

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

GAMPAHA WICKRAMARACHCHI UNIVERSITY OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

A Seminar on “Exploring Research Collaboration on Therapeutic Potential of Dietary Phytochemicals”

Background:

In recent years, the therapeutic potential of dietary phytochemicals - bioactive compounds found in fruits, vegetables, herbs, and other plant sources - has garnered significant interest across medical, nutritional, and pharmaceutical research communities. Evidence suggests that these compounds may offer promising preventive and therapeutic strategies against chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disorders, diabetes, and neurodegenerative conditions.

Dalhousie University, with its strong research capacity in biomedical sciences, nutrition, and pharmacology, and the **Canadian Network of Sri Lankan Academics (CanSLA)**, a multidisciplinary organization promoting research on healthy aging and preventive health strategies, share common interests in the field of nutraceuticals and phytotherapy.

This seminar proposes to initiate a dialogue between researchers, scientists, and policy stakeholders of Dalhousie University, CanSLA and Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine (GWUIM) to explore collaborative research opportunities and to develop a roadmap for joint initiatives targeting the therapeutic potential of dietary phytochemicals.

Objectives:

1. **Facilitate knowledge exchange** on current research related to dietary phytochemicals and their health benefits.
2. **Identify complementary expertise and research infrastructure** between Dalhousie University, CanSLA and GWUIM.
3. **Initiate collaborative research projects** focused on phytochemical-based interventions for chronic diseases.
4. **Discuss funding opportunities** for joint projects through Canadian and international grants.
5. **Lay the foundation** for a long-term institutional partnership among Dalhousie University, CanSLA and GWUIM.

Guest Speaker:

Prof. Vasantha Rupasinghe,
Department of Plant, Food, and Environmental Sciences,
Faculty of Agriculture,
Dalhousie University,
Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada

Date and Venue:

- **Date:** 23rd September, 2025
- **Time:** From 10.00 am to 12.00 Noon
- **Venue:** Mini Auditorium, ICT Center, GWUIM

Target Audience:

- Researchers, Academic Staff and Students of the Faculties of GWUIM

Agenda:

| Time | Session Title | Speaker/Facilitator |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 10:00 – 10:15 am | Welcome and Opening Remarks | Prof. W. A. L. Chandrasiri Waliwita, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies. |
| 10:15 – 11:00 am | Guest Speech: Exploring Research Collaboration on Therapeutic Potential of Dietary Phytochemicals | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Canadian Network of Sri Lankan Academics (CanSLA) • Introduction to Dalhousie University and Food Bioactives Research program • Research brief: Therapeutic Potential of Dietary Phytochemicals in the Management of Chronic Diseases • Potential opportunities for academic and research collaboration | Prof. Vasantha Rupasinghe, Department of Plant, Food, and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada |
| 11.00 - 11.50 am | Discussions and meetings with participants with an interest in collaborations | |
| 11.50 - 12.00 Noon | Vote of Thanks | Mr. Dhammika Eldeniya, Assistant Registrar - FGS |

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification of mutually beneficial research themes
- Formation of working groups or research consortia
- A draft proposal for joint research funding and international collaborations
- Strengthened academic and institutional ties between Dalhousie University and CanSLA

Contact Information:

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Google Link for Registration:

<https://forms.gle/5JPzi8GGvrNLEJ1VA>

Zoom Link for online Participation:

<https://learn.zoom.us/j/99356473886?pwd=VVCCHPhGhNFo9oNxxlRhGGJR3T1aabM.1>

Meeting ID: 993 5647 3886
 Passcode: 0ZreY+5d