

# CURRICULUM VITAE



## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ Name in full: Thotagamuwe Widanage Nipuni Kasunika Perera
- ❖ Name with initials: T.W.N.K. Perera
- ❖ Home Address: 319/G, Prime Terrace, Malasinghegoda Road, Hokandara-East, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Email: *nipunik@kln.ac.lk*
- ❖ Contact Number: 071-1863108
- ❖ Gender: Female
- ❖ Date of Birth: 03.06.1993
- ❖ Civil status: Married
- ❖ Nationality: Sri Lankan

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- ❖ **Current Position:**  
**Lecturer in Microbiology**, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (01.01.2019 – up to date).
- ❖ **Previous Experience:**  
**Temporary Demonstrator in Microbiology**, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (24.04.2018 – 17.12.2018).

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ **Post-graduate qualifications**  
**Master of Philosophy in Microbiology**, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.  
**Effective date:** 03.01.2023  
**Research Title:** Biodeterioration of Low-Density Polyethylene by Endolichenic Fungi (ELF) and Development of ELF Spore Suspension for Enhancing the Biodeterioration
- ❖ **Under-graduate qualifications**  
**B.Sc. (Special) Degree in Microbiology** with **First Class Honours**, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.  
**Effective date:** 01.03.2018  
**Cumulative GPA: 3.92**

#### **ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS AND OTHER AWARDS:**

- ❖ **Senate Honours** and **Cash Prize** awarded in **2023**, for conducting high-quality research and publishing in a **Scopus** and **SCI-indexed** journal (**Letters in Applied Microbiology**).  
**Title:** Biodeterioration of low-density polyethylene by mangrove-associated endolichenic fungi and their enzymatic regimes.
- ❖ **Third place** at the **Photographic Abstract Competition 2022**, organized by the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon.  
**Title:** Biodeterioration of polymer properties of polyethylene by Endolichenic Fungi.
- ❖ **2 gold medals** at the 103<sup>rd</sup> convocation of the University of Kelaniya in **2018**.
  - **Sarojani Jayawardhane Memorial Gold Medal** for receiving the highest marks in Microbiology at the B.Sc. (Special) Degree Examinations.
  - **Gold medal** awarded by **Alumni Association of the Faculty of Science**, for the best performance in Microbiology at the B.Sc. (Special) Degree Examinations.
- ❖ Included in **Dean's lists - Faculty of Science**, University of Kelaniya for **3 consecutive academic years**; 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

#### **AREAS OF TEACHING:**

- ❖ Scope and Fundamentals of Microbiology
- ❖ Diversity of Bacteria, Virus and Fungi
- ❖ Microbial Biochemistry and Physiology, Bacterial Genetics
- ❖ Fundamentals and Applications of Environmental and Agricultural Microbiology
- ❖ Food Microbiology and Food Hygiene
- ❖ Medical and Veterinary Microbiology, Microbial Technology

#### **CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

- ❖ Enumeration, isolation, identification and application of bacteria and fungi in urban waste dumping sites.
- ❖ Application of endolichenic fungi in polyethylene biodeterioration.
- ❖ Application of bacteria in insecticide degradation.
- ❖ Use of food-graded microorganisms in the food preservation processes (through fermentation methods).

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS:

- ❖ **Citations in refereed journals and scholarly publications:** 08 (h-index; 02)
- ❖ **Peer-reviewed journal publications:**
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Weerasinghe, W.R.H., Attanayake, R.N. & Paranagama, P.A. (2022), Biodeterioration of low-density polyethylene by mangrove-associated endolichenic fungi and their enzymatic regimes. *Letters in Applied Microbiology*, 75 (6), pp. 1526-1537.
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Amarakoon, R. & Edirisinghe, E.A.A.D. (2018). Evaluation of the effects of natural fermentation on Nutritional quality of the cassava variety MU51, *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology*, 5(7), pp. 1-12.
- ❖ **Peer-reviewed abstracted - oral presentations:**
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.** (2024). Isolation and Identification of *Trichoderma* Species in The Soil Samples Collected from Urban Waste Dumping Sites, Matara District, Sri Lanka. Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium 2024, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. pp. 132.
  - Maduwanthi, D.M.S.K., Geeganage, S.D.L. & **Perera, T.W.N.K.** (2023). Enumeration of heterotrophic, iron-precipitating bacteria in the soil samples collected from urban waste dumping sites, Matara district, Sri Lanka. Proceedings of the Open University Research Sessions 2023, The Open University of Sri Lanka. pp. 89.
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Attanayake, R.N. & Paranagama, P.A. (2021). Biodeterioration of low density polyethylene by *Montagnula sacbiosae*. Proceedings of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2021, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. pp. 80.
  - Wijesinghe, J.M.M., Wimalasekara, S.G.M.R.L. & **Perera, T.W.N.K.** (2020). Effect of Abamectin Concentration and Temperature on its bioremediation by *Staphylococcus nepalensis*. Proceedings of the Postgraduate Institute of Science Research Congress 2020, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka. pp. 09.
  - Wijesinghe, J.M.M., Wimalasekara, S.G.M.R.L. & **Perera, T.W.N.K.** (2020). The antagonistic effect between Abamectin degrading bacteria, *Staphylococcus nepalensis* and *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Proceedings of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2020, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. pp. 15.
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Attanayake, R.N. & Paranagama, P.A. (2020). Polyethylene degradation capability of *Schizophyllum commune*. Proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Frontiers in Chemical Technology, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, Colombo. pp.17.
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Amarakoon, R. & Edirisinghe, E.A.A.D. (2019). Effect of Microbial Fermentation on the Antioxidant Potential of Cassava. Proceedings of the International Research Conference-2019, Uva Wellassa University, Badulla 90000, Sri Lanka. pp.37.
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Amarakoon, R. & Edirisinghe, E.A.A.D. (2018). Microbial enumeration assay of fermented products of cassava variety MU51. Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Research Symposium on Pure and Applied Sciences 2018, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. pp. 32.
- ❖ **Peer-reviewed abstracted - poster presentations:**
  - **Perera, T.W.N.K.**, Attanayake, R.N. & Paranagama, P.A. (2023). Pilot-scale application of the *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* spore suspension for the biodeterioration of low density polyethylene. Proceedings of the IUPAC Symposium ISCNP31 - ICOB11(31<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products – 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Biodiversity), Napoli, Italy. pp.229.

#### WORKSHOPS ATTENDED:

- ❖ Participated in the Workshop on “**Use of freeware for analyzing data and presenting results for academic writing**”, organized by the General Research Committee of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (**SLAAS - 2024**).
- ❖ Participated in the **Awareness workshop for academic staff**, organized by the the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (**2024**).
- ❖ Participated in the Workshop on “**Unlock the World of Research and Academia**”, organized by the General Research Committee of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (**SLAAS - 2024**).
- ❖ Participated in Web and Analytics Members Training on ‘**Artificial Intelligence & Productivity Tools**’, organized by the Web and Analytics Committee, University of Kelaniya (**2023**).
- ❖ Attended the **Indo-Sri Lanka Collaborative Research Programme**, organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) in collaboration with the Research and Innovative Division of the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka (**2023**).
- ❖ Participated in the Workshop on ‘**Flipped Learning Method**’, organized by the Staff Development Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (**2022**).
- ❖ Attended as a university nominee for the Training of Trainers (ToT) session on course titled ‘**Learning to Live with Diversity**’, organized by the University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka (**2022**).
- ❖ Participated in the Workshop on ‘**Online Assessment Methods and Tools**’, organized by the Staff Development Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (**2021**).
- ❖ Attended the **training session on updating the web pages**, organized by the Staff Development Unit, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (**2020**).
- ❖ Participated as the department nominee in the e-Workshop on ‘**Student-Centered Learning**’, organized by the Enriching Learning, Teaching, Assessment and English Language Skills Enhancement Development Projects (ELTA-ELSE DPs), University of Kelaniya (**2020**).
- ❖ Participated as a faculty nominee in the Workshop on ‘**Academic Integrity and Online Assessment**’, organized by the Digital Teaching and Learning Interest Group (DTLIG), Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Humanities, University of Kelaniya, together with AHAED Project (**2020**).
- ❖ Attended as a faculty nominee for the ICACT 2019 Workshop on ‘**Empowering Educators using Moodle**’, organized by the Faculty of Computing and Technology, University of Kelaniya (**2019**).

#### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

- ❖ **AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**
  - **Member** of the **Reviewer team** of the Research & Scientific Innovation Society (RSIS) International Journals (**July 2024-up to date**).
  - **Reviewer** in evaluating abstracts at 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Dry Zone Agriculture (ICDA-**2024**) organized by Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka.
  - **Reviewer** in evaluating manuscripts at Uttar Pradesh Journal of Zoology in **2024** (Indexed in Web of Science Indexes [(Zoological Record, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, CAB Abstract), NAAS score 5.24 (2024), Google Scholar and included in Publons]).
  - **Reviewer** in evaluating manuscripts at Asian Food Science Journal in **2023** (Indexed in Ebsco, Proquest, Index Copernicus, Google Scholar and included in Publons).
  - **Reviewer** in evaluating manuscripts at Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology in **2023** [Indexed in Ebsco, Proquest, Index Copernicus, Google Scholar, NAAS - 3.86 (2020) and included in Publons].

❖ **AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

- **Member** of the **Reviewer team** of the Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Sciences (SLJoAS) published by the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka (**July 2024 – up to date**).
- **Reviewer** in evaluating abstracts at 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions (representing section B) at Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (**SLAAS -2023**).

❖ **AT FACULTY LEVEL & UNIVERSITY LEVEL**

- **Academic advisor** in 'The University at the Edge of Life', 60<sup>th</sup>-anniversary exhibition stall, by the Department of Microbiology (**2019**).
- **Group member** of Cluster 1 – Criterion 2 - Section 3, in the preparation of **Self Evaluation Report (SER)** for Programme Review, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (**2019**).
- **Member** of the Event Management Committee of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2020 (**ICAPS 2020**), Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.
- **Session Shadow Moderator** of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2021 (**ICAPS 2021**), Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.
- **Member** of the Publication Committee and **Session Shadow Moderator** of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2022 (**ICAPS 2022**), Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.
- **Co-chair** of the Event Management Committee of the International Conference on Applied and Pure Sciences 2024 (**ICAPS 2024**), Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.
- **Member** of the **Committee for the Open Day of the Faculty of Science**, University of Kelaniya (**2024**).

❖ **AT DEPARTMENT LEVEL**

- **Department Web Master/ Department Web and Analytics Associate (July 2019-up to date)**
- Microbiology **Department Representative** of Science Teacher's Welfare Association (**January 2020-up to date**).
- Conducted **practical sessions** in 'Microbiological Quality Analysis of Food & Water' at the training programme, offered to the **Coconut Development Authority**, Sri Lanka (**2019 & 2020**).
- **Senior Treasurer** in the Society of Microbiology (**September 2022-up to date**) and guided the following events/workshops,
  - Educational seminar series, 'Sipsawiya', conducted for the O/L students, by the Society of Microbiology (**2023 - 2024**).
  - Educational seminar series, 'Dakma 23', conducted for the A/L students, by the Society of Microbiology in collaboration with the Society of Biochemistry (**2023**).
  - The career guidance webinar for undergraduates, 'Pave your way to Industry', conducted by the Society of Microbiology (**2023**).
  - The career guidance webinar for undergraduates, 'Path to Academia', conducted by the Society of Microbiology (**2023**).
  - The interactive session for undergraduates, 'Life as an Applied Microbiologist', collaboratively organized by the Society of Microbiology and Society of Plant and Molecular Biology (**2022**).

**MEMBERSHIPS AT PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:**

- ❖ **Life Member** of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (**SLAAS**)-Section D (Membership ID: 10788/D)
- ❖ **Member** of the **Institute of Biology**, Sri Lanka (Membership number: 2023/924)

I hereby certify that the above particulars furnished by me are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

*Kasunika*

Signature: .....

T.W.N.K. Perera

Date: 30.07.2024