



## **“Colours of Health and Disease” – Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> conference of Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research and the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists**

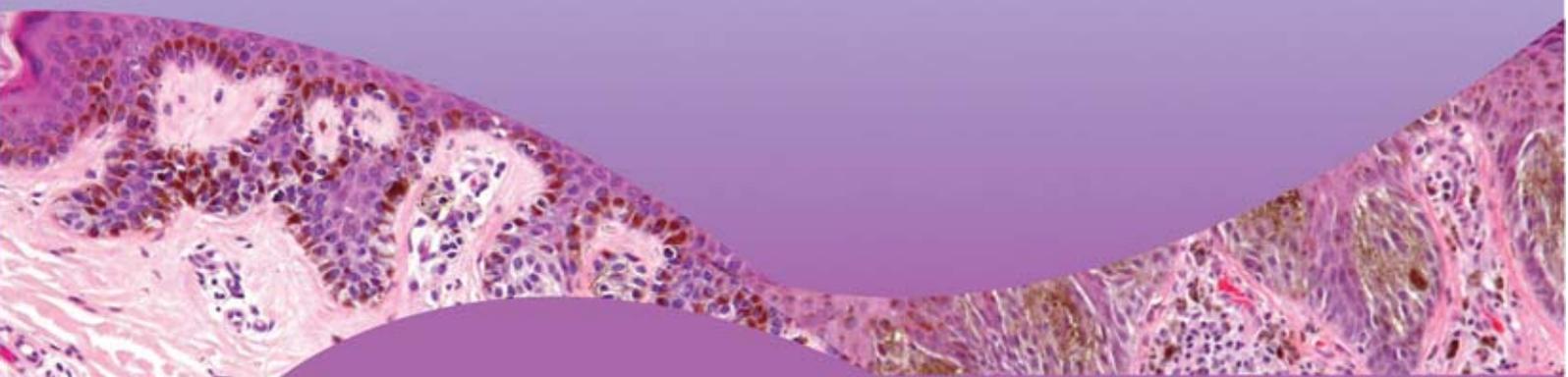
ASPCR-SLCD 2018, the 9<sup>th</sup> conference of Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research and the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Sessions of Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists was successfully concluded on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Asian Society for pigment cell Research (ASPCR) was first founded in 2004 with the aim of promoting research, education and relations among members in the Asia-Pacific region who are interested in pigmentary disorders. A past president of Sri Lanka Association of Dermatologists, (the forerunner of Sri Lanka College of Dermatologists – SLCD), Dr. Prasad Kumarasinghe was the founder president of ASPCR. ASPCR was officially admitted to the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) in 2005 and was joined by three other established societies: European (ESPCR), Pan-American (PASPCR) and Japanese (JSPCR). The first conference of ASPCR was held in 2005 in New Delhi, which provided an excellent platform to clinicians and scientists involved in clinical and basic research in pigmentary disorders, to exchange ideas and for collaborative work. Since then ASPCR held many such events in various countries such as China, Australia, Singapore, Thailand and India. Covering a wide array of topics on pigmentary disorders and updates on the latest advances in the field of pigment cell research.

Due to the instrumental role played by Dr. Prasad Kumarasinghe, SLCD had the privilege of hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> ASPCR meeting in Sri Lanka. This was held jointly with the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Sessions of SLCD.

The conference was held over three days from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at The Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo with the theme “Colours of Health and Disease”. The first day was dedicated for SLCD which was followed by the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> ASPCR over the next two days.

The inauguration ceremony was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August evening with His Excellency the President Maithreepala Sirisena as the chief guest. Due to unavoidable circumstances he could not attend the function but sent his well wishes and message, which was read out on his behalf. Prof Flora Xian, President ASPCR was the guest of honor. The highlight of the day was the inaugural ASPCR oration which was delivered by Prof Davinder Parsad. His oration on “Holistic management of vitiligo: experience of 25 years” was inspiring and informative. The inauguration ceremony was well attended with both ASPCR and SLCD members, and many distinguished guests from other specialties. The inauguration ceremony ended up with a cultural programme showcasing the traditional Sri Lankan dances, which were highly appreciated by the foreign delegates.





The conference was attended by a total of 225 delegates with 88 from overseas and 114 local delegates. The first day, which was the SLCD session consisted of many lectures by local speakers both dermatologists and of other specialties. Twenty one world renowned experts in pigmentary diseases from Asia Pacific region including Sri Lanka and other parts of the world delivered lectures in the ASPCR segment of the conference. In keeping with the theme “Colours of Health and Disease” these consisted of various topics related to pigmentary abnormalities, ranging from normal to pigmentary diseases, from basic to clinical research, from diagnostics to therapeutics and from medical to cosmetic problems. This provided an excellent opportunity to bring together the clinicians interested in pigmentary disorders and scientists in pigment research into one platform.

Original research and case studies in the form of 35 free papers and 59 e posters were presented giving ample opportunities for the young to present their work and share experience. Ten ASPCR scholarships were given to outstanding work presented at the conference and best oral and e poster were selected. This was to stimulate the presenters to engage more in clinical or basic research in the field of pigmentary disorders.

Sri Lankan Night held in the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> August added more colour to ASPCR-SLCD 2018. The evening provided an opportunity for the foreign delegates to embrace the vivid and unique culture of Sri Lanka while mingling with SLCD members. It was a memorable evening of entertainment to all participants.

We are quite certain that ASPCR-SLCD 2018 provided an exceptional opportunity for SLCD members to initiate collaborative work with the giants in pigmentary disorders. This also paved way for Sri Lanka to gain recognition as an excellent conference venue within the international dermatology fraternity.

We humbly acknowledge the positive comments and email communications from around the world congratulating for the organizational work. These messages speak volumes of the collective work and untiring dedication of the organizing committee, who worked enthusiastically to make ASPCR-SLCD 2018 a success.

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ASPCR-SLCD 2018

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