



Dr. Samarakkody is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the prestigious Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA. Dr. Samarakkody is a proud graduate of College of Chemical Sciences and was a part of the final IChem batch that studied the first two years in Kandy. She first started her research work with Prof. Priyani Paranagama at University of Kelaniya. Dr. Samarakkody then worked as a research assistant at University of Peradeniya under the mentorship of Professor Chandani Perera and Professor Needra Karunarathne. In 2017 she graduated with a PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology from the school of Medicine and Health Sciences at University of North Dakota, USA.

Theme Seminar

Multiplexed Assays for point-of-care diagnostic applications

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Bacterial and viral disease outbreaks have always been a threat to global public health, making affordable, rapid and accurate diagnostics highly important tools to slow down the spread of pathogens and decrease the mortality rate. In this quest, the development of cost-effective and easy-to-use diagnostic devices that enable rapid and accurate detection is essential to reduce the time and costs associated with healthcare services. Therefore, the development and the application of Point-of-Care (POC) assays that overcome limitations in regular lateral flow (LF) assays are essential for better

assay performance and patient outcomes. Dual-Path-Platform (DPP), a unique POC flow assay developed at Chembio Diagnostics has been used in the successful development of many FDA approved POC devices. This talk will cover the development of multiplexed diagnostic devices to detect various diseases that include, but not limited to, COVID-19, Ebola, Flu, Dengue, Malaria, Melioidosis and Leptospirosis. In addition, I will discuss the use of POC assay for the development of companion diagnostic tests for therapeutic drug monitoring.



Dr. Angelo Gunasekera Ph.D. is currently a Senior Director of R&D at Chembio Diagnostics and maintains ties with SUNY Stony Brook University as an Associate Professor in Chemistry & project member of the Institute of Chemical Biology & Drug Discovery (ICB&DD). Before joining Chembio, Angelo held leadership positions in drug discovery research for nearly 15 years at OSI Pharmaceuticals (New York) and Abbott Laboratories (Illinois). Angelo earned his BSc Hons in Chemistry at the University of Colombo and Ph.D. in Biophysics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He also completed his postdoctoral work at Princeton University and the University of California.