

Eranga Wijewickrama



Short Bio/CV

Eranga Wijewickrama is a professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. He also works as an honorary consultant nephrologist at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka and the National Institute of Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation. After graduating from the University of Colombo in 2002, he obtained his MD in Medicine in 2008 and was awarded the John F. Stokes Gold Medal for the best student in that year. He received his overseas training in nephrology at the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Trust, UK and obtained his board certification as a specialist nephrologist in 2012. He obtained his PhD from the University of Colombo in 2020.

His research interests include acute kidney injury in snakebites and epidemiology of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and CKD of unknown aetiology (CKDu). His noteworthy contributions include the development of a case definition for CKDu in Sri Lanka and the recognition of thrombotic microangiopathy as a marker of severe AKI following snakebites. He was also the principal investigator of the first nationwide CKD epidemiological study conducted in Sri Lanka. He has more than 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals including *Kidney International*, *Kidney International Supplements*, *Nature Reviews Nephrology*, *BMC Nephrology* and *Kidney International Reports*. He has more than 75 scientific communications at National and International Conferences including the Sri Lanka Medical Association Oration in 2022, which is the most prestigious oration in Sri Lanka. He has received research grants from the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka and the University of Colombo. He is the coordinating principal investigator for several international multicenter randomized controlled clinical trials.

He is a member of numerous committees and working groups in the ISN. He is the current Deputy Chair of the i3C working group on CKDu and a member of the South Asia Regional Board and the Educational Ambassadors Program Committee. He was selected to the first cohort of the Emerging Leaders Program of ISN in 2021. He is a past secretary, editor and the current president-elect of the Sri Lanka Society of Nephrology. He is a fellow of the Ceylon College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians London and the American Society of Nephrology.

He strives to improve education and training in nephrology in Sri Lanka and the region. He is a trainer in nephrology and a member of the Specialty board in Nephrology in Sri Lanka and has been the course coordinator of the post-graduate speciality-training program in nephrology from 2019 to 2022. He has participated as a resource person in numerous academic conferences locally, regionally and internationally including the World Congress of Nephrology, the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis Conference and the Asia-Pacific

Association of Medical Toxicology conference. He serves as a member of several expert panels including the Expert Committee on Snakebites of the Sri Lanka Medical Association and the Steering Committee of Renal Research Prevention and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health Sri Lanka.

Candidate's Statement

What I wish to accomplish as an ISN Regional Board leader and Councilor

My vision is to build capacity within the region to overcome the challenges, most of which are unique to South Asia. A deep dive survey among the members will help identify the needs/gaps. We need to enhance nephrology CME programs and training opportunities in the region. I would like to organize quarterly CME sessions open to all trainees in the region with the participation of regional/international experts. There are many centres of excellence within South Asia, which can become regional training centres and will need the ISN support to achieve "mentor status", and I aim to encourage the emerging centres to enter the ISN Sister Renal centre programs with these mentor centres. Social media platforms would be excellent channels to increase the visibility of activities and educational opportunities of ISN among trainees/young nephrologists. I believe in generating more data through research and registries from the region to get attention from the ISN leadership. The research culture within the regional membership needs to be enhanced with the support of ISN committees INET-CKD and ISN-ACT. We need to hold more frequent and action-oriented meetings to drive the activities of the regional board forward.