

# PROPUESTA CONCESIÓN DOCTOR “HONORIS CAUSA” PARA EL PROFESOR SAMAN WARNAKULASURIYA

**Proponente:** Profesor Miguel Ángel González Moles

**Departamento:** Departamento de Estomatología

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## MEMORIA JUSTIFICATIVA DE LOS MÉRITOS ACADÉMICOS Y CIENTÍFICOS DEL PROFESOR SAMAN WARNAKULASURIYA EN CIENCIAS DE LA SALUD

Saman Warnakulasuriya ha desarrollado su labor académica y científica con nivel de excelencia tanto en el ámbito de la docencia, como en el de la investigación y gestión, siempre en el campo de la Medicina y Patología Oral. Actualmente es Profesor Emérito de Medicina Oral y Patología Oral Experimental en el King's College (Londres, UK), ocupando también el cargo de Director del Centro Colaborativo de la OMS para el estudio del Cáncer Oral, cargo para el que fue propuesto y designado directamente por las autoridades correspondientes de la OMS en virtud de sus méritos e historial científico en este campo.

A lo largo de su vida profesional el Profesor Saman Warnakulasuriya se ha dedicado esencialmente al estudio de los factores etiológicos que se relacionan con el desarrollo del cáncer oral. Asimismo ha realizado una investigación muy fructífera en aspectos relativos al pronóstico de este tumor, aportando conocimiento transferible sobre cómo mejorar la supervivencia de esta grave neoplasia. Saman Warnakulasuriya ha contribuido además, de forma decisiva, al conocimiento de las lesiones orales que conllevan un riesgo de evolucionar a cáncer oral (desordenes orales potencialmente malignos). En este aspecto concreto ha sido responsable en los últimos 25 años, y por encargo directo de la OMS, de clasificar adecuadamente estos desordenes, adaptar su nomenclatura, precisar sus diferentes riesgos de malignización, concretar la importancia de los distintos factores etiológicos que los afectan, implementar ensayos clínicos destinados a prevenir la malignización de las principales lesiones premalignas (leucoplasia oral), desarrollar modelos de cribado para la detección precoz de las lesiones precancerosas y el cáncer oral en el ámbito de la atención primaria en salud oral, analizar el valor de biomarcadores de evolución a cáncer de lesiones precancerosas y analizar las razones que justifican el incremento notable que está experimentando la prevalencia de cáncer oral en personas jóvenes. Por todo su trabajo, el Profesor Warnakularuriya se ha convertido en un referente mundial en este campo cuyas aportaciones son seguidas por clínicos e investigadores que se dedican a la Patología y Medicina Oral, como atestiguan los índices que habitualmente se emplean en la valoración de la repercusión científica internacional de un investigador concreto. Así, Warnakulasiruya posee un **índice H de 82** (Google Scholar), habiendo sido reconocido también por la Universidad de Stanford como uno de los científicos más influyentes del mundo (**STANFORD UNIVERSITY List of WORLD'S TOP 2% SCIENTISTS**).

Fruto de su investigación Saman Warnakulasuriya ha publicado más de 300 papers en revistas científicas JCR, habiendo recibido más de 26.000 citaciones de sus trabajos,



estando en posesión de 55 papers que han recibido al menos 100 citaciones. Uno de sus trabajos de investigación sobre aspectos epidemiológicos del cáncer oral ha recibido un total de 3055 citaciones.

El profesor Saman Warnakulasuriya ha desarrollado asimismo una intensa y fructífera labor de docencia a lo largo de su vida, formando a innumerable alumnos en el campo de la Medicina y Patología Oral. Ha publicado tres libros de texto, que han tenido una difusión internacional (Warnakulasuriya & Tilakaratne: Oral Medicine & Pathology: A Guide to Diagnosis & Management. JP Medical **2014**// Warnakulasuriya & Kahn: "Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Molecular Therapeutic Targets" Springer, Berlin **2017**- [By Aug 2020 chapters downloaded 3969]// Warnakulasuriya & Greenspan: Textbook of Oral Cancer: Prevention, Diagnosis and Management, Springer Nature Switzerland AG **2020**. 31 Chapters; 450 Pages).

En resumen el profesor Warnakulasuriya ha dedicado toda su vida académica a la investigación internacional sobre el cáncer oral (liderando como IP numerosos proyectos conjuntamente con grupos multicéntricos), avanzando e innovando, siendo reconocido actualmente como un experto internacional en el campo de la Medicina Oral y Oncología Oral.



## DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA CONTRIBUCIÓN DEL PROFESOR SAMAN WARNAKULASURIYA CON LA UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA

El Profesor Saman Warnakulasuriya ha desarrollado en los últimos años una línea de investigación en colaboración con algunos miembros del Departamento de Estomatología de la Universidad de Granada (Miguel Ángel González Moles, Pablo Ramos García), y con el grupo de investigación CTS 392 "Investigación en biopatología del cáncer oral" (Responsable: Miguel Ángel González Moles). Fruto de esa colaboración se han publicado 12 papers en revistas JCR, todos ellos ubicados en el primer y segundo cuartil de sus respectivas categorías. Así mismo, el Profesor Miguel Ángel González Moles, como consecuencia de esa colaboración y por los trabajos publicados sobre cáncer oral y trastornos orales potencialmente malignos, ha sido seleccionado por el Profesor Saman Warnakulasuriya para formar parte del grupo de expertos que asesora a la OMS en temas científicos relativos al cáncer oral y trastornos orales potencialmente malignos.

### Trabajos publicados en colaboración con el Profesor Saman Warnakulasuriya en los dos últimos años

1: Warnakulasuriya S, Kujan O, Aguirre-Urizar JM, Bagan JV, González-Moles MÁ, Kerr AR, Lodi G, Mello FW, Monteiro L, Ogden GR, Sloan P, Johnson NW. Oral potentially malignant disorders: A consensus report from an international seminar on nomenclature and classification, convened by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer. Oral Dis. 2020 Oct 31. doi: 10.1111/odi.13704. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33128420.

2: González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S, González-Ruiz I, González-Ruiz L, Ayén Á, Lenouvel D, Ruiz-Ávila I, Ramos-García P. Worldwide prevalence of oral lichen planus: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Oral Dis. 2021 May;27(4):813-828. doi: 10.1111/odi.13323. Epub 2020 Apr 2. PMID: 32144836.

3: Seoane J, Warnakulasuriya S, Bagán JV, Aguirre-Urizar JM, López-Jornet P, Hernández-Vallejo G, González-Moles MÁ, Pereiro-Ferreiros M, Seoane-Romero J, Varela-Centelles P. Assembling a consensus on actinic cheilitis: A Delphi study. J Oral Pathol Med. 2021 May 16. doi: 10.1111/jop.13200. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33998055.

4: González-Moles MÁ, Ramos-García P, Warnakulasuriya S. An appraisal of highest quality studies reporting malignant transformation of oral lichen planus based on a systematic review. Oral Dis. 2020 Dec 3. doi: 10.1111/odi.13741. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33274561.

5: González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S, González-Ruiz I, González-Ruiz L, Ayén Á, Lenouvel D, Ruiz-Ávila I, Ramos-García P. Clinicopathological and prognostic characteristics of oral squamous cell carcinomas arising in patients with oral lichen planus: A systematic review and a comprehensive meta-analysis. Oral Oncol. 2020 Jul;106:104688. doi: 10.1016/j.oraloncology.2020.104688. Epub 2020 Apr 16. PMID: 32305649.

6: Ramos-García P, González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S. Oral cancer development in lichen planus and related conditions-3.0 evidence level: A systematic review of systematic reviews. Oral Dis. 2021 Feb 22. doi: 10.1111/odi.13812. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33616234.



7: De Porras-Carrique T, González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S, Ramos-García P. Depression, anxiety, and stress in oral lichen planus: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Clin Oral Investig. 2021 Aug 30. doi: 10.1007/s00784-021-04114-0. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34460001.

8: González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S, González-Ruiz I, Ayén Á, González-Ruiz L, Ruiz-Ávila I, Ramos-García P. Dysplasia in oral lichen planus: relevance, controversies and challenges. A position paper. Med Oral Patol Oral Cir Bucal. 2021 Jul 1;26(4):e541-e548. doi: 10.4317/medoral.24610. PMID: 34162824; PMCID: PMC8254877.

9: Ramos-García P, González-Moles MÁ, Mello FW, Bagan JV, Warnakulasuriya S. Malignant transformation of oral proliferative verrucous leukoplakia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Oral Dis. 2021 May 19. doi:10.1111/odi.13831. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34009718.

10: González-Moles MÁ, Ramos-García P, Warnakulasuriya S. A Scoping Review on Gaps in the Diagnostic Criteria for Proliferative Verrucous Leukoplakia: A Conceptual Proposal and Diagnostic Evidence-Based Criteria. Cancers (Basel). 2021;13(15):3669. doi: 10.3390/cancers13153669. PMID: 34359571; PMCID: PMC8345058.

11: González-Moles MÁ, Warnakulasuriya S, González-Ruiz I, González-Ruiz L, Ayén Á, Lenouvel D, Ruiz-Ávila I, Ramos-García P. Clinical interpretation of findings from a systematic review and a comprehensive meta-analysis on clinicopathological and prognostic characteristics of oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC) arising in patients with oral lichen planus (OLP): Author's reply. Oral Oncol. 2021 Feb;113:105036. doi: 10.1016/j.oraloncology.2020.105036. Epub 2020 Oct 8. PMID: 33041215.

12: González-Moles MÁ, Ramos-García P, Warnakulasuriya S. The importance of understanding the terminology on oral lichenoid lesions for future research: in reply. Oral Oncol. 2021 Jun;117:105282. doi: 10.1016/j.oraloncology.2021.105282. Epub 2021 Apr 7. PMID: 33838504.



# Curriculum vitae Saman Warnakulasuriya

**Name:** Professor Saman Warnakulasuriya OBE

**Home Address:** 18, Cosdach Avenue, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9RA, England, United Kingdom

**E mail:** [s.warne@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:s.warne@kcl.ac.uk)

**Date of Birth:** 5th October 1946

**Place of Birth:** Sri Lanka

**Residence:** UK

**Current Position:** Emeritus Professor of Oral Medicine & Experimental Oral Pathology, King's College London

Director, World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer (2005-2021)

**Degrees:** BDS, FDSRCS (Eng & Edin), FDSRCPS (Glasg), Dip Oral Med, PhD (Glasg), DSc (HC), FKC

**Honors:**

- FDI World Dental Federation: Johnson & Johnson Prize for International Preventive Programs (1990)
- President's Award for Scientific Achievements (Sri Lanka) 1990 & 2010
- Honorary Diploma in Oral Medicine (European Association in Oral Medicine)
- Doctor of Science (DSc) (Honoris Causa) University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (2007)
- OBE (Officer of British Empire) New Years' Honours Award 2008 by her Majesty the Queen of United Kingdom (Award presented at the Buckingham Palace May 2008) for services to Medicine & Health Care in the United Kingdom
- Lifetime Achievement Awards 2012 (SLF –USA): Sri Lankan Expatriates in the world who have achieved a lifetime of outstanding success and recognition and have been honored at an international level by professional organizations
- The IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Oral Medicine and Pathology Research -2014
- Alumni of King's College London Dental Institute- Distinguished Service Award 2015
- Fellow King's College (FKC) (2019)

**Google Scholar H-index- 82**

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**Scholarships:** Colombo Plan Scholarship 1971-1976; Rotary Fellowship for International Understanding. Bakersfield, California, USA. 1977; U.I.C.C. Fellowship 1978; W.H.O Regional Travelling Fellowship 1979; Quintin Hogg Fellowship, The Royal College of Surgeons, London. 1990



# **Consultant and Advisory Posts:**

1983 World Health Organisation, Geneva. Technical adviser to Cancer Unit.  
1983 World Health Organisation, Geneva, Technical adviser to the Inter-regional meeting on  
Control of Oral Cancer in Developing Countries.

1985-87 Member, Formulary Committee, Sri Lanka

1986-89 International Dental Federation (FDI). Member of Working Group 2 on Oral Research and Epidemiology.

1992-94 UK Working Group on Screening for Oral Cancer and Precancer

1994 Oncogene Science/ Harvard School of Dental Medicine for a research collaboration

1997 The British Council: As an adviser to control tobacco use in the Sudan

2000 Meeting of European WHO Collaborating Centres in Oral Health

2001-02 Member, Head and Neck Cancer Proposal Generating Group for National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE)

2001-04 Chair, Research Commissioning Group for London's Health. R & D NHS Executive,

2001 WHO Consultation on Oral Health Promotion, Oral Disease Management, WHO Geneva

2003 WHO (IARC) Evaluation of Carcinogenicity of Betel Quid, Lyon France  
2004 Department of Health, UK Human Resources Directorate: Equality and Diversity,  
2005 Department of Health, UK : Committee on Tobacco and Oral Health  
2006 WHO (IARC) Evaluation of Carcinogenicity of Smokeless Tobacco, Lyon France

2006 Consultant- World Workshop on Oral Medicine 1V, USA

2007 WHO – World Health Assembly – Oral Health Group

2006-7 External Expert - European Commission – Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (Working Group on Smokeless Tobacco)

2007-2020 Scientific Advisor to the British Dental Health Foundation

2008-09 Scientific Advisor to the National Screening Committee, UK

2009 Expert Working Group- WHO (IARC) Evaluation of products Carcinogenic to Humans, Lyon France; Monograph Series Vol 100E

2009-11 Chair – Working Group 3– World Workshop on Oral Medicine - WWOM V

2010 Member – IADR Grand Challenge – Global Oral Health Inequalities Task Group

2011-12 Chair- Cochrane Systematic Review on Oral Cancer Diagnostic Test Accuracy Review



2014-19 Member: Committee of Carcinogenicity – Department of Health, UK

2020 Chair, Expert Working Group- WHO (IARC) Evaluation of products Carcinogenic to Humans, Lyon France; Monograph Series Vol 126 (Opium)

2021 Chair, Expert Working Group- WHO (IARC) for preparing and editing Handbook 19; Prevention of Oral Cancer.

**Employment:** University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (1970-1990)

Quintin Hogg Fellow, The Royal College of Surgeons (1990-1993)

King's College London (1993-2016)

**Professor** in Oral Medicine and Experimental Oral Pathology, King's College London (From 2002 till retirement 2016)

Head and Chair of Department, King's College London (2005-2011)

Lead Clinician Oral Medicine, King's College Hospital (2005-2016)

**Honorary NHS Appointments: Hon Consultant** in Oral Medicine, King's Hospital NHS Trust and Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust

**Honorary: World Health Organization: Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer** 2005-2025

**British Dental Association: President of Metropolitan Branch 2011-2012**

**Global Oral Cancer Forum: Co-Chair 2013-2016**

**International Association for Dental research: President elect Oral Medicine and Pathology Scientific Group 2021**

**Previous Posts: Professor of Oral Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka**

**Honorary Professorships: University of Griffith, Brisbane, Australia**

**Honorary Professor: University of Buenos Aires, Argentina**

#### Membership in Professional Societies

International Association for Dental Research (IADR), British Society for Dental Research (BSDR); British Society for Oral Medicine (BSOM- Hon Life Fellow); European Academy of Oral Medicine (EAOM); British Society for Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (BSOMP); International Association of Oral Pathologists (IAOP- Hon Life Fellow); British Dental association (BDA) (Branch President 2011-12)





**Editorship:** Deputy Editor - Oral Diseases Vol 1-10 (1995-2005); Associate Editor - J Oral Pathology & Medicine (2013- 2015); Editor-in Chief; Translational Research in Oral Oncology (Sage Publications 2015-2019)

**On Editorial Boards:** Oral Oncology (2000-2021), J Oral Pathology Medicine (2005-2016), International J Head & Neck Surgery, Head & Neck Oncology, World Journal of Dentistry, International Journal of Clinical Dentistry

### **Current and Past Research**

1. Examining the natural history and malignant potential of oral leukoplakia
2. Testing the sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic aids in oral cancer and precancer detection
3. Population studies on tobacco and betel quid use and abuse in South Asia and Arabia
4. Detrimental health effects of areca nut
5. Clinical trials to prevent malignant transformation of oral leukoplakia and submucous fibrosis
6. Developing screening models for the detection of potentially malignant disorders and oral cancer in different health service settings in several populations around the world
7. Assessing delays in diagnosis of oral cancer and critically examining care pathways
8. Ploidy status as a diagnostic & prognostic tool for oral cancer and precancer
9. Oral cancer in young people below the age of 45 years.
10. Biomarkers for prediction of risk for oral cancer & precancer

### **Educational Research**

- 1) E learning modules for professional education on oral cancer detection and prevention (Leonardo da Vinci Project funded by EU)
- 2) Tobacco cessation education in University Undergraduate Curricula in EU

### **International Research Collaborations:**

Professor Miguel Gonzalez Moles, University of Granada, Spain  
 Professor Alaxender R Kerr, NYU, USA  
 Drs Christoph Ramseier, University of Bern, Switzerland  
 Dr Michael M. Bornsteien, University Center of Dental Medicine Basel UZB, Switzerland  
 Alexander D. Rapisdis, Greek Anticancer Institute, Athens  
 Professor Michele Mignogna & S. Leuci, Federico II University of Naples, Italy  
 Dr Luis Monteiro, Institute of Biomedical Services, Porto, Portugal  
 Drs SO Ibrahim & Prof Johannessen, University Bergen, Norway.  
 Professors J Seoane J & P Diz-Dios, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
 Professor German E-Gomez, University of Madrid, Spain  
 Dr S Ergun, Istanbul University, Turkey  
 Drs Yvette Paulino & Helen Whippy, University of Guam  
 Professor Neil Palafox, University of Hawaii.  
 Professor Newell W. Johnson, Griffiths University, Australia  
 Dr Anura Ariyawardana, James Cook University, Australia  
 Professor Y-C Ko and Dr YH Yang, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan  
 Professors Toru Nagao & H Maeda, University of Aichi-gakuin, Nagoya, Japan



Prof Kazuo Komiyama, Nihon University School of Dentistry, Tokyo, Japan  
 Professor Cheong Sok Ching & Roshnah Zain Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Professor Vinay Hazarey and Dr P.C. Gupta, Nagpur and Bombay, India  
 Professor Upul Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
 Professor WM Tillakaratne, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
 Dr HK Amarasinghe, National Cancer Control Programme, Sri Lanka  
 Dr Rao Roopa, Ramiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore, India.  
 Dr S. Patil and Professor Ali Idris, Jazan University, Saudi Arabia.  
 Professor Pankaj Chaturvedi, Head & Neck Surgeon, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, India  
 Dr Fernanda Weber Mello Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil.  
 Professor K. Ranganathan, Ragaas Dental College, Chennai, India

[I have published research studies with above international groups or have on-going research]

## HIGHLIGHTS OF GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH / PROGRAMS

1. Global epidemiological aspects of Oral cancer and risk factors in different population groups
2. Natural history of Oral potentially Malignant Disorders eg. Oral Leukoplakia
3. Development of terminology & guideless for Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders
4. Clinical Interventions to treat Oral Leukoplakia- Randomized Control Trials
5. Smokeless tobacco and areca nut use in South Asia and Africa
6. Oral submucous fibrosis and Oral cancer in Asian Betel Quid chewers – Evidence leading to areca nut being classified as a Class 1 carcinogen by IARC
7. Oral cancer screening (Sri Lanka, India, Taiwan, Guam, the Sudan, Japan, Portugal and the UK (PI or Co-PI on 8 screening projects)
8. European Project on delivering E learning to General Dentists on oral cancer (translated to 6 European languages with partners from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Switzerland)
9. Co-Founder- Global Oral Cancer Forum (2016)
10. Cochrane Systematic Reviews: Diagnostic Tests for Oral Cancer (2015; 2020-21); Interventions for treating oral leukoplakia to prevent oral cancer (2016)
11. Chair WHO (CC) Expert Working Group on Potentially Malignant Disorders (March 2020)

**A synopsis of clinical and epidemiological research and basic (*in vivo and in vitro*) laboratory and experimental research, (1973-2020) is given below:**

1) Global epidemiological aspects and risk factors for oral cancer in world populations; The principal objective of this research is to generate and test by epidemiological methods, and on an international basis, hypotheses relating to risk factors for cancers in the oral cavity and oropharynx and thereby improve prospects for prevention. **In 2020**, I published a textbook chapter on the Global Epidemiology of Oral and Oropharyngeal Cancer highlighting high-risk populations and rising trends in 5 continents. I have published reviews on the etiology and epidemiology of oral cancer in the United Kingdom (in 1993 and then in 2007), the global epidemiology (published 2009 - Citations 2680). Controversies on etiological aspects of oral cancer were published in 2009 (248 citations) and updated in **2020**. I act as a national expert on oral cancer epidemiology and trends, often advice the Department of Health (UK) on Policy and WHO Member Countries (through WHO HQ Geneva) in my role as Director of WHO Collaborating Centre on oral cancer control & public health measures.



2) Smokeless tobacco and areca nut use in South Asia and Africa: I have provided solid research evidence that smokeless tobacco, and betel-quid chewing increase the relative risk for oral cancer by several folds. I have authored several invited reviews on this area and organized an international conference on medical, biochemical and psychological correlates of areca (betel) nut use in London in 2002 and on Areca nut and Oral Cancer (IADR Symposium 2020). My review paper on the global prevalence of areca nut use is cited by 557 authors.

**In 2019**, Smokeless tobacco control in 180 countries across the globe was critically reviewed providing policy change recommendations for WHO member countries. A study coordinated in 6 South and East Asian countries on the use of Betel quid use and prevalence was published in Int J Cancer 2011. These south Asian population studies have been extended to other populations such as in Northern Africa with other forms of tobacco use, locally known as toombak. I was invited by the British Council to act as a consultant to formulate educational programs on tobacco intervention in the Sudan.

My basic laboratory research on areca nut contributed to the global evaluation by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on its harmful effects on humans as a class 1 carcinogen. Based on my research findings I acted as an expert to the WHO (IARC; Lyon, France) on evaluation of carcinogenicity of areca nut and smokeless tobacco (2003-4), (2006-2007) and on life styles (2009) and contributed to 3 Working Groups of the IARC (acting as sub-group chair) and edited sections of IARC Monographs (Volumes 85, 89, 100). I am acting as Chair of IARC Monograph Meeting on Carcinogenic Risks of Opium (Monograph Vol 126; **Sept 2020**).

**In 2018**, Carcinogenicity of smokeless tobacco: Evidence from studies in humans & experimental animals was published.

3) Oral cancer in young people in England and Scotland: I was the principal investigator for a multi-center epidemiological study on oral cancer in young people conducted in Southern England. The study was funded by the NHS Executive of the Department of Health. This study examined the roles of tobacco, alcohol and diet as causative factors in young people who were diagnosed with oral cancer from 1993 -2001. This is the largest European cohort of young people with oral cancer investigated so far on their risk factors resulting in 5 publications. This research was extended to examine the cancer journeys of young people in Scotland by qualitative study methods (Br Dent J 2010). My review paper on oral cancer in young people (2001) is cited by 662 authors.

4) Oral submucous fibrosis in Asian Betel Quid chewers: Oral submucous fibrosis~ is a potentially malignant condition in the oral cavity in Asian people.

**In 2016**, two invited reviews on Oral Submucous Fibrosis were published in Triple O. A textbook on Oral Submucous Fibrosis is in preparation. Based on my previous research experience in Sri Lanka I collaborated with a research unit in Karachi and a largescale case-control study was completed (1990-2000). The important etiological role of areca nut chewing in its causation was established. This was a novel finding at the time confirming its etiology. My research among a group of high-school children in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan) revealed that areca nut chewing starts at a young age in Micronesia. A laboratory *in vivo* mouse



model was developed by the application of areca nut extracts with classical histological features and published in J Oral Pathol Med (2007). My review on etiopathogenesis of oral submucous fibrosis (2006) is cited by 623 authors,

Novel laboratory findings on copper in areca nut and its role in fibrogenesis was established in experimental studies and published in the Lancet. A review on pathogenesis of Oral Submucous fibrosis was published in Oral Oncology in 2007 and as a Textbook Chapter in 2018.

I chaired the subgroup on Oral Submucous Fibrosis at the World Workshop in Oral Medicine in Sept 2011. A review on medical management of Oral Submucous Fibrosis was published in Oral Dis 2011.

5) Alcohol misuse and oral health: On etiologic aspects relevant to European populations, a large epidemiologic study was conducted in south London on the effects of alcohol misuse on oral mucosa with particular reference to oral precancer and cancer. At the PEF/IADR in London in 2008 I moderated a seminar on Alcohol and Oral Health.

My basic research on this subject led to the demonstration of ethanol-induced, acetaldehyde-protein adducts in oral leukoplakia and cancer, published in J of Oral Pathology 2008, substantiating the local effects of ethanol. **In 2019**, a systematic review was published on the synergistic effect of tobacco and alcohol consumption on oral squamous cell carcinoma

6) Tobacco intervention and Contribution to European Workshops to develop guidelines: Aspects of intervention were researched on the use of dental practitioners in smoking control. Dossiers for the education of dentists and oral hygienists were developed. This demonstration program involving 40 dental practices showed the feasibility of using dental practices for providing support (BDJ 1998). A review was published in JDE (2002). Effectiveness of quitting in an oral dysplasia clinic was researched and published (Oral Diseases 2006). The curriculum content of tobacco education in European Dental Schools was analysed and published.

I have contributed as subgroup chair to the 1st and 2nd European Workshops (2006 and 2008) on Tobacco Prevention and Cessation for Oral Health Professionals and developed care pathways for primary care.

**In 2018**, Guidelines for tobacco cessation in dental practices were published in a 2- part series in the Dental Update. **In 2017**, contributed to a national opinion study supporting tobacco cessation by oral health professionals in Japan. **In 2020** co-authored a publication on participation of Japanese Dental specialists in smoking cessation published in the International Dental Journal.

7) Oral cancer screening (Sri Lanka, India, Taiwan, Guam, the Sudan, Japan and UK): My own work through the WHO on developing primary care approaches for oral cancer screening



activities are widely quoted and have been adapted in many countries. These extensive globally recognized studies led to the recognition of our unit by the WHO as a Collaborating Centre for Oral Cancer and Precancer. I have acted as PI or external collaborator for several innovative screening studies on oral cancer and precancer in several countries, Sri Lanka, India, The Sudan, Taiwan, Guam and Japan and also among Japanese residents in the UK. These 7 screening programs tested different modalities for screening (Population; high-risk; General Health Screening; Industrial Screening). In 2020, a seminal review was published on Asian (High Risk Populations) in Oral Oncology and in 2021 a critical review in J Dental Research.

I was invited to be an external expert to a large population screening programme in Tokanome City, Japan that tested oral cancer screening as an integral part of general health screening (GHS). Data from these studies were published showing the feasibility of this model of screening. Based on this extensive research experience I am consulted by the UK Screening Committee on policy formulation for Oral Cancer Screening. My joint report can be viewed on the UK Screening Committee WEB site. Seminal reviews on European oral cancer screening programs was published in J Oral Pathology and Medicine in 2015.

8) Natural history of oral leukoplakia was examined in two longitudinal follow up studies. A 10-year follow up study was conducted at Guy's Hospital London estimating malignant transformation and associated clinicopathological factors (published in J Oral Pathol Med 2011; 144 citations). A similar study examining a cohort in Sri Lanka was published in 2020.

9) Clinical and serum tumour markers to improve sensitivity of cancer screening: Developing tumour markers in oral cancer screening is a key factor in improving diagnostic reliability. A study co-ordinated by me examined the sensitivity and specificity of a commercially available kit (OraScan) in six centres and reported on high sensitivity but low specificity of such markers (J Oral Pathol Med 1996). Studies to evaluate the effectiveness of several chair-side adjuncts (Vizilite, VELscope and toluidine blue) in 115 patients with oral epithelial dysplasia confirmed by biopsy, were published (Oral Oncology 2011 and J Oral Pathol Med 2011; Clin Oral Investig.2015). Image-based DNA ploidy analysis for the prediction of malignant transformation was published; on oral leukoplakia (2013) oral lichen planus (2016).

At a basic science level presence of IgG and IgA p53 autoantibodies in sera and saliva was investigated in people diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma (J Pathol 2000). Presence of p53 autoantibodies correlated with overexpression/mutation in tissues suggesting a specific and noninvasive method for the detection of this tumour marker.

10) Role of antioxidants in oral precancer; Serum antioxidant assays (retinol,  $\alpha$ -tocopherol, zeaxanthin and lutein, cryptoxanthin, lycopene and carotenoids) were undertaken in a cohort of leukoplakia subjects in Japan that showed both  $\beta$  carotene and lycopene were risk factors for development of oral leukoplakia but not in the case of oral lichen planus. Both studies were



published in Oral Oncology (2000) and J Oral Pathol & Med (2002).

Role of micronutrient supplementation in controlling the progression of OSF was demonstrated in an Asian population. I co-ordinated a multi center trial (RCT) on the role of  $\beta$  carotene as an interventional agent in the management of oral leukoplakia, Published in the International J Cancer (2014). Total antioxidant level was examined in sera in a cohort with lichen planus (J Oral Pathol Med 2011), prolidase activity and oxidative stress oral lichen planus and oral lichenoid contact reactions (J Oral Pathology & Medicine 2016)

11) Cell proliferation in oral cancer and precancer: Basic research on human cell proliferation was the topic for my doctoral thesis (1976). I originally described the rate of cell proliferation in human oral mucosa, its diurnal variation and alterations in cell kinetics in oral leukoplakia. The labeling index was significantly higher in oral leukoplakia compared with normal buccal mucosa (J Oral Pathol Med 1995). Isotopic methods of assessment were compared with newer immuno markers (PCNA and Ki 67) to allow standardization of these techniques in different oral sites. My research on this area has recently been concerned with understanding increased cell proliferation in association with aggressiveness of tumours or the expression of tumour suppressor proteins related to the cell cycle..

12) Molecular aspects of oral cancer and precancer: Over the past 2 decades there has been considerable progress in defining genes which may allow us to assess the risk of a potentially malignant lesion in the mouth transforming to oral cancer, their role in cancer diagnosis and importance in prognostic assessments.

In 2020, A Scoping Review was published on Prognostic biomarkers for malignant transformation of oral potentially malignant disorders. My experimental work has been largely on ras oncogene, p53 tumour suppressor gene , p16, p21-WAF, p27, p19-ARF, cyclin D1, RB and other cell cycle markers and growth factor receptors including EGRF, C erb 2, 3 and 4. My original contribution on p53 oncoprotein from our laboratory in 1992 was one of the first in the field of oral oncology to describe that p53 expression is neither sufficient nor necessary for the development of oral carcinoma (J Oral Pathol Med 1992;1994). I have jointly with others examined p53 overexpression in a large series of oral precancers from India on whom good follow-up data is available. Our results suggested that p53 protein is overexpressed and stabilized both among cases which progressed to cancer and those that did not and therefore is a poor predictor of risk despite original claims by others (J Oral Pathol Med 1998; citations 93). This is now confirmed by several centers. Using this marker, it is however possible to stratify patients with head and neck cancer into groups with favorable or unfavorable response to chemo/radiotherapy (J Pathol 2000). Molecular aberrations in a large series of oral precancer biopsies from submucous fibrosis patients from Karachi, Pakistan and Nagpur, India were examined. We reported novel mutations of the p53 gene in this disorder: these are different to tobacco-associated mutations confirming the role of areca nut in mutagenesis. The presence of serum antibodies to mutant p53 was also demonstrated in an oral cancer cohort suggesting the role of this technique as an early tumour marker. Gene expression profiles and proteomics of oral squamous cell carcinomas from Sri Lankan Betel quid users were examined and published in 2005-07 and 2011. Acetaldehyde adducts in oral cancer & precancer tissues reported in 2008.





Recent work on Biomarkers includes cytoplasmic EGFR & VEGFR 1 &2 expression in oral cancer (2011), EGFR, p53, p16 and p27 (2012), Immunohistochemical testing of several biomarkers as prognostic markers EGFR, p53, p27, p16, cyclin D1, cyclin A2, COX-2, Ki-67, Bcl-2, VEGFR-1 and VEGFR-2 (**2018**), Prognostic significance of cyclins A2, B1, D1(**2018**),and on podoplanin (**2020**) have been published. A systematic review on diagnostic biomarkers in Oral Leukoplakia was published in **2021**.

#### Descriptive and systematic reviews:

Several invited reviews have been authored and published in the international literature based on my broad experience on risk and diagnostic molecular markers in oral cancer and precancer (Most recent are: Molecular markers in oral precancer – J Oral Pathol & Med 2009; Oral epithelial dysplasia classification systems J Oral Pathol Med 2008, Prevention of precancer lesions (Perio; 2011); Medical interventions for Oral submucous fibrosis (Oral Dis 2011), Malignant transformation of oral leukoplakia: a systematic review of observational studies. (J Oral Pathol Med.2016), Clinical presentation of oral potentially malignant disorders (Oral Surg, Oral Med Oral Pathol, 2018); Oral potentially malignant disorders: A comprehensive review on clinical aspects and management (Oral Oncol. 2020).

During **2020-21**, I have co-authored 6 systematic reviews and meta-analysis on the nomenclature prevalence, risk factors, malignant transformation, pathology and biomarkers on oral potentially malignant disorders.

#### EDITED TEXTBOOKS

- Warnakulasuriya & Tilakaratne: Oral Medicine & Pathology: A Guide to Diagnosis & Management. JP Medical **2014**
- Warnakulasuriya & Kahn: "Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Molecular Therapeutic Targets" Springer, Berlin **2017**- [By Aug 2020 chapters downloaded 3969]
- Warnakulasuriya & Greenspan: Textbook of Oral Cancer: Prevention, Diagnosis and Management, Springer Nature Switzerland AG **2020**. 31 Chapters; 450 Pages

**Bibliography: Publications in peer reviewed journals (300+ in Total). My list of publications for the last 14 years is given below:**



Google Scholar: Citations 26,063; h-index 82; i10-index 246 (accessed 14 July 2021)

55 publications with over 100 citations. Highest citations for single paper (Global Epidemiology) 3055

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#### Invited Lectures – Symposia Coordination (Past 6 years):

**July 2021:** Symposium: Diagnostic delays in oral cancer; International Association for Dental Research

**Nov 2020:** XVI Reunión de la Academia Iberoamericana de Patología y Medicina Bucal y del IX Congreso de la Asociación Mexicana de Patología y Medicina Bucal,

**Sept 2020:** 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium; Advances in Oral Cancer, Bilbao, Spain (held online)

**Aug 2020:** 31st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Oral Pathology, Nagoya, Japan (held online)

**March 2020:** IADR General Session; Areca nut and Oral Cancer (Symposium Coordinator; speaker) (held online)

**Feb 2020:** Sri Lanka Faculty of Dental Practitioners, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Oct 2019:** Beirut International Dental Meeting 2019, Lebanese Dental Association,

**Aug 2019:** 9th Conference of Asian Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology (ASOMP) 2019

**June 2019:** IADR General Session; Microbes and Oral Cancer (Symposium Coordinator; speaker)

**March 2019:** International Conference on Oral Health: Bilbao, Spain

**Nov 2018:** NCI/IARC Workshop on HPV-driven Oropharynx Cancer, Rockville, USA

**Oct 2018:** Joint Meeting for Committee for Tobacco-Free Society, Japanese Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Chiba-Tokyo, Japan

**Sept 2018:** VIth Oral cancer Conference, Bilbao, Spain





**March 2018:** 2nd Combined Gulf Cancer Conference, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Nov 2017:** Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, Glasgow, UK

**Oct 2017:** World Congress of Preventive Dentistry, New Delhi, India

**June 2017:** National Oral Medicine Conference, Granada, Spain

**May 2017:** International Academy of Oral Oncology, Bangalore, India

**March 2017:** International Association of Dental Research. HPV Symposium. (Symposium Coordinator; speaker) San Francisco, USA

**March 2017:** International Dental Conference, University of Bucharest, Romania

**Sept 2016:** European Association of Oral Medicine, Turin, Italy

**Sept 2016:** International Association of Oral Pathology, Chennai, India

**July 2016:** Vth Oral cancer Conference, Bilbao, Spain

**April 2016:** NCI International Conference on betel quid and areca nut, KL, Malaysia

**March 2016:** Global Oral Cancer Forum, New York, USA

**Feb 2016:** International conference on oral submucous fibrosis, Nagpur-Wardha, India

**Nov 2015:** Global Health Forum Taipei, Taiwan

**July 2015:** Indian Oral Cancer conference, Chennai, India

**June 2015:** International Academy of Oral Oncology, Brazil

**June 2015:** Council of European Dentists, EU Parliament, Brussels.

**Feb 2015:** University of Granada, Spain

**Summary:** Professor Warnakulasuriya has spent his whole academic life on contributing to international research on oral cancer (leading as a PI on numerous projects and jointly with multi centre groups) advancing the science, innovating discoveries made (both in the laboratory and in the field research) to be recognized as an international expert in the field. His contribution to translational research is widely acknowledged and is an acknowledged teacher / guest speaker at many forums in Oral Medicine and Oral Oncology.

