

CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH BEYOND 2020

13th February 2020

8.30 am to 10.00 am

Health Care in Sri Lanka Beyond 2020

Professor Wasantha Gunathunga

Professor in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is recognized for its high achievements in health with low cost. Many diseases such as polio, malaria, measles and filaria have been eradicated. Sri Lanka has also successfully achieved low maternal and infant mortality rates and excellent immunization coverage. However, HIV, tuberculosis, dengue fever, metabolic syndrome, chronic kidney disease, cancers, injuries and declining mental wellbeing are at present responsible for a high disease burden in the country. Natural and manmade disasters, environment pollution and growing elderly population need serious consideration. The national health programs too should be aligned to achieve the unattained Sustainable Development Goals. Health care services need proactive and robust leadership, reduced corruption, resources, close epidemiological monitoring and rapid response to move Sri Lanka toward higher health standards.