
Dr. VINITHA MOOLCHAND THADHANI

*Senior Research Scientist
Sri Lankan Institute of Nanotechnology*

*Visiting Senior Lecturer
Institute of Chemistry*

*Founding President: Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists
(www.slays.org)*



*Founding Member Global Young Academy
(<http://www.globalyoungacademy.net/membership/members/vinimool>)*

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth: 1970-06-04

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ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

POST GRADUATE DEGREES**1) Ph. D. in Organic Chemistry**

University of Peradeniya (2007)

Thesis Title – *Semi-synthesis and Bioactivities of Lichen Compounds*

2) M.Phil. in Biochemistry

Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura (2001)

Thesis Title – *Studies On Some Sri Lanka Foods In Relation To Dietary Fibre, Digestible And Histamine Reducing Capacity.*

3] First Degree

B.Sc. (sp.) in Chemistry with Second Class Upper Division Honors (Batch top)
University of Sri Jayawardenepura (1997)

Field of Expertise and Research Interest

Natural Products, Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Biological Activities,
Nutraceuticals, Hydrophobic materials, Textile dyeing, Seaweed as
commercial resources

PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Fourteen (14) full publications in peer reviewed national and international journals
 - 2) Two (2) USA Patents on Natural Products- (one on antidiabetic and other on antioxidant compounds from lichens)
 - 3) Thirty seven (37) Communications in National and International Conferences
 - 4) One International Book with Scholar press Germany on Semi-synthesis of lichen compounds
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

1. Senior Research Scientist, Sri Lankan Institute of Nanotechnology, National Centre of Excellence, Pitipana, Homagama, 1st July 2014 up to date
2. Visiting Senior Lecturer at College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry, from Feb 2014 up to date
3. Senior Lecturer, at Dept. of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, 2012 Jan- - 2013 Dec.
4. Visiting lecturer- Para Medical Faculty- University of Sri Jayawardenepura -2012 Jan. - to 2013 Dec.
5. Senior Lecturer at College of Chemical Sciences, Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (2007 Aug. – 2011 Dec.)
6. Visiting Research Fellow, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan.
7. Research Assistant at Dept. of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya (2003 Sept- 2007 April)
8. Lecturer at Institute of Technological Studies, Colombo (Asian University Campus, Clear Lake, Houston) from 2002-2003.
9. Teaching Assistant in Dept. Of Chemistry, Open University Nawala (2000 Nov. – 2001 Dec.)
10. Research Assistant in Dept. of Biochemistry, USJP (1998 May- 2000 June)
11. Teaching Assistant in Dept. of Chemistry, USJP (1997 July – 1998 April)

COURSES TAUGHT

1. Spectroscopy – 20 hours – 2nd year – Institute of Chemistry
2. Advanced Spectroscopy – 20 hours – 3rd year/ 4th year – Institute of Chemistry
3. Medicinal Chemistry – 15 hours – 4th Year - University of Sri Jayawardenepura
4. Stereochemistry – 8 hours – 1st year – Institute of Chemistry

5. Reaction Mechanisms – 8 hours – 1st year – Institute of Chemistry
 6. Organic Reactions – 15 hours – 1st year – Institute of Chemistry
 7. Aromatic Compounds – 8 hours – 1st year – Institute of Chemistry
 8. Heterocyclic Chemistry – 10 hours – 2nd year – Institute of Chemistry
 9. Pharmaceutical Chemistry – 65 hours – 1st year – Medical Faculty, University of Sri Jayawardenepura
 10. Biochemistry (Biomolecules) – 10 hours – 2nd year students – Institute of Chemistry
 11. Food Preservation and Spoilage – 15 hours – 3rd year– University of Sri Jayawardenepura.
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AWARDS

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1. Prof. Tuley de Silva gold medal and CIC cash prize in 1997 for being top in the chemistry special batch of University of Sri Jayawardenepura.
 2. Kandiah Memorial Award – I (2002) from Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon for the best piece of research carried out by a post graduate student in Sri Lanka.
 3. Prof. Sultanbawa Award – 2007 by Institute of Chemistry, for the best research paper in chemistry at the Proceeding of an International Conference in Chemistry (CHEMTECH- 2007).
 4. Chandresena Memorial Award-2015 by Institute of Chemistry for excelling in field of Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
 5. National Research Council publication Award-2015
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Research Grants

1. Common Wealth follow up grant 2015 (1.2 million SLR), provided by Royal Society, UK, on nomination made by National Academy of Science, Sri Lanka, for

- a collaborative research project between FLINDERS university of Australia and SLINTEC on commercial aspect of sea weed resources
2. IPSAT grant 2016 (3 lakhs) provided by National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka, for a collaborative program between FLINDERS University Australia and SLINTEC on "Unlocking the Industrial Potential of Seaweed Resources of Sri Lanka
 3. NSF/Sch/04/01- First scholar to receive a full scholarship for three years by National Science Foundation Sri Lanka to carry out Ph.D. research in Sri Lanka.
 4. University Grants Commission, Research Promotion Centre Sri Lanka scholarship to undergo a training program on "Biotransformation and bioassay techniques" at *International Centre of Chemical and Biological Science, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan* (from 2006 Nov. to 2007 Jan.).

TRAVEL GRANTS

- 1 European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) scholarship to attend the 2nd Worldwide Meeting of Young Academies and joint conference on 'Scientific Support for Policy Making in Sustainable Development: Joining forces' Stockholm Sweeden; 2015, Nov.
- 2 National Science Foundation Sri Lanka Travel Grant to attend 3rd International Conference in Coastal Biotechnology in Quindao, China 2015 Aug.
- 3 COMSAT scholarship to attend 5th Molecular Medicine and Drug Research conference in International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi, Pakistan – 2015 Jan.
- 4 Chinese Academy of Sciences, scholarship to attend the 1st International Conference in Coastal and Marine Biology, Yantai, China - 2014 Sep.

- 5 Global Young Academy (GYA) and Inter Academy Panel for International Issues (IAP) scholarship to attend the Global Young Academy General Meeting in Santiago, Chile – 2014 May.
- 6 COMSAT scholarship to attend the IYCr the South Asia Summit Meeting on Vistas in Structural Chemistry at HEJ Research Institute, University of Karachi, Pakistan – 2014 April.
- 7 Japanese Science Council Scholarship to attend the conference on “Asian Young Scientists” in Tokyo, Japan – Feb. 2014
- 8 Australian Academy of Science scholarship to attend the Primary Connection Workshop organized by Australian Academy of Sciences, in Sydney Australian, 2013 March.
- 9 Ministry of Science and Technology South Africa scholarships to attend the 2nd General Assembly of GYA, in University of Pretoria, South Africa 2011 May.
- 10 National Science Foundation Sri Lanka Travel Grant to attend the International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry at HEJ research Institute, University of Karachi, Pakistan in 2010 Oct.
- 11 Lepodina Foundation Germany scholarships to attend the 1st General Assembly of GYA in Berlin, 2010 March
- 12 Inter Academy Panel for International Issues (IAP) travel grants to participate at World Economic Forum Meetings in Tianjin, China in September 2008 (Aug.), and 2010 (Sep.)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ MEMBERSHIPS

1. Founding President of Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientist which was launched during the Association of Academies Science and Societies of Asia (AASSA) conference organized by National Academy of Science Sri Lanka (NASSL) on 16th-19th October, in Colombo, 2012.

2. Nominated by National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka to Inter Academy Panel for International Issues (IAP) to attend the New Champions Meeting as a young scientist at the World Economic Forum Meeting (WEF) held in Tianjin, China, in 2008.
3. Member of the Selection Committee of IAP to select the young scientist nominated by National Academies of respective countries to attend the New Champions Meeting at the WEF meeting in 2011
4. Participated as a Mentor of Young Scientist at the New Champions Meeting at the World Economic Forum meetings held in Tianjin China in 2010, on nomination made by IAP
5. Founding Member- Global Young Science Academy (from 2010- up to date). Served as executive committee member and group leader: Science Education 2011 - 2012
6. Elected as Executive Committee Member of Global Young Academy consecutively in 2010 and 2011 in Berlin, and South Africa respectively.
7. Member Selection Committee to select new member for Global Young Academy in 2011 and 2012
8. Group Leader- Science Education – Global Young Academy (2011 to 2014)
9. Member, Curriculum reform committee of National Institute of Education (NIE) in 2011.
10. Member course development committee to Introduce the Science for Technology course for new Advance Level Stream through NIE (2013)
11. Conducted an all Island Survey on Science Education in Sri Lanka during Australian Chemistry Quiz contest in 2011
12. Member of Curriculum development team of Chemistry component for Science & Technology Stream for A/L students (2013- March- up to date)
13. Academic Board Member and Member Board of Examiners at College of Chemical Science, Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (2007-up to date).

14. Chartered Chemist and Corporate Member of Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (from June 2001).
15. Council Member, Institute of Chemistry, 2002, 2011 and 2012.
16. Member of Sri Lankan Association of Advancement in Science (from 1998).
17. Assistant Treasurer – Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (2003 Mar.-May).
18. Assistant Editor – Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon (2008 Feb. – June)

PARTICIPATION AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Organizing Committee

1. Organized a workshop on “Unlocking the Industrial Potential of seaweed Resources of Sri Lanka” at SLINTEC Jan 2016, in collaboration with National Science Foundation and Royal Society UK.
2. Organizing Committee member, of Science Council of Asia conference, 2016, June organized by National Academy of Science, Sri Lanka
3. Chairperson of the International Conference on Driving Research Towards Economy: Opportunities and Challenges organized by Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientist at National Science foundation in July 2013
4. Co-ordinated a workshop on *Science Education Outreach* held in October 2011 at Institute of Chemistry co-sponsored by National Science Foundation
5. Co-ordinator- Natural Product Section of International Conference on *Chemical Education* Organized by Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon in June 2012, at Colombo
6. Secretary (Publications)- of Association of Academies Science and Societies of Asia conference, organized by NASSL in 2012, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Participant

1. Participated at a training workshop at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India on "Biomolecular NMR" (from 16th to 20th Jan. 2006).
2. Invited Session Speaker at the 11th International symposium on Natural Product Chemistry at HEJ Research Institute, University of Karachi, Pakistan, held on 30th Oct. to 3rd Nov. 2008.
3. International symposium on Natural products and their Application in Health and Agriculture. Organized by Institute of Fundamental Studies and AFSSA , Hantane , Kandy, October 2012
4. CHEMTEC, 2007, organized my Institute of Chemistry
5. International Food Science Conference 2010, organized by Institute of Chemistry
6. World Economic Forum meetings 2008 in Tianjin, China
7. World Economic Forum meetings 2010 in Tianjin, China
8. Global Young Academy General Assembly, 2011, Berlin, Germany
9. Global Young Academy General Assembly, 2012, University of Pretoria, South Africa.
10. Primary Connection Workshop, Sydney, Australia March 2013
11. Asian Young Scientists conference – Tokyo Japan 2014 Feb.
12. Global Young Academy General Assembly- 2014, May, Santiago, Chile
13. 2nd Entrepreneurship workshop for young scientist and engineers, Sep-2014, Yantai, China
14. 5th International Conference in Molecular Medicine and Drug Research at International Centre for Chemical & Biological Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan, Jan 2015
15. 3rd International Conference in Coastal Biotechnology: Quindao, China, Aug-2015
16. 2nd World wide meeting of National young Academies, Sweeden Nov. 2015.