



SLSA

NEWS LETTER



Joint
president
COAISL

Greetings from SLSA

It's a great privilege to address you on the eve of World Sepsis Day 2025 and Sepsis Awareness month, as a co chair of the Sri Lanka Sepsis Alliance (SLSA).

I extend my sincere appreciation to all, for your tireless efforts in raising sepsis awareness across the island. Your dedication is instrumental in our fight against this life-threatening medical emergency.

Let's renew our commitment to educate the public and healthcare workers through collaboration, strengthening the fight against sepsis, the number 1 in hospital killer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr Vinodini Wanigasekara
Joint President - COAISL

Message from the President – Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM) **World Sepsis Day 2025**

On this World Sepsis Day 2025, the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists joins the global community in raising awareness about sepsis under the theme: "Know Sepsis: Save Lives."

As a proud member of the Sri Lanka Sepsis Alliance, we are committed to supporting national efforts to highlight the critical importance of early recognition and timely treatment of sepsis — a life-threatening medical emergency that continues to claim millions of lives worldwide each year.

Together, through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we can improve outcomes and save lives.

Sepsis is not just a medical emergency; it is a public health challenge that transcends hospital walls, affecting people of all ages, particularly the most vulnerable — newborns, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. In low- and middle-income countries like Sri Lanka, the burden of sepsis is compounded by limited access to timely diagnostics, overuse or misuse of antimicrobials, and gaps in infection prevention practices.

To save lives, it is an urgent need for early detection, effective antimicrobial stewardship, and strengthened infection prevention strategies in all healthcare settings.

As microbiologists, we stand at the frontline of sepsis control — ensuring accurate laboratory diagnosis, guiding appropriate antimicrobial use, and supporting infection control policies.

The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists remains committed to working together with College of Anaesthesiologist and Intensivist of Sri Lanka and other partners to reduce the incidence of sepsis and improve patient outcomes across the country.

Let us renew our collective resolve today to recognize the signs of sepsis early, respond rapidly, and prevent infections wherever possible. Together, we can save lives.
Sincerely,

Dr. Sujatha Pathirage

President – Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists

September 13, 2025



Joint
president
SLCM



Sri Lanka Sepsis Alliance: Progress and Future Directions.

Introduction

The Sri Lanka Sepsis Alliance (SLSA) was established in September 2023 with the endorsement of the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), the highest-ranking health official in Sri Lanka. Its mission is to improve patient care for sepsis and prevent preventable deaths. The Alliance is a joint venture between the College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, with plans to expand membership to other professional colleges.

Founding Principles and Initial Activities

On its inauguration day, the SLSA, in collaboration with the founding colleges' presidents, presented the "Colombo Declaration," outlining the Alliance's future goals. A core objective is to foster multidisciplinary and multi-professional collaboration in the fight against sepsis. Recognizing its significance, the SLSA has established close ties with the Asia Pacific Sepsis Alliance, a partner in the global effort against sepsis. Previously, efforts by individual professional colleges to address sepsis were limited in scope due to their specific professional focuses. The SLSA addresses this gap by providing a common forum for collective action with a unified objective: leveraging multidisciplinary expertise to combat sepsis.

The Alliance's first public engagement was a successful workshop held at Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital during World Pediatric Sepsis Awareness Week. The workshop, organized in collaboration with Ceylon College of Paediatricians and the hospital, attracted a record number of pediatricians and medical officers. This workshop exemplifies the Alliance's commitment to providing academic input to healthcare professionals.

Membership Drive and Collaboration

Following the successful pediatric workshop, the SLSA launched a recruitment drive for both medical and non-medical professionals. The enthusiastic response has resulted in a significant number of new members. The next step is to strengthen collaboration with other professional colleges. The SLSA's virtual office has contacted 17 medical professional colleges, requesting each to nominate two representatives for collaboration. With approximately 50% of colleges having already responded, a core working group was formed from these nominees. This group planned the upcoming Sri Lanka Sepsis Congress, scheduled for September 14, 2024. Targeting postgraduate medical trainees, the congress aligns with the SLSA's focus on academic activities and future healthcare leadership.

Expanding Educational Initiatives

Recognizing the crucial role of nurses in sepsis management, the SLSA planned to organize workshops focusing on "Nurses' Role in Sepsis." The first workshop, scheduled for July 19, 2024, targeted the Colombo group of hospitals, including participation from the private sector. Additional workshops were planned and executed for all provinces.

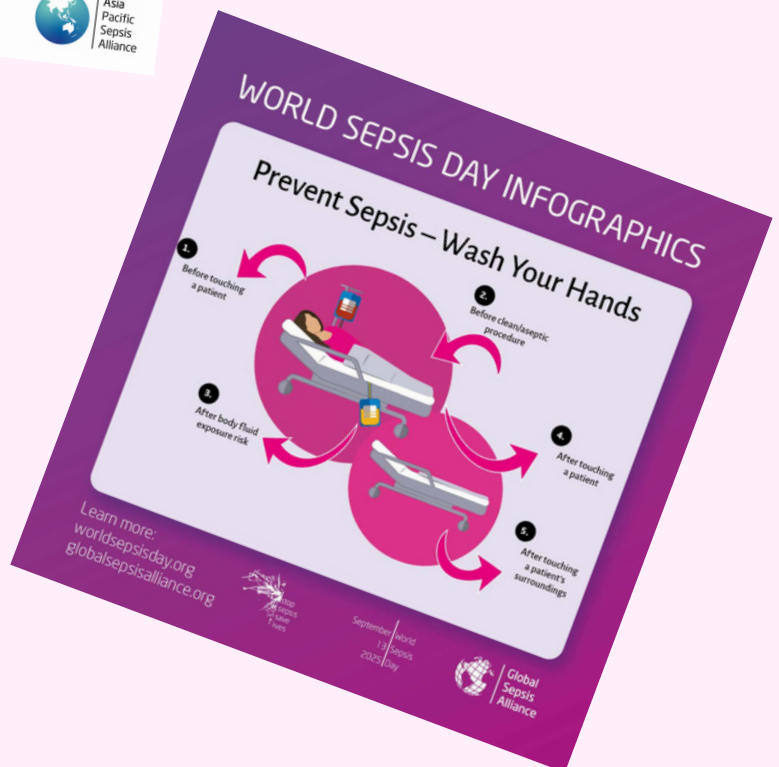
Looking Forward

Within its first year, the SLSA has made significant progress. While financial limitations exist, with the generous support of the Ministry of Health's Education, Training, and Research Unit, the Alliance is committed to using all resources effectively for its academic and professional goals. The SLSA remains steadfast in its mission, guided by the principle of "fighting sepsis together."

Sincerely,

***DR Mahen Kothalawala
Consultant Microbiologist
Convener - SLSA***

International Collaborators





MESSAGE FROM CEO OF THE GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE

ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE, I WARMLY CONGRATULATE THE SRI LANKA SEPSIS ALLIANCE (SLSA) ON THE LAUNCH OF YOUR NEWSLETTER AS WE MARK THE 2025 WORLD SEPSIS DAY.

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2023, WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES, SLSA HAS MADE REMARKABLE STRIDES IN UNITING PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES UNDER THE MISSION OF IMPROVING PATIENT CARE AND PREVENTING AVOIDABLE DEATHS FROM SEPSIS.

YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS - THE COLOMBO DECLARATION, IMPACTFUL ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS, AND YOUR GROWING MULTIDISCIPLINARY NETWORK - ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COLLABORATION AND VISION. THESE EFFORTS POSITION SRI LANKA PROMINENTLY AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

TOGETHER, WE SHALL SCALE UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE 2030 GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SEPSIS, AIMING AT AVERTING AT LEAST 12 MILLION SEPSIS CASES EVERY YEAR AND MAKING THE SEPSIS FIGHT THE NEXT SUCCESS STORY IN GLOBAL HEALTH.

WE ALSO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS OF SLSA TO VIEW THE INSPIRING VIDEO ADDRESS BY DR. TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, RECORDED FOR WORLD SEPSIS DAY 2025. [\[LINK\]](#)

THE GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE IS PROUD TO STAND WITH YOU, AS WE WORK HAND IN HAND TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES AND STRENGTHEN HEALTH SYSTEMS IN SRI LANKA AND WORLDWIDE.

RESPECTFULLY,

HON. DR. MARIAM JASHI

CEO

GLOBAL SEPSIS ALLIANCE

BOARD MEMBER

UNITE PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

Theme : World Sepsis Day – 2025 “5 Facts × 5 Actions”

Global sepsis alliance (GSA) was founded in year 2010 with the mission to provide global leadership to reduce the worldwide burden of sepsis.

Since 2012, GSA commemorates the world sepsis day (WSD) on 13th September each year. The stakeholders include policymakers, national health authorities, researchers, Healthcare professionals and other experts from numerous countries worldwide.

Sri Lanka sepsis alliance a member of GSA and Asia –Pacific Sepsis alliance (APSA) was inaugurated on 13th of September in year 2023 as a joint project by College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka (COAISL) and Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM) in collaboration with Ministry of health (MOH).

The mission of the SLSA is “**to provide leadership to reduce the burden of sepsis in Sri Lanka**”.

It is interesting to note that the SLSA was founded exactly on World Sepsis Day that year.

The GSA expects to achieve a whole- of- society approach against sepsis by. raising the awareness on sepsis. SLSA also follows the theme of WSD given by the GSA to minimise the burden of sepsis in Sri Lanka.

Nandika Wanigasinghe
Consultant Anaesthetist
Member- Interim committee
Sri Lanka sepsis alliance



Since its inception, SLSA has celebrated World Sepsis Day in many ways to improve awareness of sepsis.

These include educational programmes, public awareness programmes, media briefings, poster campaigns and academic conferences.

Each year the WSD marks its own theme. The theme of year 2025 is “5 facts and 5 actions”. This reflects five key messages on the global burden of Sepsis and five policy and advocacy actions that can help to save millions of lives globally.



2025 World Sepsis Day

FIVE FACTS

Fact 1

Sepsis is the leading cause of death globally.

- About 50 million cases of sepsis are reported per year globally and out of it 11 million dies.
- One in 5 deaths are caused by sepsis
- Every 2.8 second one person die due to sepsis



Fact 2

Sepsis disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations worldwide. About 85% of the global sepsis burden occurs in low- and middle-income countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

It remains a leading cause of hospital deaths globally, including in high-income countries. Children under five, newborns, women, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals are at greatest risk, with poverty and limited access to care worsening outcomes everywhere.

Fact 3

Most sepsis-related deaths are preventable with proper measures.

Prevention through immunization, good hygiene, sanitation, and infection control is essential.

Early recognition and prompt treatment are critical, as each hour of delay in giving antibiotics significantly increases the risk of death.

Timely diagnosis and administration of antibiotics, IV fluids, and other supportive therapies save millions of lives.



Fact 4

Despite causing 20% of global deaths, only 15 of 194 countries have national sepsis policies or action plans.

Fewer than 10% have protocols for timely, effective sepsis treatment in adults or children. Although 180 countries have AMR action plans, aligning these with sepsis strategies is urgently needed because AMR-related deaths contribute to sepsis mortality.

Sepsis care is costly, averaging €36,000 per patient and consuming about 3.65% of health sector budgets.

Fact 5

A stronger sepsis response is essential to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including reducing maternal, child, and non-communicable disease deaths.

Sepsis serves as a key indicator of national health system strength and universal health coverage.

Pandemic preparedness also depends on improving sepsis care, as most ICU COVID-19 patients had sepsis.

During emergencies, civilians, healthcare workers, military personnel, and aid workers face heightened sepsis risk.



2025 World Sepsis Day

FIVE ACTIONS

Action 1

Every country should make sepsis a national priority and allocate funding for it. Health ministries must develop and finance national sepsis policies and action plans. These plans should be integrated into broader health system reforms and universal health coverage efforts. Governments should also seek support from bilateral and multilateral partners to strengthen their sepsis response.



Action 2

Every country should establish sepsis protocols and ensure healthcare providers are trained to use them. National authorities and professional bodies must develop evidence-based guidelines, including community pathways and first-hour sepsis bundles. All healthcare workers from primary care to emergency teams and ICUs should receive training in these protocols. Sepsis prevention and management must also be included in medical and nursing curricula.

Action 3

Most sepsis-related deaths are preventable with proper measures. Prevention through immunization, good hygiene, sanitation, and infection control is essential. Early recognition and prompt treatment are critical, as each hour of delay in giving antibiotics significantly increases the risk of death. Timely diagnosis and administration of antibiotics, IV fluids, and other supportive therapies save millions of lives.



Action 4

Sepsis causes more deaths than heart attacks or strokes, yet public awareness is very low. Media can dramatically improve sepsis literacy by making it a familiar term and emphasizing its time critical nature. Journalists and influencers play a key role in holding governments accountable for sepsis action. All media platforms TV, radio, print, and social should regularly report on sepsis and advocate for stronger responses.



Action 5

Future pandemics will heighten sepsis risk, so sepsis must be included in all preparedness plans. Armed conflicts, disasters, and humanitarian crises also increase the likelihood of sepsis. Governments should incorporate sepsis prevention, surveillance, and clinical care into emergency response strategies. Strengthening sepsis readiness is essential for protecting populations during crises.



World Sepsis day activities



Media briefings for public awareness



Join Us to battle against sepsis

Become a Member of SLSA



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