

College Fellowship Awards

Presenting Dr. Saman Senanayake for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

Citation delivered by Dr. K. R. Dayawansa MD, Consultant Ophthalmologist at the 29th Annual Congress of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka

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It is a great honour and privilege to introduce Dr Senanayake to the distinguished guests gathered here today.

Dr Senanayake received his primary and secondary education from Kegalle Maha Vidyalaya and went on to receive a second-class honors MBBS from the University of Peradeniya in 1985 and completed internship at Teaching Hospital, Kandy.

Then he served at peripheral hospital, Mihintale, Anuradhapura for few years and joined Eye Unit, Teaching Hospital, Kandy to obtain Diploma in Ophthalmology and MS (Ophthalmology) under the guidance of late Dr Regie Siemon and Dr A. B. Abeysingha. It opened the way for his FRCS in 1996 while working in H. M. Stanely Hospital, North Wales, United Kingdom, under the leadership of Dr Puvanachandra.

After returning to Sri Lanka, he started his ophthalmology carrier at Badulla Provincial Hospital and moved in to Centre For Sight, Kandy in year 2000 to expand his services.

He was an active member in the construction of the Center for Sight by the Sri Lanka Eye Foundation even as an ophthalmic trainee way back in 1990 under the leadership of late Dr C R Seimon.

As credit to his long standing career Dr Senanayake's contributions to the academic and community service fields of medicine is invaluable and has contributed greatly to the academic enrichment of the medical community at large.

He is a visiting lecturer and examiner at the University of Peradeniya and is actively engaged in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate trainees. He has been a member of the Board of study in Ophthalmology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo since

2004 and has engaged as a tutor, trainer and examiner in all components of ophthalmic postgraduate examinations.

He has also served as the secretary, editor and council member of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka from 2004 onwards. He has also served in the council of the Kandy Society of Medicine and the Peradeniya Medical Alumni Association.

In addition to his invaluable contributions to the field of medical study Dr Senanayake has also been actively engaged in countless community service projects within the country.

Some notable projects that he was a part of are the Rubella vaccination program launched in 1990 and Primary Eye Care Services covering the whole island.

He was instrumental in establishing the Spectacle Lab in order to coordinate and screen school children for refractive errors and the provision of free spectacles in the central province, conducted many outreach camps and cataract camps.

He was also instrumental in the launching of the National Low Vision Services and Vision Rehabilitation Program in partnership of the national V2020 program under the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. And lastly, he also took the initiative in establishing Retinopathy of Prematurity services, diabetic retinopathy screening service and the eye banking facility under the national eye bank at Teaching Hospital Kandy.

As a result of his long standing career as a doctor, teacher and humanitarian figure Dr Senanayake has received several notable accolades (awards) to date.

Has been rewarded for his distinguished contribution to the development of low vision services by the Lions

Club International Foundation and the Hong Kong Society for the Blind in 2013 and Sri Lanka Low Vision has earned the reputation as one of the best programs in the region.

He was invited by the World Health Organization to provide his contribution to create an international consensus on low vision and he made his representation twice in Rome in 2017. The document was published in 2018 after a number of meetings by experts in the field of low vision services.

Dr Senanayake has special interest in ophthalmic epidemiology and vision rehabilitation. He has contributed greatly to studying disease patterns, causes and the prevalence of blindness through the research work he initiated with the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Australia subsequently uncovering a wealth of invaluable data pertaining to the field.

In addition to his busy clinical work as an ophthalmic surgeon in comprehensive ophthalmology, he serves as the co-chairman of the Sri Lanka Eye Foundation on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, he now assists community based rehabilitation programs conducted by the 'Women Development Center', Kandy, ORHAN in Vauniya and 'Nawa Jeevana' in Tangalle.

And in addition to all the previously mentioned services Dr Senanayake has also contributed heavily to the field of research within Sri Lanka through various

notable publications and presentations such as 'The Prevalence and Causes of Visual Impairment in Central Sri Lanka' which was published in *Ophthalmology* in 2009.

'Prevalence of Exfoliation Syndrome in Central Sri Lanka' published in *British Journal of Ophthalmology* in 2008.

In recognition of his clinical and academic work he was awarded several times including;

Presidential Award Winner for Scientific Publications 2008-2009.

Outstanding service in Prevention of Blindness Award 2015 by Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

Award for the contributions for the Development of Low Vision Services in Sri Lanka by Hong Kong Society for the Blind and International Federation of the Lions in 2013.

Madam President, Dr. Saman Senanayake has contributed a great deal to the field of ophthalmology in Sri Lanka and I take great pride and pleasure in presenting to you Dr. Saman Senanayake for the honorary fellowship of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka.