The Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka

The Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists – Celebrating 50 Years of Serving Clinical Biochemistry in Australia.

The Association for Clinical Biochemistry, Sri Lanka (ACBSL) is a young association and the inaugural meeting was held on 5th September, 2007. This association has been founded by 10 founder members. We are thankful to Joseph Lopez, Samuel Vasikaran and Elizabeth A Frank who encouraged us to form ACBSL and provided with the guidance at the initial stage of formation of the association.

ACBSL is an incorporated association under the Companies Act, Sri Lanka. The total membership, including associate members is 28 and both Chemical Pathologists and Clinical Biochemists attached to state sector hospitals, universities and private sector hospitals who are involved in the provision of Clinical Biochemistry Diagnostic services in patient care are eligible to apply for the membership. ACBSL has been affiliated with the APFCB and IFCC.

As a very young Association, within less than two years after formation, ACBSL successfully conducted a two day workshop on Laboratory Quality Control from 4-5th April 2009 and one day seminar on interpretative skills in Clinical Chemistry Diagnosis on 6th April 2009. This was jointly organized by the IFCC, APFCB with the help of 4 IFCC visiting lecturers, namely Jenet Smith, Ken Sikaris, David Bullock and Elizabeth Frank. Both events were well attended and this educational programme was an eye opener to accredit medical laboratories under ISO 15189 accreditation with the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, as prior to this event only one laboratory had been accredited.

So far, members of ACBSL have been participated in several regional and international events. Dr Saroja Siriwardene (President), H Weerawarna (Secretary) and Rohan Sugathadasa attended the APFCB Council meeting at the 11th APFCB in Beijing on 14th October, 2007. H Weerawarna (President) attended IFCC General Conference held in Malaysia 18-19 November 2012 and presented a short paper at ‘Have your say’ session on Accreditation in Sri Lanka as an invited short presentation from full member countries. Dr B K P T Dayanath attended Euromedilabs, Milano 2012 as a winner of IFCC Roche travel scholarship.

10 members were participated at 13th APFCB Congress 2013, Bali Bali, Indonesia from 27-30th October, 2013. All the members were informed about APFCB and IFCC activities and events communicated through the national representative.

ACBSL organizes regular lectures and meetings on currently interested topics. These educational programmes are open to non members too, especially for Trainees, medical staff and Medical Laboratory Technologists.

At the moment ACBSL has priorities to implement the following activities within Sri Lanka for the benefit of the members, public and the patients.

• To offer the assistance to Cosmetics, Devices & Drugs Regulatory Authority, Sri Lanka to streamline the registration process of IV Devices. Presently some of ACBSL members are involved in the process of registration by evaluating new laboratory devices for diagnostic purpose.

• To work in association with Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) to promote ISO
15189 accreditation, especially in state sector hospital laboratories. Presently some of our ACBSL members are working as quality consultants and Assessors for the SLAB.

- To organize training programs on subjects related to Quality Control and accreditation for the private sector and state sector laboratory staff. Training programs will be conducted for Phlebotomy staff on Pre Analytical Errors and sample collection, which is a neglected area in laboratory examination process.

- To support the idea of accreditation and to give necessary support to the committee appointed by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka to implement the accreditation in state sector hospital laboratories.

- To develop the laboratory service for future requirements, especially for the benefit of the victims of the CKD. ACBSL promote the research work to establish the root cause of the disease.

- To implement the use of SI units in test reporting. Although Sri Lanka has started metric system about two decades ago for trading and other activities, still some laboratories use conventional units in reporting laboratory results.

ACBSL has entered into an Agreement for Mutual Collaboration with M/s. OMICS Group Inc., 2360 Corporate Circle, Suite 400, Henderson, NV 89074-7722, USA (journals, Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Sciences Journal) with effect from the 12th August, 2013.

ACBSL is hoping to host an important event on behalf of IFCC and APFCB in near future.

Report prepared by H Weerawarna, one of the inaugural members, past Secretary, past President and present Treasurer of ACBSL.