastrography	Dr. Chamila Dalpatadu <i>Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, UCFM</i>	10 minutes
Identifying Small intestine digestive disorders through Hydrogen Methane breath tests	Dr. Nilanka Wickramasinghe <i>Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, UCFM</i>	15 minutes
Anorectal Manometry: Revealing Sphincter Function and Dysfunction	Prof. Dakshitha Wickramasinghe <i>Consultant Surgeon & Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, UCFM</i>	10 minutes

13 30 – 16 30

Climate, Sustainability, Health: Innovating for a Resilient Future (Symposium)		
Planetary health hackathon /Exhibition		
Title	Speaker	Time Allocation
Plastic Pollution isn't a future threat – It's our present reality	Dr. Randika Jayasinghe, Plastic and Waste specialist, University of New South Wales	20 minutes
	Hackathon	

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PROGRAMME (IN DETAIL) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Main Congress Day 01: 26th November 2025

Symposium 01: Pearls in Geriatric Medicine		
13 00 – 14 30 Hours		
Symposium Chairs:	Prof Saroj Jayasinghe , <i>Emeritus Professor of Medicine, UCFM</i> Dr Barana Millawithana , <i>Consultant Physician, Ministry of Health,</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Introduction to Pearls in Geriatric Medicine	Dr Chamila Dalpatadu , <i>Consultant Physician, Director of the centre for Ageing Research and Ambulatory care and the current President of the Sri Lankan Association of Geriatric Medicine</i>	5 minutes
Perioperative Medicine in geriatrics	Dr Kushanth Gayan Gunarathne <i>Consultant in Acute General Medicine of Peninsula Health Australia</i>	40 minutes
Case based Panel discussion- moderator-Dr Chamila Dalpatadu	Dr Sithira Senevirathne , <i>Consultant Geriatrician NHSL;</i> Dr Maheshi Wijebandara , <i>Consultant Geriatrician Teaching Hospital Kandy;</i> Dr Saumya Darshani , <i>Consultant Geriatrician Colombo South Teaching Hospital</i>	45 minutes

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Symposium 02: Learning in the AI Age		
14 30 - 16 00 Hours		
Symposium Chairs:	Prof Prasad Katulanda <i>Professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine, UCFM</i>	
Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Introduction	Prof Prasad Katulanda <i>Professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine UCFM</i>	10 minutes
AI in Medical Education: Opportunities and Challenges	Prof Madawa Chandratilake <i>Cadre Chair, Senior Professor, and Dean of the Faculty Department of Medical Education Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya</i>	30 minutes
AI for Medical Professionals: Practical Use Cases and for Enhanced Learning and Education	Dr M.T.D. Lakshan <i>Consultant ENT and Head and Neck Surgeon, Nawaloka Hospitals PLC Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya</i>	30 minutes
Q & A Session		20 minutes

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Main Congress Day 02: 27th November 2025

Symposium 03: Evidence to action: Enhancing diet quality to optimise nutrition

9 00 – 10 30 Hours

Symposium Chairs: **Prof Indu Waidyatilaka**, *Head/Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Deputy Director, Centre for Nutrition, UCFM*
Prof Pujitha Wickramasinghe, *Senior Professor in paediatrics, Director/Centre for Nutrition, UCFM*

Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
Creating healthier out-of-home food environments: Good practices from Southeast Asia	Prof Pulani Lanerolle <i>Chair and Senior Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, UCFM</i>	25 minutes
Carbohydrate quality: Evidence informed choices for healthy eating in Sri Lanka	Prof Sagarika Ekanayake <i>Chair and Senior Professor, Department of Biochemistry, FMS, USJP</i>	25 minutes
Bridging the gap between science and culture: Dietary guidelines in the context of Sri Lankan food habits and portion control.	Prof Ranil Jayawardena <i>Professor in Nutrition, Department of Physiology, UCFM</i>	25 minutes
Q & A		15 minutes

Medical Humanities

13 30 – 15 00 Hours

Symposium Chairs: **Prof Saroj Jayasinghe**,
Emeritus Professor of Medicine, UCFM

Topic	Speaker	Time Allocation
MedCinema: a cinematic gaze on the human side of Medicine'	Prof Thashi Chang <i>Consultant Neurologist, Senior Professor in Neurology, Department of Clinical Medicine, UCFM</i>	45 minutes
A glimpse in to Humanitas : Medical Humanities in a Medical Curriculum	Dr. Santhushya Fernando , <i>Senior Lecturer, Department of Medical Humanities, UCFM</i>	45 minutes

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PROGRAMME (IN DETAIL) COLOMBO MEDICAL CONGRESS (CMC) 2025

Post Congress: 28th November 2025

Non academic day 2025. “Empowering membership: improving career growth and efficiency” [Main Auditorium and Multipurpose Hall – 5 th floor]	
08 30 – 09 45 hours	Inauguration Ceremony
09 45 – 10 45 hours	Session 1: Changing Work Perspectives: Finding Value and Purpose of Your Job
10 45 – 12 30 hours	Session 2 – Teamwork: Doing More with Less Stress (Venue: Multipurpose Room) 1 hour and 45 minutes
12 30 – 01 00 hours	Lunch Break
0100 – 02 00 hours	Building Skills and Work Efficiency • Building soft skills: Communication skills, time management • Growth mindset and stress management
2 00 – 2 45 hours	Essential IT tool kit for me’
02 45 – 03 30 hours	Group Work: Project Assignments
03 30 – 04 00 hours	Closing Ceremony

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