

## Supporting affordable healthcare through innovative research

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Research in Sri Lanka is hampered by low funding. In such a resource limited setting, local researchers must learn to adapt and innovate. The research that we do should be low cost, yet result in maximum social and economic benefits. The challenge is to ensure relevance and feasibility. Mapping research with Sustainable Development Goals will undoubtedly improve its global relevance. The strategy I employed was to focus on health problems prevalent locally, relevant globally, but were rare in the West. This attracted foreign collaborations, whenever it became necessary. In the lecture I provide personal examples of research employing this strategy. It includes:

opportunistic research on organophosphorus poisoning and the safety of ante-natal deworming; prospective clinical trials investigating cost-effective interventions for treatment of Yellow Oleander (*Thevetia peruviana*) poisoning and improving the safety of antivenom treatment for snakebite envenoming; and the use of secondary data to estimate the global disease burden of snakebite and to develop cost-effective sampling methods for epidemiological surveys. These examples demonstrate how rising to the challenge of conducting research with limited resources can produce results of global significance and strengthen affordable health care.

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