**Research Publications in 2021**

Gunawardana, G. A., Jayasekara, P. P., Wijethunga, W.M.R.R., Palliyeguru, M.W.C.D and Kasagala, K. H. D. T (2021) Molecular Characterization for Identification of Endangered Sri Lankan Leopard: A Forensic Application, In the Proceedings of Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, 11th -12th November, pg 138

Gunawardana, G. A., Jayasekara, P. P., Chandana, G.A.D., Wijethunga, W.M.R.R., Palliyeguru, M.W.C.D and Wimalagunarathne, R. (2021) Molecular characterization of bacterial isolates from dairy cows with mastitis for alternative control strategies, In the Proceedings of 73rd Annual Scientific Sessions of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Oak Ray Regency, Kandy, pg 16.

Wijethunga, W.M.R.R., Jayasekara, P. P., Jayasekara, P. P., and Palliyeguru, M.W.C.D (2021), Evaluation of ISSR-PCR Primers to Determine Genetic Variability among Cattle in Sri Lanka, In the Proceedings of Peradeniya University International Research Sessions , 11th -12th November, pg 561

Kumara, Y.H.P.S.N., Amarasinhe, A., Pushpakumara, P.G.A., Wasana, H.M.S., Rathnakumara, W.M.T.D., Gunawardana, G. A. and Alexander, B. (2021) Prevalence of Bovine Tuberculosis among Cattle and Buffaloes in the Central Province of Sri Lanka, In Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Congress of the PGIA, 17 November 2021, Univesrsity of Peradeniya, pg 21 **(Won the best oral presenter award under Pest and disease management in agriculture session and the Overall best presenter award/PGIA alumni award of the annual PGIA congress)**

Amalka B. A. T. and Gunawardana G. A. (2021) PCR Detection and Isolation of *Mycobacteria* from Milk and Nasal Secretions of PPD Skin Test Positive Cattle in Central Province, Thesis for Master of Science in Molecular and Applied Microbiology, PGIA, Univesrsity of Peradeniya.

**Special Achievements 2021**

1. Dr. P. P. Jayasekara, VRO of the Molecular Biology Division won a scholarship from the Australian Government to read for PhD in Veterinary Medicine and commenced her studies at a reputed university in Australia.

2. Research work carried out collaboratively with the Peradeniya University on Bovine Tuberculosis was presented by Dr. N. Sagara Kumara and won the Best Oral Presenter award under Pest and disease management in agriculture session and the Overall Best Presenter Award/PGIA alumni award at the annual PGIA congress, 2021.

3. For the first time, genetic information on mitochondrial region of the Sri Lankan Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) was revealed by the research at Molecular Biology Division and published in data bases allowing global access.

**4.** In collaboration with North Central Province DAPH, cattle herd testing for A1A2 milk research was continued and new PCR to identify the traits, was developed at the Molecular Biology Division.