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## Editorial

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

I welcome all of you to the fourth issue of the Sri Lanka Journal of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (Sri Lanka JoSHH). This journal is the successor to the Sri Lanka Journal of Venereology which was published until 2014.

Dr D.O.C. de Alwis delivered his presidential address at the inauguration of the 23rd annual scientific sessions of the College titled “Towards professional excellence in sexual health and HIV care”. This speech appears as the leading article of this volume.

The importance of the maintenance of medical professionalism and medical ethics in HIV and sexual health medicine needs no special emphasis. As professionals, we are dealing with people who are involved and affected by conditions that are stigmatised and illegal in society. These conditions may lead to considerable stigma and discrimination and may lead to low utilisation of sexual health and HIV care services offered by the network of STD clinics. This may hamper our efforts to “End AIDS” in Sri Lanka. Maintenance of high standards of medical professionalism and medical ethics is one of the ways to respond this problem.

Although the ultimate goal of any medical professional is to take good care of patients, our discipline needs to fulfil both clinical and preventive roles which need us to operate outside our “trained” knowledge and skill sets. This dual role requires us to work cordially with many stakeholders such as non-governmental organisations, development partners, key population representatives etc. In addition, proper data management, participating in policy development and advocacy for matters relating to HIV and STI are important components of our professional obligation. Therefore, as professionals, our duty goes beyond just as a “diagnoser” or “prescriber.” As a result, maintaining the ideals of professionalism has become ever more complex, especially for a specialist in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (Venereologist) in Sri Lanka.

As professionals practising Venereology, we need to take the lead and advocate cost-effective interventions based on the evidence-based practices from other settings. These are all relevant to professionalism in our discipline.

Ariyaratne Manathunge

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9514-9227>

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