

Professor Mangala Gunatilake (*BVSc, PhD, MLAS, FSLCVS, FELASA, FIUPS*) is an academic in the Department of Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. She has made significant contributions to the field of laboratory animal science (LAS), ethics and animal welfare and alternatives.

In 2011, she took a groundbreaking step by launching the first International Certificate course in Laboratory Animal Science in the Asian region, in collaboration with Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

As the Founding President of the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS), Professor Gunatilake spearheaded the introduction of 'Replacement' concept to Sri Lankan researchers in 2014, with the support of international experts significantly impacting the LAS landscape in the country. Models introduced include zebrafish embryo model, HET-CAM assay, IdMOC model, *in vitro* EpiDerm skin irritation test and hydra model.

In addition to her role at SLALAS, she is also the Founding President of the Society for Alternatives to Animal Testing in Sri Lanka (SAAT-SL) and currently, serves as the Founding Director of the 3Rs Centre in LAS. She established the first postgraduate Certificate and Diploma courses in LAS courses in the Asian region at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo where a separate module on Alternatives to animal experiments is included in the course contents.