The 12th Annual Conference and Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology (SSM) were held on the 23rd of October 2023 at the Oak Ray Regency Hotel in Kandy as a hybrid event. This marked the first physical gathering since 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn of the country necessitated the 9th, 10th, and 11th annual conferences to be conducted as online events. The return to in-person meetings after three years provided researchers with an opportunity to engage in dialogues, fostering potential collaborations.

Aligned with its aims and goals, the SSM offered young scientists engaged in microbiology research the platform to present their work and receive constructive feedback. The presentations, encompassing both oral and poster sessions, covered a diverse array of topics within the field of microbiology.

Both the SSM and the SLJID believe that publishing the abstracts will further facilitate young, emerging researchers in disseminating their work to a wider audience, potentially paving the way for additional research endeavors and collaborations.

Editors,

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