2015 Events Update
RESEARCH PROJECTS
Major Completed Research Projects up to 2015

- Common Mental Disorders and Resilience Among Internal Displaced People (COMRAID) Follow-up Study
- Impact Of Spouse Migration on Left Behind Families
- Common Mental Disorders and Resilience Among Internal Displaced People (COMRAID) Study
- INDIGO Depression Study
- Psychosocial Consequences and Coping Strategies among Tsunami Survivors in Sri Lanka
- National Mental Health Survey
- Colombo Twin and Singleton Study
On-going Research Projects

• The Colombo Twin and Singleton Follow-up Study
  Collaboration with Kings College London, UK

• The Sleep Sub-study
  Collaboration with University of Sydney, Australia
  Part of the Colombo Twin and Singleton Follow-up Study
The Colombo Twin and Singleton Follow-up Study

Explores the overlap between depression & metabolic syndrome in Sri Lanka

- Questionnaire Data Collection
- Anthropometric Measurements
- Blood Pressure Measurement
- Clinical investigations + biospecimen collection for biobank
- Heart rate variability data
- Actigraphy (Sleep Sub Study)
Research Projects

Upcoming and planned projects

• Post-conflict mental health survey in Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka
• Dementia 10/66 study
• Twin study on back pain (collaboration with University of Sydney)
• Sociology study on twin families
• DNA barcoding of indigenous Ayurvedic plants in Sri Lanka
• Ethics research projects in collaboration with University of Birmingham
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS ALREADY HELD IN 2015
Research leaders workshop for Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
Action research workshop series for school teachers (2 workshops done)
Research methodology workshop for university students in Sabaragamuwa University, Sri Lanka
Seminar on G.C.E Advanced Level school projects for A/L students
Action research workshop for provincial educational research officers
Action research course on learning and mental processes of children: aimed at school teachers
School Centered Research Culture Programme

• A series of one day workshops for school children in non prominent state schools.

• Focuses on student activities, importance of research in education.

• The teachers were taught to understand the child mind and encouraged to use information and technology for academic work.
School Centered Research Culture Programme

3 workshops have been held so far: 2 in Colombo and 1 in Kandy
These education programmes for school children, school seminars, and workshops for educators, including the research leaders workshop for Ministry of health do not have any dedicated funding.

All resource personal and assisting staff are affiliated with IRD, and donate their time for these workshops as we all share the same vision.

It is IRD’s contribution to national capacity building.
Practical skills course in molecular biology techniques at the IRD Genetics Laboratory
Upcoming and planned Capacity building Workshops

- Certificate course on practical skills in molecular biology techniques
- Research leaders workshop for Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka: a non-funded series of workshops to build research leaders in Sri Lanka among the health care sector.
- Fourth annual international course on qualitative research methods.
- School Centered Research Culture Program.
- Action research workshop for school teachers.
OTHER NEWS & EVENTS
Gaveshana – Explorer Magazine

• Celebrating 12 years of successful publishing (2004 - 2015)

• Not-for-profit non-commercial academic magazine

• Only tri-lingual research magazine published in Sri Lanka

• Exclusively dedicated to promoting research among students and the wider general public
Prof Athula Sumathipala was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of Global Mental Health by Kings College London, UK. In recognition and appreciation of his services to the College and subject.

Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana delivered the “Dr. S. Ramachandran Oration” at the 128th Sri Lanka Medical Association’s Anniversary International Medical Congress.
Keele University, UK academic visit to IRD
What we do

- Biomedical Research
- Ethics
- Working for Policy Impact
- Capacity Building