

CURRICULUM VITAE

Bhagini Erandi Pathirana

PhD (Sydney), MSc (Osaka), BVSc (Peradeniya), DCSD (NIBM, SL), CTHE (SJP, SL)

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Department of Aquatic Bioresources

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EDUCATION

PHD IN AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH AND MICROBIOLOGY (2016-2020)

Sydney School of Veterinary Science, Faculty of Science, The University of Sydney, Australia

- **Thesis title:** Environmental influences on the Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome and disease associated with *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OshV-1)

MASTER'S DEGREE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (2010-2012)

Faculty of Science, Osaka Prefecture University, Japan

- **Thesis title:** Isolation and characterization of microsatellite markers from the genome of *Rhithrogena japonica* and their application in analyses of populations

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN VETERINARY SCIENCE (1998-2003)

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

- BVSc Second Class (Upper Division)
- Rank: 1/59 in the batch 1997/98

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS, AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:

POST-DOCTORAL LEVEL:

- Dr. and Mrs. A.R. Mohammed Award for the **best presentation in Animal Health**, at the 72nd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, held in July 2020.

GRADUATE LEVEL:

- **Canadian Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Aquatic Epidemiology Travel Award 2018**
To attend and present at the 8th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH), American Fisheries Society, Prince Edward Island, Canada, 2-6 September 2018.
- **Postgraduate Research Support Scheme (PRSS) Award 2018**, University of Sydney
To attend and present at the Annual Meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology, Brisbane, Australia.
- **Endeavour Postgraduate Scholarship 2015**, Australian Government
To pursue doctoral studies at the Sydney School of Veterinary Science, Faculty of Science, University of Sydney, Australia.
- Was nominated for the **Commonwealth Doctoral Scholarship 2016** from the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, UK.
- **Graduate Scholarship 2010**, Kobayashi International Scholarship Foundation, Japan
To pursue graduate studies at the Faculty of Science, Osaka Prefectural University, Japan.

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL:

- **Dr. Arunachalam Chinnaiah Memorial Gold Medal**, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
For best performance at the final BVSc examination in 2003.
- **Prof. S.T. Fernando Memorial Gold Medal**, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- **Distinction for Veterinary Microbiology** at the third BVSc examination.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SENIOR LECTURER (Gr. I), The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dec 2021 to date

LECTURER, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, June 2012 to date

- Teaching: Microbiology (General Microbiology, Seafood Microbiology and Applied Microbiology), Aquatic Animal Health, Marine Biotechnology & Biomedicine, Fish Pathology and Marine Food Technology.
- Course-module development (Aquatic Animal Health, Marine Food Technology, Marine Biomedicine)
- Supervised 27 undergraduate research projects
- Research seminar coordinator – special degree programme – batch 2016/17

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, The University of Sydney, July 2016 – Nov 2018

- Conducted practical classes in the degree programme on Animal Veterinary Bio Sciences, on fish necropsy examination, fish anaesthesia and water quality testing (Aug 2017 – Nov 2018).
- Tutorial classes on Aquatic Animal Production. The tutorials were based on Atlantic Salmon Production and Pacific Oyster Production (July 2016).

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT, Osaka Prefecture University, Japan, April 2010 – March 2012

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, Osaka Prefecture University, June 2009 – March 2010

TEMPORARY LECTURER, University of Peradeniya, May 2004 – Dec 2005

RESEARCH GRANTS

Principal Investigator, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Individual Research Grant Award for Basic Sciences 2021

Project: Characterizing the microbiome of *Crassostrea madrasensis* (Indian backwater oyster) and its estuarine environment for healthy and sustainable oyster farming in Sri Lanka

Value: USD 12,650

PUBLICATIONS

Research publications in peer-reviewed journals:

Pathirana E., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2022). Impact of seawater temperature on the Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome and susceptibility to disease associated with *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1). *Animal Production Science*. *Accepted*. <https://www.publish.csiro.au/AN/justaccepted/AN21505>

Pathirana E., Fuhrmann, M., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2019). Influence of environment on the pathogenesis of *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1) infections in Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) through differential microbiome responses. *Heliyon* 5 (7) e02101. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e02101. (**Elsevier**)

Pathirana, E., McPherson, A., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2019). The role of tissue type, sampling and nucleic acid purification methodology on the inferred composition of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome. *Journal of Applied Microbiology* 127; 429-444. doi: 10.1111/jam.14326

Evans, O., Kan, J.Z.F., **Pathirana E.**, Whittington, R.J., Dhand, N., Hick, P. 2019. Effect of emersion on the mortality of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) infected with *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1). *Aquaculture* 505; 157-166. doi: 10.1016/j.aquaculture.2019.02.041

Premarathna, A.D., Pathirana, I., Rajapakse R.P.V.J., **Pathirana, E.** 2016. Evaluation of efficacy of selected anesthetic agents on blood-spotted crab (*Portunus sanguinolentus*). *Journal of Shellfish Research* 35; 237-240. doi: 10.2983/035.035.0100

Premarathna, A.D., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J, **Pathirana, E.**, Senaratne, V.P., Karunarathna, S.C., Jayasooriya, A.P. 2015. Nutritional analysis of some selected fish and crab meats and fatty acid analysis of oil extracted from *Portunus pelagicus*. *International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research* 4; 197-201. <http://www.ijstr.org/research-paper-publishing.php?month=july2015>

Pathirana, B.E., Takemon, Y., Takayanagi, A., Abbas, E.M., Tanida, K., Shimizu, N., Kato, M. 2012. Isolation of repetitive sequence elements from the genome of mayfly *Rhithrogena japonica* (Ephemeroptera:Heptageniidae). *Journal of Advanced Science* 24; 1-7. https://www.istage.jst.go.jp/article/jsas/24/1+2/24_121207668/article

Book chapters

Fuhrmann, M., **Pathirana E.**, de Kantzow, M., Hick, P. (2020). *Ostreid herpes virus disease*. Kibenge, F., Kamunde, C., Chong, R. S-M., Kottowitz, J. (Eds.), *Aquaculture Pathophysiology and Pharmacology*. Elsevier, Inc., New York, USA. *In print*.

Publication of microsatellite sequences in international gene databases:

Fifty-two microsatellite sequences were identified from the *Rhithrogena japonica* genome and were published in the nucleotide databases of GenBank (National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), USA, DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ) and European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).

Research abstracts at scientific meetings (selected):

1. **Pathirana, E.**, Whittington, R., Hick, P. Impact of seawater temperature on the Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome and disease susceptibility. 34th Conference of the Australian Association of Animal Sciences, Cairns, Australia. July 2022. *Accepted*.
2. **Pathirana, E.**, McPherson, A., Whittington, R., Hick, P. Tracing the composition of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome: impact of sampling and DNA extraction. Third Research Symposium of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. November 2021.
3. Achinthika, PAM and **Pathirana, E.** * Demonstrating the cultivability of marine bacteria using Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome. Third Research Symposium of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. November 2021.
4. Rathnamalala, RIBKD, Ilangagedara D., **Pathirana, E.*** Assessing the efficiency of a conventional water treatment process in improving the quality of water. Third Research Symposium of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. November 2021.
5. Gunaratne, D. and **Pathirana, E.** * (2021). Insights into research on infectious diseases in ornamental fish and cultured food fish in Sri Lanka: Trends and gaps. 73rd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (virtual conference), Oak Ray Regency Hotel, Kandy. October 2021.
6. **Pathirana, E.**, Fuhrmann, M., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2020). The role of the microbiome in oyster health demonstrated using an experimental *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1) infection in Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*). International Veterinary Conference 2020, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. July 2020.
7. **Pathirana, E.**, Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2019). The role of tissue type, sampling and nucleic acid purification methodology on the inferred composition of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome. Sydney School

of Veterinary Science (SSVS) Postgraduate Conference 2019, The University of Sydney, Camden, Australia. December 2019.

8. **Pathirana, E.**, Fuhrmann, M., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2018). The role of Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome in the pathogenesis of *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* infections. 8th International Symposium for Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH), Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. September 2018.
9. **Pathirana, E.**, Whittington, R., Tweedie, A., Hick, P. (2018). Tissue preparation and nucleic acid purification influences the outcome of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome studies. Annual meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM) 2018, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. July 2018.
10. **Pathirana, E.**, Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2017). Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome: influence of environment and infection. Marie Bashir Institute Colloquium 2017, The Marie Bashir Institute, Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. November 2017.
11. **Pathirana, E.**, Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2017). Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome in an experimental *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1) infection. Sydney School of Veterinary Science (SSVS) Postgraduate Conference 2017, The University of Sydney, Camden, Australia. November 2017.
12. Hick, P.M., Evans, O., de Kantzow, M.C., **Pathirana, E.**, Rubio, A., Dhand, N.K., Whittington, R.J. (2017). Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome: Closing knowledge gaps to continue farming *Crassostrea gigas* in Australia. Fourth FRDC (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation) Australasian Aquatic Animal Health & Biosecurity Scientific Conference 2017, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. July 2017.
13. **Pathirana, B. E.**, Fuhrmann, M., Whittington, R., Hick, P. (2016). Assessing the role of *Vibrio* spp. in the pathogenesis of Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) mortality associated with *Ostreid herpesvirus-1* (OsHV-1). Postgraduate Research Conference 2016, Faculty of Veterinary Science, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. November 2016.
14. Thilakaratna, W.S., Pathirana, P.B.M., **Pathirana, E.*** (2016). Preliminary investigation: Antibiotic resistance of carp in ponds. NSF Research Summit 2016, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka. July 2016.
15. Pathirana, B.M., Thilakaratna, W.S., **Pathirana, E.*** (2016). Antibiotic resistance of bacteria: Natural water bodies vs commercial aquaria in Tangalle, Sri Lanka. Scientific Sessions of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. March 2016.
16. Adikari, A.D.C.T., **Pathirana, E.*** (2016). A preliminary haematological study of *Carassius auratus* (Goldfish). Scientific Sessions of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. March 2016.
17. Handapangoda, O.V., **Pathirana, E.*** (2016). A microbiological study of a local population of *Saccostrea* sp. found in Tangalle. Scientific Sessions of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. March 2016.
18. Wickramanayake, M., Wanasinghe, L., **Pathirana, E.***, Rajapakse, R.P.V.J. Effect of feeding aqueous extracts of *Sargassum crassifolium* and *Ulva fasciata* on biochemical & haematological parameters of laboratory mice. International Symposium on Agriculture & Environment (ISAE) 2016, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. January 2016.
19. Premarathna, D., Rajapakse, R.P.V.J., **Pathirana, E.**, Jayasooriya, A.P. A study on fatty-acid composition of oil extracted from crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) meat and fish-oil. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2015, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. November 2015.
20. **Pathirana, E.***, Wickramanayake, M., Wanasinghe, L., Wimalarathne, A., Dayarathna, K., Pathirana, I., Kawate N. (2015). Measurement of circulating testosterone concentrations in pond-cultured Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*. Proceedings of 67th scientific sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Oak-Ray Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka. June 2015.
21. Nanayakkara, N.P.T.B.L., **Pathirana, E.***, Liyanage, P.D.I.S. and Pathirana, I. (2015). Antibacterial efficacy of spices and seasoning used in household fish processing and preservation. Scientific Sessions of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. June 2015.

22. Rushanthi, D.P.T., **Pathirana, E.***, Liyanage, P.D.I.S. and Pathirana, I. (2015). Bacteria in ornamental fish aquarium water: Are they sensitive to commercial anti-bacterial preparations? Scientific Sessions of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. June 2015.
23. Premaratne, A.D., **Pathirana, E.*** and Pathirana, I. (2014). A study on the anaesthetic effects of clove-oil and carbondioxide in *Portunus sanguinolentus* (blood-spotted crab). Annual scientific sessions of Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science (SLAAS), Colombo, Sri Lanka. December 2014.
24. Premaratne, A.D., **Pathirana, E.*** and Pathirana, I. (2014). Evaluation of efficacy of selected anaesthetic agents on blood-spotted crab (*Portunus sanguinolentus*). Annual scientific sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Kandy, Sri Lanka. June 2014.
25. Ranasinha, A.D.I.D., **Pathirana, E.*** and Pathirana, I. (2014). An assessment of bacterial quality of water, ice and fish in a fishery harbor in Southern Sri Lanka.1st Ruhuna International Science and Technology Conference (RISTCON), University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka. January 2014.
26. Liyanage I., **Pathirana E.***, Priyankarage N. and Pathirana I. (2013). Comparative assessment of the nutritional quality of commercially available fish feeds. Proceedings of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Colombo, Sri Lanka. November 2013.
27. **Pathirana, E.**, Abbas, E.M., Takayanagi, A., Takemon, Y., Tanida, K., Shimizu, S., Kato, M. (2013). Isolation and characterization of microsatellite markers from the analysis of conspecific populations of the mayfly *Rhithrogena japonica*. Sri Lanka-Japan Collaborative Research Symposium, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. March 2013.
28. **Pathirana, E.**, Abbas, E.M., Takayanagi, A., Takemon, Y., Tanida, K., Shimizu, S., Kato, M. (2012). Isolation and characterization of microsatellite markers from the genome of mayfly *Rhithrogena japonica* and their application in population analysis. Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Limnological Society of Japan, Nara, Japan. March 2012.
29. Abbas, E.M., **Pathirana, E.**, Takayanagi, A., Takemon, Y., Tanida, K., Shimizu, S., Kato, M. (2011). Isolation of short tandem repeats from the genome of mayfly *Rhithrogena japonica*. Seventh Asian Biophysics Association Symposium, New Delhi, India. January 2011.

*Contributed as the research supervisor of the research study.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- Associate Editor, Asian-Australasian Journal of Bioscience and Biotechnology
- Member, Editorial Committee, Sri Lanka Veterinary Journal
- Reviewer, Aquaculture, Fish and Fisheries, Wiley Online Library, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., USA
- Reviewer, Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, 2021
- Reviewer, International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment 2021 and 2020, University of Ruhuna
- Reviewer, NARA Scientific Sessions 2020
- Reviewer, Second Research Symposium of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka, 2020

RESEARCH SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Experimental laboratory skills in Aquatic Animal Health:

Oyster husbandry in controlled laboratory environments, sample collection for virology and bacteriology, shellfish necropsy examination, diagnostic bacteriology (both conventional and molecular level) and diagnostic virology (molecular level) of aquatic animal diseases

Molecular Biology techniques:

Microbiome analysis using bioinformatic software (QIIME2, CLC Genomics, PAST); Real-time quantitative PCR for both diagnostic bacteriology and virology; Conventional PCR; Microsatellite analysis

Soft skills in Computational Biology/Bioinformatics:

Quantitative Insights into Microbial Ecology (QIIME); CLC Genomics; Paleontological Statistics (PAST)

NATA-ACCREDITED LABORATORY EXPERIENCE (Aug 2016 – Feb 2020)

Worked and carried out research in a Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA), Australia, for veterinary testing in microbiology, molecular diagnostics etc.

OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (SELECTED)

- **Monash University, Australia, Nov 2018**
Training course on **Microbiome Analysis** using Quantitative Insights into Microbial Ecology 2 (QIIME2)
- **Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW, Australia, Sept 2018**
Training course on Aquatic Veterinary Pathology
Hands-on experience and theoretical knowledge on gross, microscopic and clinical pathology of fish, crustacean and mollusc diseases
- **University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Canada, Sept 2018**
Workshop on practical bivalve shellfish disease detection and necropsy conducted by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society in conjunction with the International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH).
- **Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology-Public Health (CIDM-PH) and Marie Bashir Institute, Australia, Feb 2017**
Sydney Summer school on Pathogen Genomics and Global Health

UNDERGRADUATE SUPERVISION

June 2012 – to date

1. Assessing the microbiome of farmed oysters (*Crassostrea madrasensis*) and their estuarine environment for healthy and sustainable oyster farming in Sri Lanka: Ms. Chanoli Colonne
2. A study of Sri Lankan marine snakes: Morphology, Reproductive Biology and Parasitic Infections
Mr. Lenin de Silva (Honours degree research: External supervisor: Prof. RPVJ Rajapakse)
3. Assessing the efficiency of conventional water treatment process in improving the quality of water: Mr. Kalana Ratnamalala
4. A review of studies associated with diseases in commercial ornamental fish and food fish cultured in Sri Lanka: Ms. Deshani Gunaratne
5. Demonstrating the cultivability of marine bacteria using Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) microbiome: Ms. Mayuni Achinthika
6. A review of studies associated with histamine in fish and fishery products available in Sri Lanka: Ms. Dulani Abeyratne
7. A haematological study of some selected freshwater ornamental fish: Ms. Chamilka Adikari
8. A microbiological study of a local population of Rocky oysters (*Saccostrea* spp.) in Tangalle, Sri Lanka: Ms. Ovini Handapangoda
9. A comparative study on the antibiotic resistance of aquatic microbes: Natural water bodies vs. commercial aquaria: Ms. Buddhi Pathirana and Mr. S. Tillekaratne
10. Antibacterial efficacy, the effects on water quality and toxicity of Kottamba leaves (*Terminalia catappa*): Ms. Binusha Nanayakkara (External supervisors: Dr. Rasika Jinadasa & Dr. Samantha Jagoda, CAADDR, University of Peradeniya)
11. Comparative study of some selected biochemical properties of six different species of marine macro algae: Ms. Lakshani Wanasinghe (External supervisor: Prof. RPVJ Rajapakse, University of Peradeniya)

12. Effect of *Sargassum crassifolium* and *Ulva fasciata* on bodyweight, certain biochemical and haematological parameters of laboratory mice: Ms. Mihiri Wickramanayake. (External supervisor: Prof. RPVJ Rajapakse, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
13. Growth-related testosterone dynamics in male and female Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*): Ms. Mihiri Wickramanayake & Ms. Lakshani Wanasinghe. (External supervisor: Dr. Indunil Pathirana, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka)
14. Antibacterial efficacy of spices and seasoning used in household fish processing and preservation: Ms. NPTBL Nanayakkara
15. Microbial diversity in ornamental fish aquarium water: Are they sensitive to commercial anti-bacterial preparations? : Ms. DPT. Rushanthi
16. Nutritional analysis of some selected fish and crab meats and fatty acid analysis of oil extracted from *Portunus pelagicus*: Mr. Amal Premaratne. (External supervisor: Dr. Anura Jayasooriya, University of Peradeniya)
17. Evaluation of different anaesthetic agents used in the sedation and anaesthesia of blood- spotted crab, *Portunus sanguinolentus*: Mr. Amal Premaratne
18. Evaluation of a plant-based protein hydrolysate as an ingredient in feed formulation for common carps (*Cyprinus carpio*): Mr. Eshan Chandraratne. (External supervisor: Dr. Anura Jayasooriya, University of Peradeniya)
19. An assessment of bacterial quality of water, ice and fish in a fishery harbor in Southern Sri Lanka: Ms. ADID Ranasinghe
20. Assessing the efficacy of some commercially available, general-purpose disinfectants and antiseptics: Mr. Eshan Chandraratne
21. Bacteriological assessment of efficacy of selected commercial disinfectant products used in the poultry industry: Mr. HDA Wimalaratne (worked as the external supervisor)
22. Comparative assessment of the nutritional quality of commercially available fish feeds: Mr. Iranga Liyanage
23. Study of the genetic variation in exon 4 region k- casein gene in local indigenous and Jamnapari crossbred goats in the North-Western Province of Sri Lanka: Mr. Pradeep Ganepola. (External supervisor: Dr. Basil Alexander, University of Peradeniya)
24. A study on induced breeding of guppy fish, *Poecilia reticulata* by GnRH hormone injection: Ms. Mayuri Samarasinghe. (External supervisor: Dr. Basil Alexander, University of Peradeniya)
25. Isolation and identification of *Vibrio* species from shrimp farms located in Chilaw, Sri Lanka: Ms. Imalka Kodagoda. (External supervisor: Dr. Rasika Jinadasa, University of Peradeniya)
26. Evaluation of feeding strategies in shrimp farms located in Chilaw, Sri Lanka: Mr. Pandula Ramanayake. (External supervisor: Dr. M.N.M. Fouzi, University of Peradeniya)

OTHER EXPERIENCES AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

- **Deputy Proctor, Faculty of Urban and Aquatic Bioresources, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Jan 2022 – to date)**
- **Scientific Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka (April 2006 – March 2008)**
Coordinator for NOMA (Norad's Programme for Master Studies) collaborative projects with the University of Agder, Norway, Bodo University College, Norway etc. from the stage of proposal writing.
Coordinated collaborative projects with the University of Durham, UK, Ritsumeikan Asia-Pacific University, Japan and etc.
- **Administrative Secretary of the CIDA-Tsunami project, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka (2007)**
Project title: Restoration of livelihoods in tsunami-affected areas
- **Member, Delegation of the University of Ruhuna to Bodo University College, Norway (June 2007)**

Was a member of the four-member delegation of the University of Ruhuna to Bodo University, Norway. This delegation was headed by the Vice-Chancellor and was aimed at strengthening the inter-university collaboration and developing a virtual Master's degree programme between the University of Ruhuna and the Bodo University College, Norway.

- **Scientific Secretary to the Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD), Sri Lanka (2006)**

Coordinated the maiden **CVCD Excellence Awards Ceremony** from the stage of calling applications for awards up to the stage of the awards give-away ceremony

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OCEAN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

In-charge of the laboratory complex at Tangalle Campus (2012-2014)

Expanded laboratory facilities which included the establishment of microbiology and molecular biology laboratory and the chemical analytical laboratory

Training of trainers (November 2020)

Conducted a training course for lecturers of Regional Training Colleges of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka, on Aquatic Animal Health Management

Member, Policies, Procedures and By-Laws Committee (2020)

Developing the manual of Academic Procedures and Regulations of the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. This manual carries the by-laws pertaining to the academic programme and the guidelines for academic procedures of the University.

Convener for the OCU team for Japan Quiz 2012

Selection and training of undergraduates to participate in the 'Japan Quiz 2012', organized by the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Co-operation Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Resource person in Marine Sciences

Contributed as a resource person for educational exhibitions organized by the Ocean University of Sri Lanka, to popularize fisheries and marine sciences in Sri Lanka, among school children

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

Shadow person-in-charge, project on 'Improving the relevance and quality of undergraduate education' (IRQUE, 2004-2005)

Coordinated a main activity of the competitive project grant secured by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Peradeniya. The activity involved planning and implementation of a new industrial placement programme for veterinary students

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Completed the **Certificate course in Teaching in Higher Education (CTHE)**, conducted by the Staff Development Centre, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Aug 2020- Feb 2021)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Life Member, Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM)
- Student Member, Australian Society for Microbiology (2016-2017).
- Member, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Registered Veterinarian, Sri Lanka Veterinary Council (Reg. No. 1278).
- Member, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English Language

- International English Language Testing System (**IELTS**) - April 2018
Listening 8.5, Reading 7.5, Writing 7.5, Speaking 7.5, Overall band score **8 out of 9**.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (**TOEFL**) - August 2005 **657 marks out of 677**.

Japanese Language

- Passed examinations of Japanese Language Proficiency (levels 3 & 4), jointly conducted by the Japan Educational Exchange and Services and the Japan Foundation.
- Won the **gold medal** at the Foreign Students` Japanese Language Speech Competition at Osaka Prefectural University, in 2010.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:

- Resource person/speaker (Title: Marine microbiome: the fascinating world within our oceans), in the webinar series organized by the students of the Ocean University, in line with the World Ocean Day 2021. The audience of this webinar consisted of both local and international participants.
- Voluntary Member, Osaka Foundation for International Exchange (OFIX), Japan (2010 – 2012)
- Member, International Exchange Club (KoKoC), Osaka, Japan (February 2008 – March 2012)

NATIONAL LEVEL:

- **Member** of the committee convened by the Marine Environment Protection Agency, on diagnosing the cause/es of marine animal deaths associated with the X-Press Pearl Cargo Shipwreck
- **Member** of the subcommittee convened by the Ministry of Fisheries, to assess the damage to fisheries associated with the X-Press Pearl Cargo Shipwreck
- **Member** of the committee convened by the National Science Foundation (NSF), on preparing a strategic road map and pragmatic action plan on impact assessment, mitigation, damage control and ecosystem restoration associated with the X-Press Pearl Cargo Shipwreck.
- Member of the panel of judges, Interuniversity quiz and poster competition for undergraduates of the Sri Lankan university system on 'Chemistry of marine pollution', organized by the Sri Lanka Society for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) Section E2, held on September 11, 2021.
- Judge, English article writing competition for undergraduates of the Ocean University, organized by the OCU chapter of the Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS), September-October, 2021.

Science writer

- Feature article - Your Veterinarian (Official Magazine of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Vol.2 No. 1, Dec 2021) titled, "**Why are marine turtles dying on our shores?**"
- Feature article on Daily Mirror (June 28, 2021) titled, "**Why are turtles dying on our shores?**"
- Feature article on Sunday Lankadeepa (June 27, 2021) titled, "කැස්බෑවන්ගේ පැවැත්මට බලපාන තර්ජන"