



The Infectious Disease Iceberg: What does It Take to Measure and Manage Infectious Disease in India?

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If Covid-19 has taught us anything, it is that infection and disease and their consequences, such as death, can be difficult to measure even when resources are available. Very few infectious diseases such as tetanus and rabies do not exhibit the iceberg phenomenon with no hidden cases. Therefore, measuring the amount of infection or illness caused by most infectious agents poses a problem for public health when health systems are oriented to evaluating infectious disease only once it reaches a health facility. The speaker will discuss how burden of disease assessments were coordinated and conducted for rotavirus and typhoid and apply those principles to SARS-CoV2. Approaches to manage diseases that are public health problems require an understanding of burden as a basis for the design of vaccination programmes. Rotavirus, typhoid and SARS-CoV2 vaccination strategy design mostly reflect what we know, but may require revision with new data and new vaccines.

Professor Kang is Professor of Microbiology at the Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences at the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore. She has worked on the development and use of vaccines for rotaviruses, cholera and typhoid, conducting large studies to define burden, test vaccines and measure their impact. She also studies the consequences of enteric infections and has shown that infections in early life impact future growth and cognitive development. She has established a strong training program for students and young faculty in clinical translational medicine aiming to build a cadre of clinical researchers studying relevant problems in India. In the past two years, she has initiated a number of collaborative research programmes on SARS-CoV2 and SARS-CoV2 vaccines.



Friday, 24 June at 5 p.m.

Venue: Homi Bhabha Auditorium

YouTube Live Link: <https://youtu.be/4f7sBNdcX6o>

Tea/snack will be served at 4:30 p.m. in the Auditorium Cafeteria

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