

ID 38 – IUPS 2022- Post Conference Teaching Workshop Symposium

Title of the symposium: **Ensuring student engagement in online learning: role of technology and teachers**

Title of the talk: **Technology applications and student engagement in the pandemic: Sri Lankan experience**

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The year 2020 was a turning point for both teachers and students to continue engaging in teaching/learning activities amidst lockdowns in the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance and training provided by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo regarding the use of online platforms like ZOOM and Teams enabled us to follow the global trend, facilitating student engagement in learning. The teaching/learning activities conducted in online platforms include lectures with more time allocation, small group discussions through breakout rooms, student-centered seminars on identified topics and the development of supplementary material for online physiology practical sessions. Introduction of online teaching help us move forward without any significant extension of the course duration. While the formative assessments were held online, all other assessments were conducted on-site, when the lockdowns were lifted.

Although there were advantages over the use of online platforms, the students faced difficulties in accessing online platforms due to technical issues of telecommunication. Despite advantages and disadvantages, we continue to engage in online teaching/learning activities as the pandemic issue is still not resolved completely.