

RESEARCH @



University Research Council – University of Peradeniya

Vol: II Issue: II
URC e-Newsletter
February 2022



In this issue:

- **Multidisciplinary research scheme**
- **Publication supporting fund**
- **Funding opportunities such research grants, early career grants, awards, and fellowships**
- **Workshop on Grant writing and Management**
- **News about upcoming research showcase event**
- **Initiation of nEUROcare**
- **Medical research in Sri Lanka: The status quo, potentials and limitations**

Multidisciplinary research scheme

Multidisciplinary Research Grants [MRG]



The University Research Council [URC] is pleased to announce it has initiated a scheme to provide up to 8 multidisciplinary research grants. Two grants will be top up by the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) with some conditions.

The grants are provided for 18 months but researchers are encouraged to utilise the funds within the first year. For the current year, the theme of the applications is kept open but should be in multidisciplinary nature. Some examples are: Health and wellbeing; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Digital, AI and Big Data; Climate, Energy and Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, and Agriculture; Global Development Futures; AI-augmented learning; Resilient Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity; Imaging Science; Sustainable societies; Digital frontiers; Transformative technologies; Creativity and Design; Medical and Digital Humanities; etc.

Financial assistance:

Seven to eight (7 - 8) grants up to Rs 2,500,000 will be disbursed. Out of these, two will be top-up by the PGIS for funding equivalent to 1 year RA position. Funds can be used for the following:

Funding for a research assistant at a rate of Rs 50,000 a month for 12 months (only 2/3 of the grant period)

Minor equipment less than 1 million rupees and other research expenses such as funds required for chemicals, electronic components, sensors and probes, etc

Eligibility Criteria:

The Principal Investigator should be a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya.

There should be at least two Co-Investigators out of which one should be from a different faculty to the Principal Investigator.

Funds cannot be used in concurrently with another grant

The URC reserves the right to amend the eligibility criteria.

Procedure:

The applicant should fill in an online application form. Upon receiving the applications, the URC will follow the following procedure for disbursement, monitoring and evaluating the grants:

Applications will be forwarded to the Management Committee members of the faculties involved for initial screening and suggesting the reviewers.

The short-listed applications will be forwarded to reviewers' comments.

Upon receiving the reviewers' comments, the Management Committee will decide the grant applications to be funded.

Selected applications will be forwarded to the Senate Research Committee for concurrence.

Monitoring and evaluating process will be same as the other university grants.

Applications:

Applications are four parts:

Part I – Information about the Principal Investigator (online entry)

Part II- Project Proposal (Upload as a pdf)

- Title of the Project
- Background/justification/rationale of the project while summarizing the present state of knowledge of the field of the proposed research
- Research problem /research question that your research seeks to address
- State the hypothesis to be tested (if any)
- List the Objectives of the research
- Description of the proposed research
 - ✓ Research Design (work packages)
 - ✓ Methodologies
 - ✓ Data analysis including statistical and analytical methods (if any)
 - ✓ Timeline with clear milestones
- Significance of the proposed research (Also, state the Overall relevance/importance of the project to the Applicant/ Department/ Faculty/University/ Society)
- Expected outputs of the project
- Give a List of References cited (Please use Author /Year System).
- Describe the experience and outputs of the research team in relation to the proposed research

Part III- Budget in a prescribed format (Upload as a pdf)

Part IV- CVs of the PI and Co-Is (Upload as a single pdf)

Deadlines:

URC will open the submission portal soon and the deadline is set to 2 weeks from that date. **Researchers are encouraged to ready with the main proposal as per the guidelines provided**

Publication supporting fund



Research Publication Facilitation Fund [RPFF] University of Peradeniya

The University Research Council [URC] is pleased to announce that it has initiated a scheme to provide financial assistance up to a maximum of USD 1000.00 per year for the researchers of University of Peradeniya to facilitate publishing their research findings in high-ranking peer reviewed journals.

Financial Assistance:

USD 500 per author up to a maximum of USD 1000 per paper per year.



Eligibility Criteria:

The applicant should be a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya and one of the authors of the journal article.

The University of Peradeniya should have been identified as the sole affiliation or one of the affiliations. Journal articles which do not carry the University of Peradeniya as an affiliation are not eligible for funding.

The journal should be indexed in one of the following Web of Science indexes:

- o Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
- o Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
- o Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)

The impact factor of the journal should be 2 or higher

The corresponding author of the journal article should have used the institutional e-mail address (pdn.ac.lk or any variant)

None of the applicants should have used this facility within the current calendar year

The URC reserves the right to amend the eligibility criteria. The article processing charge will be reimbursed subject to the availability of funds.

Procedure:

The applicant should fill in an application form and submit the same to the Director, URC through the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty along with the original copy of the receipt for the payment of page charges and a copy of the journal article. The article should have been published either online or printed with a valid DOI in the journal within the year of concern. The application can be downloaded from https://www.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc/doc/Application%20For%20RPFF_URC_2021.pdf

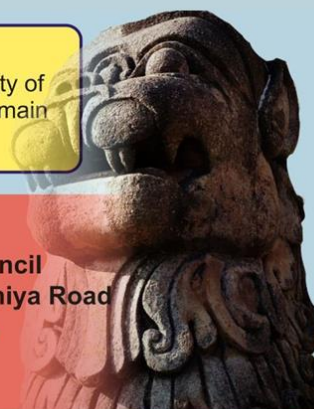
Important:

The author/s other than the corresponding author affiliated to the University of Peradeniya are encouraged to use the official e-mail address with pdn domain name provided by the University of Peradeniya.



more information

The Director
University Research Council
A6 Building, Udaperadeniya Road
University of Peradeniya
dirurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk



HORIZON-2022 grants

1. Proposals must take the form of research and innovation actions. Research and innovation actions require participation by at least three legal entities; each established in a different EU member state or Horizon Europe associated country. Participants from selected LMICs are automatically eligible for funding. Sri Lankan institutes can be the application partner. **Closing date for most of the calls are around 20th April 2022.**

- The following table summarises different calls and maximum amount offered for a consortium.

Call	Maximum amount
<p>Reshaping democracies This supports research with the goal to reinvigorate democratic governance by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law based institutions and policies and through the expansion of active and inclusive citizenship empowered by the safeguarding of fundamental rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-01 - artificial intelligence, big data and democracy; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-02 - the future of democracy and civic participation; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-03 - the impact of inequalities on democracy; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-04 - education for democracy; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-05 - evolution of political extremism and its influence on contemporary social and political dialogue; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-06 - media for democracy, democratic media; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-07 - politics and the impact of online social networks and new media; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-08 - representative democracy in flux; • HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-09 - global governance for a world in transition, norms, institutions and actors 	<p>€3,000,000</p>

Call	Maximum amount
<p data-bbox="48 99 1008 182">Research and innovation on cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries</p> <p data-bbox="48 190 1008 360">This supports research that contributes to the goal of sustaining the EUs leading role in protecting, preserving and enhancing Europe’s cultural heritage and scaling-up the competitiveness of its cultural and creative industries.</p> <ul data-bbox="48 368 1043 1645" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="48 368 993 451">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-01 - safeguarding endangered languages in Europe; <li data-bbox="48 459 958 584">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-02 - Europe’s cultural heritage and arts, promoting our values at home and abroad; <li data-bbox="48 592 1036 762">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-03 - the role of perceptions, formed by traditions, values and beliefs, in shaping European societies and politics in the 21st century; <li data-bbox="48 770 953 853">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-04 - traditional crafts for the future, a new approach; <li data-bbox="48 861 943 986">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-05 - towards a competitive, fair and sustainable European music ecosystem; <li data-bbox="48 994 986 1118">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-06 - increase the potential of the international competitiveness of the European filmmaking industry; <li data-bbox="48 1127 993 1251">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-07 - protection of artefacts and cultural goods from anthropogenic threats; <li data-bbox="48 1259 939 1384">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-08 - effects of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage and remediation; <li data-bbox="48 1392 962 1475">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-09 - games and culture shaping our society; <li data-bbox="48 1483 1043 1645">• HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-10 - the new European Bauhaus, shaping a greener and fairer way of life in creative and inclusive societies through architecture, design and arts. 	<p data-bbox="1072 99 1258 140">€4,000,000</p>

Call	Maximum amount
<p>Enabling an operational, open and FAIR EOSC ecosystem</p> <p>This aims to continue to develop the European Open Science Cloud in a more cohesive and structured manner so that it becomes a fully operational enabling ecosystem for the whole research data lifecycle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-01 - services and tools to underpin a research assessment system that incentivises open science practices; • HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-02 - improving and coordinating technical infrastructure for institutional open access publishing across Europe; • HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-03 - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable and open data sharing in support of healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters; • HORIZON-INFRA-2022-EOSC-01-04 - support for initiatives helping to generate global standards, specifications and recommendations for open sharing of FAIR research data, publications and software. 	<p>€8,000,000</p>
<p>Next generation of scientific instrumentation, tools and methods</p> <p>This aims to develop ground-breaking technologies to enable new discoveries and keep Europe's research infrastructure at the highest level of excellence in science, while paving the way to innovative solutions to societal challenges and new industrial applications, products and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-INFRA-2022-TECH-01-01 - R&D for the next generation of scientific instrumentation, tools and methods. 	<p>€10,000,000</p>
<p>Staying healthy</p> <p>This supports projects that set out a credible pathway to contributing to staying healthy in a rapidly changing society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-HLTH-2022-STAYHLTH-02-01 - personalised blueprint of chronic inflammation in health-to-disease transition 	<p>€7,000,000</p>

Call	Maximum amount
<p>Environment and health</p> <p>This supports projects that set out a credible pathway to contributing to living and working in a health-promoting environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-HLTH-2022-ENVHLTH-04-01 - methods for assessing health-related costs to environmental stressors 	<p>€4,000,000</p>
<p>Tools and technologies for a healthy society</p> <p>This supports projects that set out a credible pathway to contributing towards unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-HLTH-2022-TOOL-11-01 - optimising effectiveness in patients of existing prescription drugs for major diseases, except cancer, with the use of biomarkers; • HORIZON-HLTH-2022-TOOL-11-02 - new methods for the effective use of real-world data or synthetic data in regulatory decision-making or in health technology assessment 	<p>€10,000,000</p>

Other research grants/fellowships and awards

1. Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences yearly competition

This recognises works answering specific questions relevant to the academy.

Relevant studies for 2022 are:

- sociocultural impact of the Chinese presence in Africa or in the Caribbean during the first two decades of the twenty-first century;
- monitoring droughts in semi-arid regions;
- renewable energy sources for possible use on a large scale in developing countries.

The competition is open to all scientists worldwide without any age restriction. Academy members are not allowed to take part. Submitted works must have been written within the last five years at least at PhD level and may be in English, French, Dutch, German or Spanish.

- **Closing date** 01 March 2022
- **Award type** Prizes
- **Award amount** max €2,500
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <http://www.kaowarsom.be/en/questions2022>

2. ERC-2022-StG starting grants

The European Commission Horizon Europe: Excellent Science European Research Council invites proposals for its ERC-2022-StG starting grants. These support researchers who are starting their own independent research team or programme. Applications may be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering.

PIs may be any nationality and based in any country at the time of application. They should have been awarded their first PhD between two and seven years prior and must have produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

- **Closing date** 25 October 2022 (Forecast)
- **Award amount** max €2,500,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Nationality of researcher** Any
- **Website:** <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants>

3. Osteosynthesis and Trauma Care Foundation Research grants

These provide trauma surgeons and basic scientists with seed and start-up funding for promising research projects in the field of orthopaedic trauma surgery.

- Both laboratory and clinical projects are suitable, but in either case clinical relevance must be explicitly and clearly described.
- **Closing date** 15 April 2022 (Forecast)
- **Award amount max** USD 50,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://otcfoundation.org/research/research-grants/>

4. Angelman syndrome grants

The Angelman Syndrome Foundation invites proposals for the Angelman syndrome grants. These support research on Angelman syndrome. Researchers from all countries may apply.

- **Closing date** 15 April 2022
- **Award amount max** USD 200,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://www.angelman.org/as-research/call-for-proposals/>

5. Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA): Human Trafficking Research Initiative

The primary focus of HTRI funding is to strengthen the evidence around potentially impactful programs using rigorous research methods. HTRI will consider human trafficking research projects that fall into any or all of the four P's (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership). Research that is primarily qualitative or descriptive will NOT be considered for funding under HTRI. All research proposed under these seed grants should be in service of examining data or research plans or piloting studies that lead towards impact evaluations (randomized controlled trials) or other rigorous experimental research methods. Quasi-experimental and natural experiment designs will be considered, but preference will be given to seed grant applicants that focus on randomized evaluations.

- **Closing date** 11 March 2022
- **Award amount:**
 - Small research pilots of promising interventions - \$10,000 to \$50,000 per pilot
 - Seed money for a travel grant or staff time to build on nascent research ideas - \$10,000 and \$15,000 per award
 - Small grants for data work using existing sources to examine program impact - up to \$10,000
- **Applicants:** encourages applications from minority researchers, such as women, junior scholars, first-generation college graduates, and citizens of low- or middle-income countries
- **Website:** <https://www.poverty-action.org/publication/application-guidelines-human-trafficking-research-initiative-rfp-seed-round-2>

6. Global Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Fund: Call for Proposals

- The Global EbA Fund is a rolling program. We accept and review concept note submissions year-round, with biannual funding decisions and announcements. Global EbA fund accept applications in the following areas:

- Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) - a nature-based solution that harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and build resilience of human communities to climate change.
- Catalytic interventions - that increase scalability or replicability of EbA interventions, shift social or behavioural norms, strengthen the case for economic viability or feasibility of EbA interventions, expand the evidence base for EbA effectiveness, integrate EbA into complementary climate adaptation strategies, create synergies between EbA initiatives, and/or mainstream EbA into policies, institutions, or other sectors.

- **Closing date** 28 Feb 2022 (Applications received after the cut-off date will be considered for the next biannual funding decision)
- **Award amount:** Grants issued will be in the range of USD 50,000 to USD 250,000 (of maximum three years in duration)
- **Applicant institution:** This funding opportunity is open to NGOs, international NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples organizations, universities and other academic institutions, research institutes, and think tanks. Projects with a country-specific focus must target one or more countries that are [eligible for official development assistance](#) at the time of application.

- **Website:**

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/global_eba_fund_grant_procedures_manual.pdf

7. BRAC Institute of Governance and Development: Women's Economic Empowerment and Digital Finance

- Large grants are called on extensions to existing experimental research designs that would yield results of central relevance to the initiative's research agenda.
-
- Small grants are called on measuring indicators such as (digital) financial inclusion and women's economic empowerment are crucial for estimating important outcomes such as financial health, female agency and empowerment, intra-household bargaining power, control of household decision-making, etc.
-
- Before submitting proposals, interested candidates are encouraged to read the full RFP document as well as the white paper, which includes critical details about the Initiative's core research themes and questions.
- **Closing date: 3 March 2022 23:59 Bangladesh Standard Time (BST)**
- **Award amount: Large Grants Maximum**
 - **Large-scale**
 - Greenfield Evaluations: USD 500,000.
 - Extensions to Existing Studies: Maximum USD 200,000.
 - **Small Grants**
 - Measurement Studies: Maximum USD 50,000.
 - Qualitative Studies: Maximum USD 50,000
 - Pilot Studies: Maximum USD 50,000.
- **Applicant:** Researchers working in higher education institutes or other research institutes are eligible to apply. Graduate students working with a research adviser are also eligible to apply. Proposals from individual researchers who are not institutionally affiliated will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances where the researcher has a demonstrated record of high-quality research.
- **Website:** <https://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/all-projects/womens-economic-empowerment-and-digital-finance/request-for-proposals/>

8. Alan and Helene Goldberg in vitro toxicology grants

- The Johns Hopkins Centre for Alternatives to Animal Testing invites pre-proposals for its Alan and Helene Goldberg in vitro toxicology grants. These support the development of alternatives to the use of animals in biomedical research and product safety testing. Projects' objective should be to significantly reduce or replace laboratory animals. Proposals must relate to toxicology or refinement, with topics such as providing mechanistic understanding of in vitro responses to toxicants in human cells, development of adverse outcome pathways, or conducting systematic reviews. Consideration should be given to the translation of this new method to evaluate and predict health outcomes.
- **Closing date** 16 April 2022 (Forecast)
- **Award amount** max USD 40,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/grants/>

9. The Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation Grants

- The Conservation, Food and Health Foundation seeks to protect natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and promote public health in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The foundation helps build the capacity of organizations and coalitions with grants that support research or improve the learning and generation of local solutions to complex problems.
- The foundation supports projects that demonstrate local leadership and promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organizations; and address a particular problem or question in the field. It prefers to support projects that address under-funded issues and geographic areas.
- **Concept Application Deadlines:** 1st July 2022
- **Grant Amount:** The average grant is approximately \$20,000.
- **Country focus:** low- and lower-middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. It prefers to support organizations located in low- and middle-income countries or organizations located in upper-income countries whose activities are of direct benefit low- and middle-income countries. The foundation does not support the states of the former Soviet Union or former Eastern Bloc countries.
- **Website:** <https://cfhfoundation.grantsmanagement08.com/>

10. The Nestlé Foundation Research Grants

The Nestlé Foundation offers different award and grant categories, some of them using a modular approach, i.e. the Pilot Grant Program represents the starting grant module for a later Full Grant Research application. The eligibility criteria as well as the Research objectives and topics have to be fulfilled independently from the award category.

- **Deadline:** May 10th 2022
- **Award amount:**
 - Training Grant (TG) Up to US\$ 20'000
 - Pilot Grant (PG) Up to US\$ 20'000
 - Small Research Grant (SRG) Up to US\$ 50'000
 - Large Research Grant (LRG) Up to US\$ 100'000 per year to a maximum of US\$ 300'000 for 3 years
 - Re-Entry Grants (REG) Up to 50,000 in total
- **Country:** Eligible institutions are departments or institutes from universities, hospitals, and other institutions of higher education in low- or lower middle-income countries.
- **Website:** <https://www.nestlefoundation.org/research.html>

11. Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)

Innovation is central to accelerating a more just and inclusive world. FID embodies this idea by offering a renewed approach to development assistance, providing grant funding to test new ideas, experiment and demonstrate – based on rigorous evaluation methods – what works in development, and scale the most efficient solutions with the greatest positive impact.

- **Deadline:** Not specified
- **Country:** Low- and middle-income countries, and specifically encourages applications. FID also encourages applications from consortia of multiple organizations. Multilateral or international public institutions and individuals are not eligible to apply.
- **Award amount:**
 - Prepare – € 50,000
 - Pilot – € 200,000
 - Test and Position for Scale – € 1.5 million
 - Transition to Scale – € 4 million
 - Transforming Public Policy – € 150,000
- **Website:** <https://fundinnovation.dev/en/application-form-step-0/>

12. Aqua for All

- Aqua for All supports the scale-up of proven solutions and develops service and finance models to unlock private capital and reach scale.
- **Deadline: Not specified**
- **Eligibility:** Applicants affiliated with companies, government agencies, knowledge institutes, utilities, NGOs, and community-based organizations are eligible.
- **Countries:** Eastern Africa, Western Africa, or South Asia.
- **Website:** <https://aquaforall.org/application-documents/>

The URC is pleased to announced that Dr. R.M.D.B Herath from the Department of Sociology won the Georg Forster Research Grant for experienced researchers awarded for a period of 18 months.

Fellowships

☐ Singapore National Research Foundation fellowships

The Singapore National Research Foundation invites applications for its fellowship scheme. This enables early-career researchers to carry out independent research in Singapore in any discipline related to science or technology. Projects should exhibit likelihood of a research breakthrough.

Applicants may be of any nationality and must hold a PhD with no more than seven years of post-PhD experience. The fellowship can only be used to fund research conducted in Singapore.

- **Closing date** 10 March 2022
- **Award amount** max SGD 2,500,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://www.nrf.gov.sg/funding-grants/nrf-fellowship>

☐ Bogliasco fellowships

The Bogliasco Foundation invites applications for its fellowships. These enable individuals who have made significant contributions in the arts and humanities to live and work together in groups of eight to 10 residents in Italy to foster productive exchange.

Individuals of all ages and nationalities doing creative or scholarly work in archaeology, architecture, classics, dance, film or video, history, landscape architecture, literature, music, philosophy, theatre and visual arts may apply.

- Fellowships have a duration of one month.
- **Closing date** 15 April 2022
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://www.bfny.org/en/apply/requirements>

Postdoctoral research fellowships

☐ [Centre for Research on Ethics](#)

The Centre for Research on Ethics invites applications for its postdoctoral research fellowships. These support research on ethics and economics, ethics and the environment, ethics and health, ethics and politics and meta-ethics.

Applicants must have obtained their PhD after 1 June 2018. They are encouraged to apply for funding from external agencies. They must be competent in both English and French.

- **Closing date** 16 April 2022 (Forecast)
- **Award amount** max CAD 43,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <http://www.lecre.umontreal.ca/concours-de-stages-postdoctoraux-du-cre-2021-2022/>

Other

Julius Shiskin award for economic statistics

The American Statistical Association, in partnership with the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, invites nominations for the Julius Shiskin award for economic statistics. This recognises contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy.

Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country may be nominated.

- **Closing date** 15 April 2022 (Forecast)
- **Award amount max** USD 1,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:**

<https://community.amstat.org/businessandeconomicstatisticssection/new-item/new-item>

Vet-LIRN network capacity-building projects

The Food and Drug Administration, through the Center for Veterinary Medicine, invites applications for its Vet-LIRN network capacity-building projects call. This supports enhanced human and animal food safety by strengthening the capacity, collaboration and integration of food-safety laboratories and networks, thereby facilitating an effective and coordinated response to future human and animal food safety issues.

- **Closing date** 15 April 2022, 11 July 2022, 16 January 2023, 15 April 2023, 10 July 2023.
- **Award amount max** USD 1,125,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-18-604.html>

Research seminar funding

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Society invites applications for its research seminar funding. This supports the hosting of seminars that explore new domains, establish partnerships or continue an existing discussion.

Projects are evaluated based on their originality, scientific quality and compatibility with the institute's focus theme of technology and society. They must strengthen or create links between at least two research teams at the institute. Priority is given to projects that are co-funded by the teams.

- **Closing date** 15 April 2022, 15 August 2022
- **Award amount max** €15,000
- **Country of applicant institution** Any
- **Website:** <https://ifris.org/appel/appel-permanent-a-seminaires-colloques-et-tables-rondes/>

Workshop on Grant writing and Management



Workshop on Grant writing and Management

Date: 30/03/2022
Venue: TBD

This half a day workshop is idea for early career researchers but researchers in any point of their research career is welcome to join. The workshop will be on hybrid mode

The agenda of the workshop:

9:00 – 9.45 am	How to write a good research proposal	Prof. J.B. Ekanayake Director URC
9:45 – 10.30 am	Best practices to manage your research grant	Prof. S.H.P. Karunaratne Senior Professor and Chair of Zoology
10:30 – 10.45 am	Tea and Refreshments	
10:45– 11.30 am	Procurements and budget management	Mr. S.P Jayakody Senior Assistant Bursar
11:30 am – 12.15 pm	Discussion Forum	Prof. Rupika Rajakaruna Prof. R. D. Jayasinghe Prof. M. I. Fazeeha Azmi



Please Register

on or before 01/03/2022

<https://forms.gle/2yTS1tGqWcevtvCH7>

Organized by the University Research Council,
University of Peradeniya

Upcoming research showcase event NEWS

Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES – 2022)



**Venue: Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water
Technology (in front of the Faculty of Engineering)**

Date: March 23, 2022

The event will be held in hybrid mode

This event will provide an opportunity to hear from our researchers working on nationally and internationally important projects, showcase our researchers and research outputs and also discuss about our commitment to supporting researchers.

University Research Council – University of Peradeniya

Initiation of nEUROcare



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

618596-EPP-1-2020-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-



Management Team



Participants of Inauguration Session

The first workshop, nEUROcare – a European initiative for capacity building to meet the challenges of caring for people with neurodegenerative disorders in Sri Lanka (618596-EPP-1-2020-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) was held in Waters Edge, Battaramulla from 07th to 11th of February 2022. The partners from Högskolan Kristianstad, Sweden, Triskelion, Norway, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, University of Tartu, Estonia, Neapolis University Pafos, Cyprus, University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, University of Ruhuna, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University were participated in the event. The workshop was led by Professor Martin Persson, the Project Manager, Kristianstad University (Sweden).

Dr HDWT Damayanthi, Dr AMSD Pathiranage, Ms Thilini Weerasinghe from the Department of Nursing and Ms Renuka Dasanayaka of the Department of Physiotherapy of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences represented University of Peradeniya.

nEUROcare aims to improve the clinical provision of care for neurodegenerative diseases. During the workshop, initial drafts were made for the eight courses that represent a total of 30 credits in accordance with the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) system. Neurology and medical care of neurodegenerative disorders, Clinical assessment, evaluation and outcome measurement, Person-centered care, Comprehensive care for people with neurodegenerative disorders, Psychology, Communication, Implementation and evaluation, and Family and societal perspectives are the courses developed through nEUROcare. In addition, University of Peradeniya is actively involved in the initial draft preparation of two courses: Clinical assessment, evaluation and outcome measurement, Person-centered care with the collaboration of University Medical Centre Ljubljana (Slovenia), Kristianstad University (Sweden), and University of Tartu (Estonia).

Dr HDWT Damayanthi
Project Coordinator - nEUROcare
University of Peradeniya

ANALYSIS

Medical research in Sri Lanka: The status quo, potentials and limitations

Diseases and ill health are common problems that living beings are grappling with. Animals have a strong natural instinct to regain normal health when fall sick. Being an intelligent species on the planet, the human, discovered healing methods and medicines from the time of antiquity that had been evolved with the civilization over thousands of years. Each society had its own healing method that includes well known Ayurveda in the east and Allopathic system in the west. With the advancement of science and technology, the Allopathic system was fueled with the science from all corners of the globe to reach rocketing momentum to become the global scientific medicine today. A tiny island that is considered insignificant in the world map has been contributing for global medical sciences and the literature that needs accounting and auditing. Sri Lanka has a longstanding reputed health system with good health indicators despite being a developing country that provides free health care for its people. Both preventive and curative sectors of the health system possess well established administrative and operational infrastructure and skilled manpower. In par with the health system, medical education has expanded today numbering 11 medical faculties for undergraduate studies and Postgraduate Institute of Medicine for postgraduate education.

The disease patterns are changing where non-communicable disease burden is increasing. Communicable diseases are kept under control, for example eradication of malaria, but emergence of infections such as dengue, rickettsioses is a challenge. Over the last two years COVID-19 pandemic is the main focus of the health care system. Increasing population, rapid urbanization, destruction of forest cover, increased use of fossil fuel, carbon dioxide emission, environment pollution, use of agrochemicals and chemical fertilizers and changing traditional diet have contributed to today's disease

pattern in the country. Some of these health problems are unique to Sri Lanka or to the region or to the tropical countries. Sri Lanka is reputed as a tropical paradise as well as the hub of tropical medicine. It has been the custom in Sri Lanka to depend on knowledge and skills developed in the west and apply them locally. However, such foreign knowledge does not fully agree with the local health problems. Therefore, generation of knowledge locally is very important and appropriate based on scientific research conducted in Sri Lanka.

From early 20th century, during colonial administration and later, there had been sporadic journal publications contributed by some clinicians and laboratory scientists. These publications were listed in bibliographies compiled time to time as small volumes. During last three decades, number of research publications has increased with renowned interest in medical research. A rewarding system for international research publications introduced by the National Research Council as presidential awards encouraged Sri Lankan researchers to do high impact publications. Initially, presidential awards included fair monetary rewards, but changing governments stopped that practice limiting the awards to a certificate. Introduction of CVCD excellence award in the University system also encouraged academics to build up good research profile. An interesting study published by Ranasinghe et al from the University of Colombo had looked into Sri Lankan medical research output during 2000-2009. They found 1,740 articles published in 160 different journals with annual publication growth of 9.1%. Majority of these articles (55%) were published in international journals. Most of the articles were descriptive studies and case reports while only 2% was randomized controlled trials. The study found that Sri Lankan contribution to global medical research is only 0.086% which is a minute fraction. Since then, such studies of holistic approach to same research topic were not found in the literature search until now. However, a research and development report of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka gives important statistics on Sri Lankan publication in SCI journals during 2014 -2018. Accordingly, in 2018, there were 1035 SCI publications comprising natural science, engineering and technology, medical science, agriculture, social science and humanities. Of them, number of medical publications was 319 (30%). Most of these publications had foreign collaborations. Gross domestic expenditure on research and development in 2018 was 0.13 of GDP. There was an unusual rise of SCI publications in 2018 compared to 2014 to 2017 period, where numbers were less than 500 per year. There is an increasing trend for SCI journal publications in most recent years.

The potential for medical research is vast. The research topics and questions are in abundance. The medical science evolves around the human body and environment. All other scientific fields and humanities have links and integral role with the medical science e.g. biomedical engineering has become most important field for the advancement of treatment methods. Health of the human mind is an essential component of the health. The mind-health has link with sociology, religion and arts. Research seeks for new knowledge and discoveries that have direct or indirect applicability for benefit of humankind. Sri Lanka has its own research questions and topics when considered the geographical, climatic, environmental and genetic factors. Despite this opportunities and potentials, Sri Lanka is far behind in the global research arena. Medical science has many branches. The basic sciences include anatomy, physiology and biochemistry. The clinical medicine is vast that includes all diseases, anomalies and pathologies and their causes such as microbes, toxins, genetics and treatment methods such as drugs, surgeries and appliances. Doing collaborative research locally and the international collaborations, where Sri Lankans taking the lead role would be the way forward.

It is necessary to understand what makes medical research lag behind. These factors and limitations are common to all other fields as well. Identification of these limitations is a research. However, certain factors are obvious to the academics and researchers. To carry out research, the most important drive is the research interest generated individually and nationally. We are lagging behind in both where individuals have less motivation to do research. Similarly, political and administrative bodies do not show adequate enthusiasm for research. Despite these limitations, a handful of Sri Lankan researchers are spending time and energy to do research due to sheer interest without expecting any reward or recognition. However, this is not sustainable without advocacy of the administrative bodies and the government. The university system has the pivotal role of uplifting research in the country and to advise the governments to support the research. Just mere existence of research units in the country with bureaucracy would not help Sri Lanka to reach global research arena.

SAM Kularatne, Senior Professor, Chair of Medicine,
Department of Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine,
University of Peradeniya.