

**POINT OF VIEW**

## Success story of ASNAC 2023

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The Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists (ASN) is the main representative body of specialist neurologists in Sri Lanka. Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists Annual Congress (ASNAC) is the annual summit and the highlight of the association's academic calendar. It is a platform for academic interaction between visiting delegates, Sri Lankan neurologists, physicians, and postgraduate trainees.

ASNAC 2023 was a resounding success, with academic events carried out over a period of seven days. The main congress was held in Hotel Shangri-La, Colombo, from February 24-26, 2023, as a full in-house meeting. This meeting was patronized by the World Federation of Neurology, the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society, the International Headache Society, and the Asian Regional Consortium for Headache.

The objectives of ASNAC 2023 were aligned to keep in par with the annual theme "Bridging basics with futuristic trends in neurology". It attempted to discuss the emerging insights of neurology and to narrate them with the basic neurosciences. The target audience included local and foreign neurologists, paediatric neurologists, clinical neurophysiologists, and neurology trainees. This congress marked the full return to in-person meetings.

ASNAC 2023 took the form of the main congress, several pre- and post-congress workshops and the gala events of an inauguration and a conclusion dinner. There were 24 speakers from 10 countries, 14 of whom joined in person. The entire congress proceedings were carried out on a "paper free" theme, minimizing environmental hazards, while implementing novel digitalized techniques instead, used for the first time in a local conference.

Overwhelmed by the high number of good quality scientific research submissions, the oral and poster presentations were held on a separate day prior to the main congress. Eleven oral presentations and 24 electronic posters were presented. All the presentations were recorded and displayed on an electronic platform at the main congress venue.

The pre-congress session, "Headache Master Class" was held in Kandy, in collaboration with the International Headache Society, the Asian Regional Consortium for Headache, and the Kandy Society of Medicine. The pre-congress session on Movement Disorders was held in Colombo. The inauguration ceremony was enlightened by the glitz and glamour of academia entertaining the 400-plus invited local and overseas guests. Professor Ranjanie Gamage, founder president of the association was hosted as the Chief Guest. Professor Jithangi Wanigasinghe was bestowed with the honour of reading the prestigious Dr J. B. Peiris oration 2023. The congress comprised four dedicated symposia and 13 plenary sessions. The symposia were titled Headache, Dementia, Neuro-emergencies, and Neuromuscular disorders. A minimum of 25% of the time for each session was dedicated to audience interaction. A brainstorming international neurology quiz marked the conclusion



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of the main congress. Two foreign teams participated in the quiz in addition to teams from Sri Lanka. One of the teams from Sri Lanka became the champions.

Post congress sessions included a cadaveric brain dissection training programme for epilepsy neurosurgeons and trainees and a parallel case-based discussion on advanced epilepsy management. The second post congress day consisted of lecture-based discussions on epilepsy genetics and the latest epilepsy nomenclature and classification. Day three was run

as a combined session with the Sri Lankan College of Paediatricians on the rational management of epilepsy.

ASNAC 2023 marked the annual academic assembly, the highlight of the academic annum 2022 - 2023. The academic aspect and entertainment were praised by the delegates to be of international standards. Herein, the organizing committee would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed in the journey towards the success of ASNAC 2023.