



# Enhancing research writing skills of Researchers at the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo, Sri Lanka

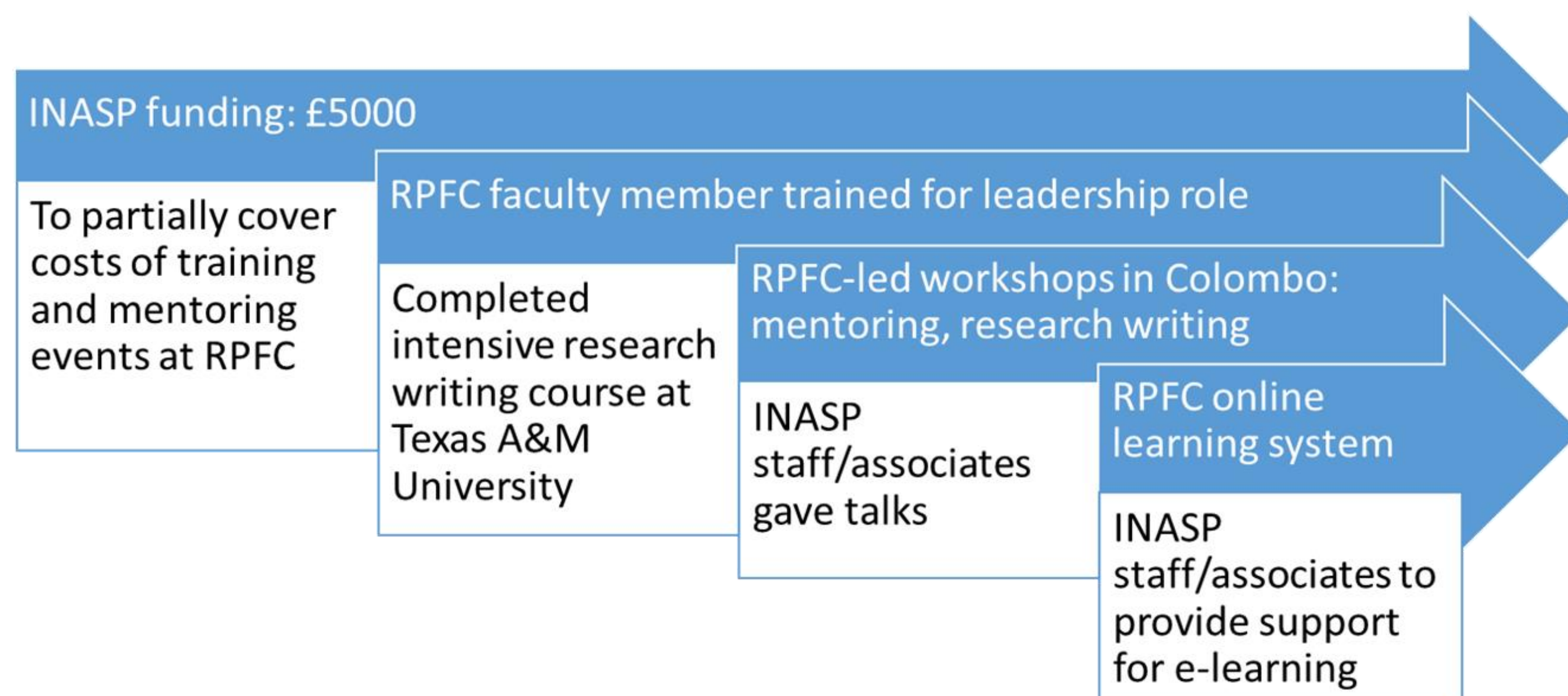


## Introduction

The Faculty of Medicine, the second oldest medical school in South Asia, has a legacy of excellence in research in the country. With a wealth of human and infrastructural resources, it is an ideal hub for research in the region. Faculty staff engage in researching a wide variety of topics, collaborating with many local and foreign institutions, with many papers published in peer reviewed journals and presented in conferences both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

The research promotion and facilitation centre supports research activities of the Faculty to ensure the conduct of high quality research.

## Partnership between INASP and RPFC



## Activities carried out

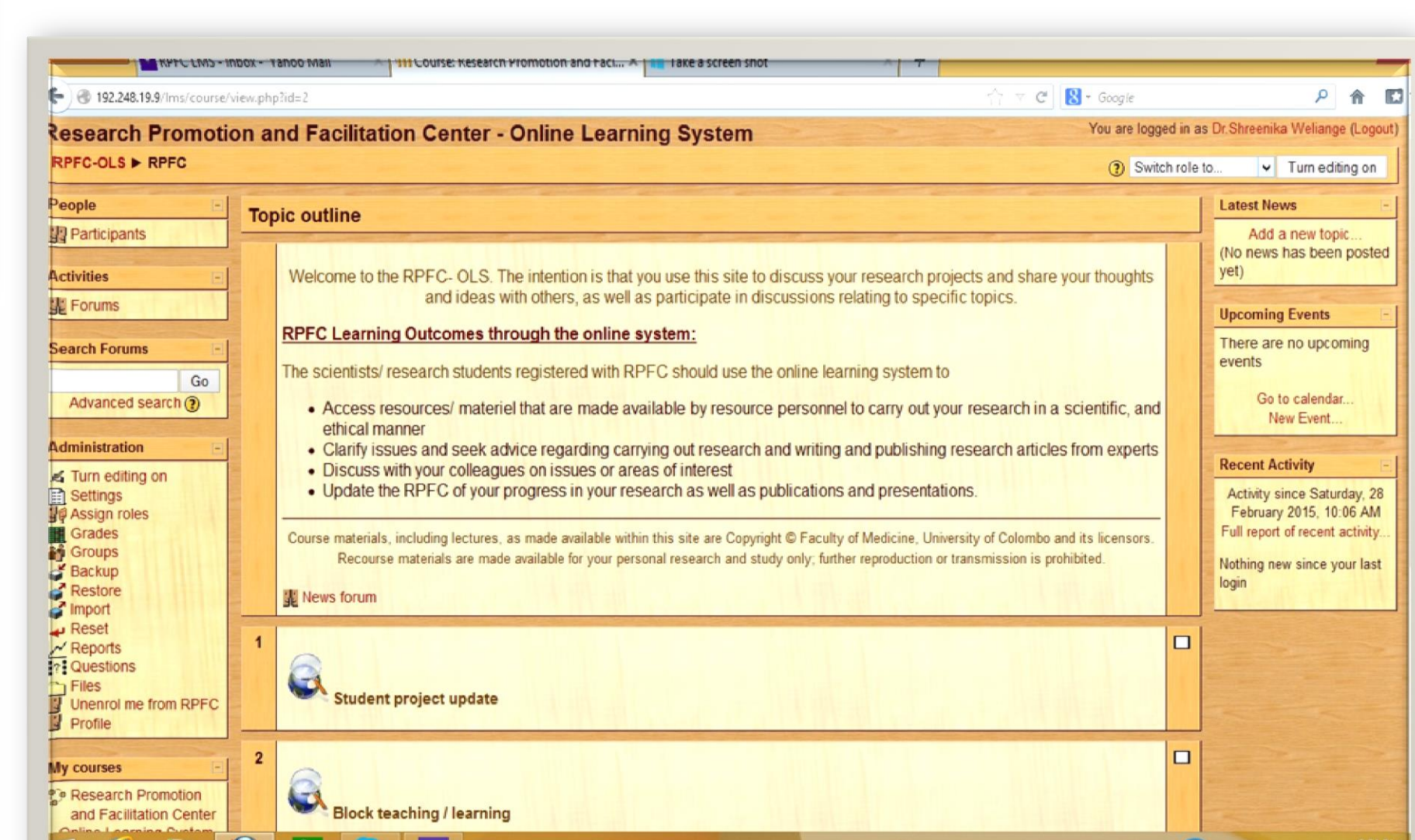
Since November 2013, two 1-day research writing workshops and one 2-day mentorship workshop have been organised by the RPFC with support from INASP, reaching a total of 40 bio-medical researchers.

A writing club was organised that was held monthly for 4 months; there were 31 mentees and 10 writing mentors (all local researchers). Mentors provide advice on writing and research integrity during one-to-one meetings with mentees.

In June 2015, the second writing club commenced, with 24 mentees and 6 mentors, and the RPFC-OLS went live. This OLS is an implementation of Moodle, an open-source online learning platform used around the world for activity-based online courses.



## RPFC Online Learning Facility



## Outcomes

Increase the ability to write papers publishable in peer reviewed journals

Enhance the ability to edit or peer review others' work

Enhance mentoring skills

Refine English language skills

## Key lessons learnt

- The writing club is a successful method to facilitate writing skills and guiding to authors to produce high quality papers
- Guiding authors throughout the publication process expedite the submission process .
- Provision of the initiating stimulus and maintenance of motivation improves the number of publications submitted.
- A good forum to promote Interactions with senior researchers and peers.
- Further motivation is required for mentors to improve their continuous participation.

## Future plans

Strengthen the collaborations with the local and international institutions in the region

Expand mentor training to the other Medical Faculties of Sri Lanka and provide guiding and support to embed writing clubs.

To establish an **Annual Short Course in Scientific Writing** at the Faculty of medicine, Colombo.

To improve on-line learning facility and to make it available for all the researchers in Sri Lanka on a fee-levying basis.



RPFC team with former Dean and a fellow academic

## Further information

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