

# Editorial

## Sri Lanka Journal of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (Sri Lanka JoSHH)



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Sri Lanka Journal of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine is the official journal of Sri Lanka College of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (Sri Lanka CoSHH) which is formerly known as Sri Lanka College of Venereologists.

The leading article of this volume is on “Towards ending AIDS in Sri Lanka”. This is the summary of the Presidential Address given by the author at the inauguration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions of the college in 2016.

Undoubtedly, “Ending AIDS” is one of the most talked about subjects during 2016. The goal set by UNAIDS by 2020, is to diagnose 90 percent of people living with HIV; provide antiretroviral drugs to 90 percent of that population; and ensure that 90 percent of patients receiving treatment have a suppressed viral load, making it hard for infection to be transmitted. The long-term global goal is to end AIDS by 2030.

According to the joint publication of National STD/AIDS Control Programme and Sri Lanka Medical Association, titled “Towards ending AIDS in Sri Lanka; a road map”, Sri Lanka has taken a proactive stance of ending AIDS by 2025, five years earlier than the global goal.

To achieve this ambitious target testing and treatment must go to hard-to-reach populations, especially the poorest of the poor in the country, men who have sex with men, drug users, sex workers, beach boys and other marginalized people.

The war against AIDS cannot truly be won without the progress towards elimination of poverty and inequality. The other main challenge to ending the epidemic is the stigma that is associated with the disease. These are the real challenges confronting those involved in providing prevention, treatment and care services for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Ariyaratne Manathunge

Editor-in-chief

([http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual\\_health/issues/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/issues/en/))