

CURRICULUM VITAE**NADIRA KARUNAWEEERA** (MBBS, PhD, FNASSL)**Personal Information****Surname:** KARUNAWEEERA**Forenames:** Nadira Dharshani**Nationality:** Sri Lankan**Date & Place of Birth:** September 1, 1961, Colombo, Sri Lanka**E.mail address:** nadira@parasit.cmb.ac.lk**Postal address:** Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, 25 Kynsey Road, Colombo 0008, Sri Lanka.**Education**

1986 M.B.,B.S. (Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery) (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

1993 Ph.D. (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka), Title of the thesis: 'Study of Clinical Disease and Immunity in Human Malaria'.

2003 Certificate holder – 'Accreditation of Senior Teachers in Higher Education', Staff Development Centre, University of Colombo.

Professional Experience**Present Position(s):**

- Senior Professor and Chair, Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Visiting Scientist, Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, U.S.A.
- Board member, Inter-Academy Partnership for Research (IAP-R), Global network of Science Academies.

Summary of key accomplishments

Nadira is the Chair and Senior Professor of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and an honorary Visiting Fellow, School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA. She is a Medical Parasitologist by training and has extensive teaching and research experience in medical parasitology, with a special emphasis on vector-borne tropical diseases. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) and is the current General Secretary of the NASSL Executive Council. Presently she leads the National Chapter of Organization of Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC OWS) as its Founder President.

She has been a recipient of several competitive research grant awards both internationally and locally.

Internationally recognized awards for her scientific accomplishments include Senior Research Scholar Award, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, U.S.A.; Fulbright Advanced Research and Lecturing Award, U.S.A.; Fellowship Award, Commission of the European Communities, Belgium and Fellowship award, T.D.R., World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Local awards bestowed on her include the Presidential Award for excellence in research, National Apex Award for Professional Excellence and Zonta woman of the year award. She is considered as an authority in malaria

research that encompasses wide ranging fields including pathogenesis, epidemiology, immunity and genetic diversity; has been instrumental in generating novel information, which have aided the process of policy making related to control and elimination of this disease from Sri Lanka. She continues to function as a team leader in multidisciplinary research studies in human parasitic infections and is responsible for pioneering work in the field of leishmaniasis, a newly established disease in Sri Lanka, with setting up of the first leishmaniasis diagnostic and research laboratory in the country with *in vitro* culture facilities and molecular techniques. She has provided academic supervision and guidance to a large number of undergraduate and post-graduate students and has been in the University system for over 30 years (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; University of Edinburgh, UK; Harvard University, USA) with extensive academic and administrative experiences. As an expert in tropical diseases she continues to serve on many national and international scientific advisory and consultative committees or boards sharing her expertise in an honorary capacity. She has organized national and international conferences, workshops and capacity building programs and has led the team that established the first-ever 'Research Promotion and Facilitation Centre' in the Faculty in 2013 that continues to provide training and promotes capacity building of young local researchers. She has published widely with a Google Scholar h-index of 28; i-10 index of 57 and has authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, over 100 abstracts of presentations made at conferences, book chapters and shares the ownership of 2 patents.