INVITED SPEAKERS

Professor Indika Gawarammana is a highly regarded toxicologist with a diverse educational background. He holds an MBBS with Honors from the University of Peradeniya, MD from the University of Colombo, and MRCP from the Royal College of Physicians, UK. He also holds a FRCPE from the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and a PhD from the Australian National University, Canberra. Gawarammana has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Award for Outstanding Scientific Publications, the Australian Leadership Award, the NRC Merit Award for Scientific Publications, and the Research Excellence Award. He leads several research initiatives, including the Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) Programme, funded by NIHR. His research focuses on reducing self-poisoning mortality and advancing toxicology research through training future researchers. His key ambition is to develop commercially available, species-specific antivenoms for Sri Lankan snake species. Professor Gawarammana's scholarly contributions are well-regarded, with a total of 4401 citations and an h-index of 34, reflecting his significant impact in the field of toxicology.

Introduction to NIHR RIGHT 4 Centre for Preventing Deaths of Acute Poisoning in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

The above project, initiated in March 2023, is led by Professors Michael Eddleston (University of Edinburgh) and Indika Gawarammana (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka). It unites a multidisciplinary team of collaborators from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Hong Kong, Australia, Denmark, Norway, and the UK. The project's vision is to enhance clinical care for acute poisoning in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), while expanding research and building capacity within Poison Information Centres. Additionally, the project aims to establish a global hub for research on acute poisoning in LMICs.

Our primary goal is to conduct interdisciplinary research addressing unintentional injuries and emergency care in ODA-eligible countries. By increasing knowledge of poisoning incidences, developing diagnostic and treatment innovations, and formulating international guidelines in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, we aim to significantly impact global public health.

The project consists of five key work packages, focusing on methanol and pesticide poisoning, guideline development, research capacity building, and supporting Poison Information Centres. Governance, community engagement, and dissemination are central to achieving long-term impact, with a particular emphasis on community involvement and social science methodologies.