

Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine Annual Congress (SIMCON2024)

November 7–9, 2024

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Global Ambassador reflections by: Andrew Dunn, MD, MPH, MACP

I was honored to be invited to the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine (SLCIM) Annual Congress as an ACP Global Ambassador from November 7 to 9, 2024. Under the leadership of SLCIM President Dr. Suranga Manilgama and his dedicated team, the conference was impeccably organized and offered a dynamic agenda focused on key aspects of internal medicine. The opening ceremony set an inspiring tone, with Dr. Manilgama delivering a warm welcome that reflected his passion for the field and his high expectations for the event. This was followed by an uplifting address from Sri Lanka's Secretary of Health, who shared an exciting vision for the country's efforts to improve national health care.

Throughout the meeting, I had the privilege of attending several outstanding sessions, including a lively panel discussion on acute kidney injury, which brought forward the perspectives of the primary care physician, nephrologist, and intensivist. One of the highlights was hearing from Dr. Virginia Hood, Past ACP President and current President of the International Society of Internal Medicine, who delivered an engaging speech during the inauguration and a terrific lecture on nephrolithiasis. I was also pleased to contribute to the conference with two of my own lectures, "Clot Controversies" and "Perioperative Management of Anticoagulants." Additionally, I had the honor of serving as a judge for the research presentation session, where I was impressed by the caliber of the studies and presentations. It is clear that Sri Lankan internal medicine physicians are making significant strides in advancing medical science to benefit both their nation and the global community.

The hospitality extended by the Sri Lankan leadership was exceptional. My wife and I were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity to engage with many SLCIM members, learning about health care delivery in Sri Lanka. The organizers also arranged for several captivating cultural performances, including a vibrant dance troupe. We were especially impressed by several SLCIM officers, who showcased their singing talents with a full band. Beyond the conference, we had the chance to explore some of the country's sights, such as the Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo and the ancient Sigiriya fortress in the central highlands. Climbing the 1,200 steps of Sigiriya was made easier and enjoyable by the scenic terraces and cave frescoes along the way.

In all, SIMCON2024 was an exceptional conference. My visit to Sri Lanka was an unforgettable journey filled with learning and cultural richness.



Inauguration Ceremony



Dr. Dunn and Dr. Manilgama



Exploring Sri Lanka: Dr. Dunn, Mrs. Dunn, and Dr. Hood