October 2023, volume 3 issue X

# RESEARCH@



## URC E-NEWSLETTER

2023

Pg 02

Pg 05

Pg 07

Pg 15

Pg 17

Pg 19

IN THIS ISSUE

**iPURSE 2023** 

Top 2% Researchers 2023

Research Grants

**Publication Supporting Fund** 

Workshops

Watch workshops organized by University Research

Council

University Research Council -University Of Pg 20

Peradeniya o

**UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA** 

#### Peradeniya University International Research Sessions 2023 'Navigating the New Frontiers - Exploring Opportunities'

Date: September 20th-21st, 2023

#### Venue: Postgraduate Institute of Science and University of Peradeniya

Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, commonly known as iPURSE, successfully convened for its annual event from September 20th to 21st, 2023. The event brought together scholars, researchers, and academics from across the globe to explore and share insights on a wide array of topics. The conference comprised an inaugural ceremony on September 20th, held at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, and faculty research sessions conducted on various venues across the university on September 21st.

The inaugural session, held at the Postgraduate Institute of Science on September 20th, was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries. The Chief Guest for this grand occasion was Vidya Jyothi Prof. Chandra Wickramasinghe, a luminary in the field of science. Prof. Arun Chokalingam from the University of Toronto, a distinguished scholar in his own right, was the Guest of Honour, adding to the grandeur of the event. The presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Directors, and esteemed invitee guests further elevated the importance of this event. The keynote address during the inaugural session was delivered by Prof. Ajith de Alwis from the University of Moratuwa, whose expertise shed light on the conference theme.





















On September 21st, featured faculty research sessions conducted at various venues throughout the University of Peradeniya. Researchers and scholars presented their work and engaged in thoughtful discussions under the umbrella of six main sub-themes. These sub-themes, indicative of the diverse range of research at iPURSE 2023, are as follows:

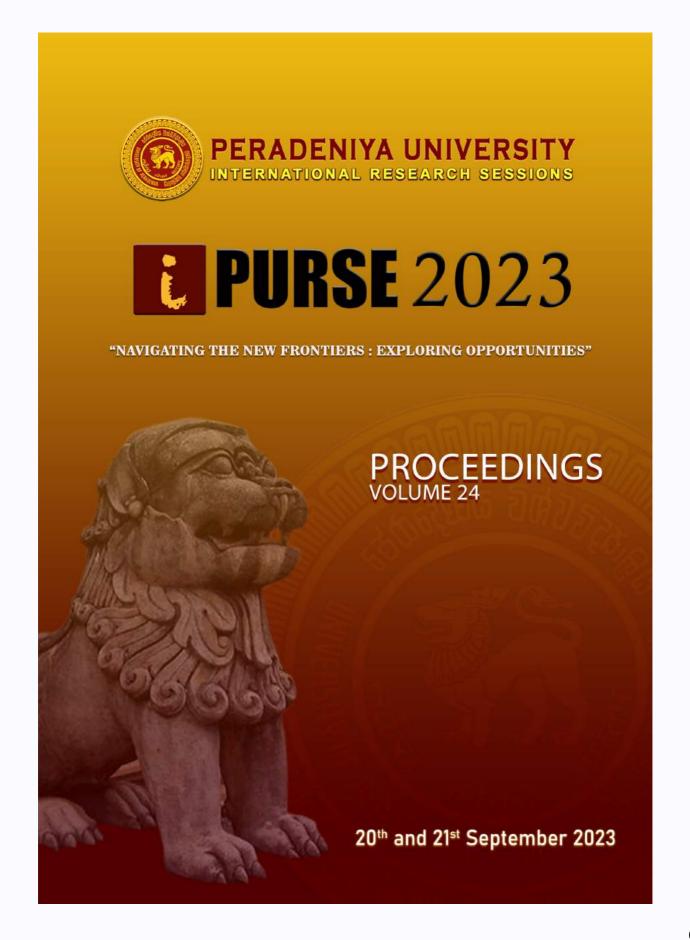
- 1. Business Resilience in Crisis (26 abstracts)
- 2. Global Health Challenges and Opportunities for Collaboration (102 abstracts)
- 3. Innovations for Sustainable Cities and Societies (44 abstracts)
- 4. Scientific Frontiers and Overcoming Challenges for Sustainable Transitions (46 abstracts)
- 5. Towards Sustainable Agricultural Systems: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities (51 abstracts)
- 6. Managerial Turn in Higher Education: The Issues and Challenges for Human Existence (47 abstracts)

The primary objective of iPURSE 2023 was to facilitate robust interactions between research students and early career academics with their more established counterparts. This platform provided an ideal setting for intellectual exchange, enabling participants to discuss and share their current research, thereby fostering collaboration and the expansion of knowledge in these diverse fields of study.

Peradeniya University International Research Sessions 2023 was an event marked by not only academic excellence but also a sense of unity and purpose. Researchers from various corners of the globe came together to address critical issues, propose innovative solutions, and navigate the new frontiers of knowledge. This successful event was a testament to the power of collaborative research and the unending pursuit of academic excellence, and it will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the global research community.

The Proceedings of the conference is now available on

https://site.pdn.ac.lk/ipurse/docs/iPURSE%20Proceedings%202023.pdf



# TOP 2% RESEARCHERS 2023

## October 2023 data-update for "Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators"

A publicly available database of top-cited scientists that provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator (c-score) is now published at

#### https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/6

The selection is based on the top 100,000 scientists by c-score (with and without self-citations) or a percentile rank of 2% or above in the sub-field. This version (6) is based on the October 1, 2023 snapshot from Scopus, updated to end of citation year 2022.

The following members are recognised in the database based on career-long citation impact up until the end of 2022.

	Rank	H index	No of citations of		Composite
			Single authored	Single + First authored	score
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, Faculty of Engineering	72,569	42	82	2128	3.5755
Prof. N. Senanayake, Faculty of Medicine	121,922	25	235	1358	3.3832
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake, Faculty of Science	143,253	23	377	820	3.3192
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne, Faculty of Medicine	155,445	24	307	1006	3.2857
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera, Faculty of Engineering	212,301	41	0	2054	3.1538

Further, the following members are recognised in the database based on the citation index up in 2022.

	Rank	H index	No of citations of		Composite
			Single authored	Single + First authored	score
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, Faculty of Engineering	60,762	15	4	97	2.8971
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake, Faculty of Science	110,532	7	42	81	2.6812
Prof. S. D. Dharmaratne, Faculty of Medicine	116,279	50	0	6	2.6725
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne, Faculty of Medicine	149,925	6	23	84	2.5820
Prof. R.P.N.P. Rajapaksha, Faculty of Agriculture	262,013	8	0	127	2.3745
Prof. B.E.P. Mendis, Faculty of Agriculture	318,063	8	0	98	2.2997
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera, Faculty of Engineering	326,524	9	0	55	2.2895

Dr. Avanthi Deshani Igalavithana is also listed under the University of Peradeniya though she resigned from our service.

### Fellowships/Grants

#### **ANSTO/ANZSNM** research grant

This supports research in any area of nuclear medicine in Australia and New Zealand. All aspects of nuclear medicine are considered, including novel developments in radiopharmaceuticals, hardware and software innovation, epidemiology and audit activities, pilot clinical trials, retrospective studies on outcomes in diagnostics and therapeutic procedures in nuclear medicine, and education, training and professional development activities.

Closing date 16 December 2023

Award amount max AUD 20,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://www.anzsnm.org.au/index.cfm//members-centre/anstoanzsnm-research-grant/2023-research-grant/">https://www.anzsnm.org.au/index.cfm//members-centre/anstoanzsnm-research-grant/</a>

#### **Postdoctoral research positions**

The YUFE universities are pleased to announce their second call for postdoctoral research positions within their YUFE4Postdocs (Y4P) program. This supports early-career researchers from all disciplines in conducting research at selected host institutions under the overarching theme 'Urban challenges and opportunities' and with a particular focus on Citizens' Well-Being and European Identity. Candidates can define their own research subject within the overarching narrative, for a project that they will carry out within the research environment of their host university under guidance of a local supervisor, and with support of a co-supervisor in another YUFE university. The following universities participate in the program: University of Antwerp; University of Eastern Finland; University of Bremen; University of Cyprus; Maastricht University; Universidad Carlos III De Madrid; University of Rijeka; Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland; University of Essex.

Indicative starting date for appointment is 1st of September 2024.

Closing date 20 December 2023

Award amount max €194,088

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://www.yufe4postdocs.eu/call/">https://www.yufe4postdocs.eu/call/</a>

#### **Call For Proposals: Gairdner Ontario Programs**

The Gairdner Foundation, in partnership with the Krembil Foundation, is working to promote excellence and involvement in science in the province of Ontario. They are issuing an open call to all scientific organizations, research institutions and universities in the fields of human biology and medicine for events to be held next year.

Programs should fit into one of the three following streams:

- 1. Celebrating Excellence Stream: Programs that focus on recent scientific advances and bring extraordinary international science to Ontario, while highlighting the excellence of Ontario researchers. Potential programs would largely be stand-alone scientific symposia on a current and growing area of human biology and medicine. We encourage the inclusion of public and student engagement at these events as well.
- 2. Public Engagement Stream: Programs that translate extraordinary science into innovative, engaging and relevant programs for a lay audience, and encourage the growth of science culture and literacy in Canada. Potential programs could include public lectures, town hall events and panel discussions.
- 3. Talent Development Stream: Programs that reach out to high school and undergraduate students to inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators. Potential programs could include competitions, guest speakers or student conferences.

Events should be unique, free or low cost to attend, and represent the Gairdner dedication to excellence in research. We strongly encourage online engagement and are also able to provide in-kind communications assistance. French, English and bilingual programs are all eligible for this call.

Closing date 20 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max USD 25,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://www.gairdner.org/resource-hub/call-for-proposals-2023-gairdner-ontario-programming-call/">https://www.gairdner.org/resource-hub/call-for-proposals-2023-gairdner-ontario-programming-call/</a>

#### **OTA Resident Research Grants**

Among the highest of priorities for the OTA is orthopaedic trauma research funding. The OTA funds trauma-related research projects to advance the treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal injury. All research grant applications are reviewed by the OTA Research Committee, and upon committee recommendation, are approved by the OTA Board of Directors.

Closing date 23 December 2023

Award amount max USD 20,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://ota.org/research/grants/ota-resident-research-grant">https://ota.org/research/grants/ota-resident-research-grant</a>

#### Dr. Elwood F. Caldwell Graduate Fellowship

The fellowship is for students currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program in the science of food and will provide a generous stipend to students pursuing research focused on addressing the current and future needs and demands of the global food system.

Created through a \$1 million bequest from his estate, Dr. Caldwell believed strongly in Feeding Tomorrow's mission and that students in the science of food should be encouraged and fostered to pursue their own research.

Closing date 30 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 25,800

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website https://www.ift.org/community/students/fellowships

#### **SARC Sarcoma Career Development Program**

SARC is seeking career development applications from early-stage physicians or scientists conducting sarcoma research in the United States or Canada.

Closing date 16 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 100,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://sarctrials.org/research/funding-opportunities/#careerdev">https://sarctrials.org/research/funding-opportunities/#careerdev</a>

#### Early career researcher working groups

The German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, under its Synthesis Centre, invites applications for its early career researcher working groups. These support networking in teams to perform research on biodiversity synthesis, including social sciences. Applications must be submitted by teams of between eight and 10 researchers, led and driven by early career researchers, who are PhD students or have received their PhD no more than six years ago, and including a maximum of two senior researchers. Projects should aim to have at least 40% female participation and under-represented regions should be visible in the group composition. A maximum of five of the eight participants can be from outside of geographical Europe.

Closing date 16 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount max €30,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website https://www.idiv.de/en/sdiv/calls.html

#### Global innovation programme postdoctoral fellowships

Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania invites applications for its global innovation programme postdoctoral fellowships. These support scholars who study global affairs and have interests in interdisciplinary outreach and policy relevance in spending time in residence at the Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania. There is particular interest in applicants in the following two areas: the future of the global order, power, technology, and governance; and global shifts, urbanization, migration, and climate change.

There are no mandatory teaching responsibilities. Postdoctoral fellows in the Global Innovation Program will pursue their own research as well as participate in the intellectual life of Perry World House. Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to give a presentation during the academic year in the Perry World House Seminar Series, publish policy relevant scholarship related to Perry World House themes, and attend regularly scheduled seminars. They will also be expected to spend up to 10% of their time contributing to the intellectual environment at Perry World House, including working with Perry World House's Undergraduate Student Fellows, as well as designing and planning engagements in relevant theme areas. Perry World House will provide mentorship, professional guidance, and introduce each postdoctoral fellow to related faculty and leaders of centers and institutes at the University of Pennsylvania.

Closing date 19 December 2023 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 67,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://global.upenn.edu/perryworldhouse/global-innovation-program-postdoctoral-fellowships">https://global.upenn.edu/perryworldhouse/global-innovation-program-postdoctoral-fellowships</a>

#### **James Marshall Public Policy Fellowship**

The SPSSI James Marshall Public Policy Fellowship trains early career scientists to 1) contribute to the effective use of scientific knowledge about social issues in the formation of public policy at the federal level; 2) educate the scientific community about how research can contribute to the development of public policy; and 3) establish a more effective liaison between social scientists and various policymaking mechanisms.

Closing date 02 January 2024

Award amount USD 60,000 - 64,200

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=747">https://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=747</a>

#### Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship

Scholars in any field of inquiry in the humanities or humanistic social sciences - broadly conceived - are invited to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship, made possible through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Wesleyan University.

The purpose of this Fellowship is to provide scholars who have recently completed their Ph.D.s with free time to further their own work in a cross-disciplinary setting, and to associate them with a distinguished faculty. A Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow will teach a one-semester undergraduate course; participate in the collegial life of the Center for the Humanities, which sponsors conferences, lectures, and colloquia; and give one public lecture.

Closing date 10 January 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount min USD 58,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website https://www.wesleyan.edu/humanities/fellowships/mellon.html

#### **Environmental Fellows Program**

The Harvard University Center for the Environment created the Environmental Fellows program to enable recent doctorate recipients to use and expand Harvard's extraordinary resources to tackle complex environmental problems. The Environmental Fellows will work for two years with Harvard faculty members in any school or department while also strengthening connections across the University's academic disciplines.

Closing date 11 January 2024 (Forecast)
Award amount min USD 140,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted
Website <a href="https://environment.harvard.edu/environmental-fellows-program">https://environment.harvard.edu/environmental-fellows-program</a>

#### **AHA Data Grant: Debiasing Clinical Care Algorithms**

The purpose of this Request for Proposal is to reevaluate risk prediction models and algorithms in the field of cardiovascular and stroke science that have been adjusted for race. One such example is the Pooled Cohort Equation for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. The Pooled Cohort Equation predicts 10-year risk for a first atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease event.

In the process of reevaluating the use of race in risk prediction models and algorithms, a researcher might assess the complex interactions among ancestry, race, racism, socioeconomic status and the environment. A researcher may focus on whether removal of race in a clinical algorithm relieves or exacerbates inequities.

Examples of topics that would be responsive to this RFP include:

- 1. Assessing whether removal of race in a clinical algorithm relieves or exacerbates inequities.
- 2. Assessing potential bias in clinical published algorithms that include race, correcting for the bias, and identifying factors for the bias.
- 3. Developing statistical methods and advanced models that mitigate the bias in clinical published algorithms to support equitable care and treatment

Closing date 11 January 2024

Award amount max USD 50,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities/data-grant-debiasing-clinical-care-algorithms">https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities/data-grant-debiasing-clinical-care-algorithms</a>

#### Post-Doctoral Fellows Programs (One or Two years)

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry announces a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Poetics, funded by a Challenge Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, for an academic year of research, writing, teaching, and residence at the Center. The purpose of the FCHI Postdoctoral Fellowship in Poetics Program is to stimulate and support the humanistic research of scholars in the early stages of their careers with time, space, and other resources. An essential feature of the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Poetics Program is the expectation that Fellows make intellectual contributions not only within the Center, but, more widely, to humanistic studies at Emory. Thus, Poetics Fellows will be expected to offer an upper-level undergraduate course on a subject of their choice during the spring of their fellowship year.

Closing date 19 January 2024 (Forecast)
Award amount min USD 47,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted
Website <a href="http://fchi.emory.edu/home/fellowships/index.html">http://fchi.emory.edu/home/fellowships/index.html</a>

#### **Large Research Grants on Education Program**

The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived. This program is "field-initiated," meaning that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, or method. Our goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

We seek to support scholarship that develops new foundational knowledge that may have a lasting impact on educational discourse.

Closing date 24 January 2024 (Forecast)
Award amount USD 125,000 - 500,000
Country of applicant institution Unrestricted
Website <a href="https://www.spencer.org/grant\_types/large-research-grant">https://www.spencer.org/grant\_types/large-research-grant</a>

#### Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Distinguished Fellowship on Southeast Asia

Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford fellows spend three to four months at Stanford and two to four months at NUS, writing and conducting research on, or related to, contemporary Southeast Asia. Fellows have opportunities to present their research and participate in seminars and workshops organized by relevant campus units. Exposure to the two universities and their scholars and resources enriches and diversifies collegial feedback on the fellows' research projects and facilitates intellectual exchange and networking on both sides of the Pacific.

The Lee Kong Chian Fellowship is the core of the Lee Kong Chian NUS-Stanford Initiative on Southeast Asia, a joint effort established in 2007 by the National University of Singapore and Stanford University to raise the visibility, extent, and quality of scholarship on contemporary Southeast Asia. The infrastructure for research pursued through the fellowship is provided by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at NUS and the Southeast Asia Program in the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (Shorenstein APARC) at Stanford.

Closing date 27 January 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount USD 37,500 - 60,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website <a href="https://aparc.fsi.stanford.edu/education/fellowship-and-training-opportunities/nus-stanford-fellowship-southeast-asia">https://aparc.fsi.stanford.edu/education/fellowship-and-training-opportunities/nus-stanford-fellowship-southeast-asia</a>

#### **Optica Women Scholars**

Optica Women Scholars are selected annually and receive a merit and need-based grant. In addition to the funding, scholars gain access to our global network of mentors and the supporting companies.

Closing date 31 January 2024 (Forecast)

Award amount USD 10,000

Country of applicant institution Unrestricted

Website

<a href="https://www.optica.org/foundation/opportunities/scholarships/optica\_women\_scholars/">https://www.optica.org/foundation/opportunities/scholarships/optica\_women\_scholars/</a>

Global Call for Research Proposals: Innovative Veterinary Solutions for Antimicrobial Resistance (InnoVet-AMR) 2 in Food-Producing animals: Ruminants and Aquaculture

Innovative Veterinary Solutions for Antimicrobial Resistance (InnoVet-AMR) is a four-year, CAD26.3 million partnership between IDRC and the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The initiative is aimed at reducing the emerging risk that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animals poses to global health and food security.

Through InnoVet-AMR, IDRC and DHSC aim to achieve two main objectives:

- Support research that will identify and develop prophylactic and therapeutic innovative veterinary solutions, including vaccines, to improve health, while reducing the use of antimicrobials in ruminants and aquaculture operations in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- Build effective gender-balanced partnerships to better contribute to the discovery and development of innovative veterinary solutions to reduce the use of antimicrobials in ruminants and aquaculture operations in LMICs.
  - DEADLINE Monday, October 30, 2023 15:00
- DURATION -32 months
- BUDGET 1.6M CAD / project

Website: <a href="https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/funding/global-call-research-proposals-innovative-veterinary-solutions-antimicrobial-resistance">https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/funding/global-call-research-proposals-innovative-veterinary-solutions-antimicrobial-resistance</a>



### Research Publication Facilitation Fund University Of Peradeniya

The new application for Research Publication Facilitation application is now available in <a href="https://site.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc">https://site.pdn.ac.lk/centers/urc</a>

According to the new process introduced for the reimbursement of Article processing charges, applicants can get prior approval for the payments before submission of the application. Upon receiving the approval for the APC from URC, usually through an email, submit the invoice for the payment of the APC, and the credit card statement to process the payment.

#### Note:

- Application is a fillable form, which you can fill using Adobe Acrobat Reader latest versions.
- Furnish all the details, sign the application, get the Head and the Dean to sign.
- Attach a copy of the complete manuscript and the acceptance letter.
- Only the full-length articles published in SCI/SSCI/SCI-expanded/SSCI-expanded with an impact factor of 2 or higher will be considered for Article Processing Charge (APC).

#### **Special Note:**

- The payment must be done by a permanent staff member of the University of Peradeniya.
- If two authors claim for the same article fill in two separate applications and send both applications together (Attaching one copy of the manuscript and the invoice is adequate). If one author paid for the APC, a consent letter from the second author should be submitted.
- Funding is subjected to availability of funds.



## 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)
- 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



# HOW TO DEVELOP A **WINNING GRANT** PROPOSAL: STRATEGIES FOR **SECURING FUNDING**

26 October, 2023

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

@ THE BOARD **ROOM OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL SCIENCES** 

Register before 22nd October 2023 via

https://forms.gle/Ff3NTjbdASWfVHuVA



(SPEAKER)

PROF. SHAYNA CUNNINGHAM

Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Connecticut, USA. **Dental Faculty Research Committee** 

Organized by

**University Research Council** University of Peradeniva





30th of October 2023

At 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM



**Senate Room** 

More info: secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk.



Organized by University
Research Council
University of Peradeniya
in collaboration with
'nEUROcare project'

Prof. Martin Persson

Faculty of Health Sciences, Kristianstad University, Kristianstad, Sweden







# Watch workshops organized by University Research Council





# Looking forward to your contributions to the November edition Email:

secretaryurc@gs.pdn.ac.lk

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