

International E-Conference on “Threat of new and re-emerging infections: Role of novel tools and technologies to face challenges”

OVERVIEW

The Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, The Ohio State University and the Ohio State India Gateway present a three-day infectious disease conference on the 'Threat of new and re-emerging infections: role of novel tools and technologies to face challenges.' The conference takes place August 24-26, 2021 in Colombo, Sri Lanka and is 30th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists. Sessions will be delivered in a hybrid format.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AND CDC SPEAKER BIOS

Eugene Oltz is the Chair of Microbial Infection and Immunity at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Previously, he was a professor at Vanderbilt University and vice-chair for faculty development at Washington University in Saint Louis. His laboratory studies how genetics and epigenetics interface to generate regulatory programs for lymphocyte development and their responses to pathogens. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief for The Journal of Immunology.

Getnet Yimer is the regional director for the Global One Health initiative Eastern Africa office and a senior researcher at The Ohio State University. For over seven years, he has worked as consultant for WHO-TDR in charge of leading and coordinating RCTs in six African countries, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa and Ethiopia. Yimer is a Chair of the AHRI-ALERT Ethics Review Committee and also a member of the Ethiopian National Health Research Ethics Review Committee at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Nicholas T. Funderburg is an assistant professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Medicine with extensive experience in human immunology research, at both the basic science level and at the level of national clinical trials, performing assays that relate bench work to clinical care. The focus of his lab is on understanding the mechanisms and consequences of HIV-associated inflammation, immune activation and end-organ disease, including exploring the role of immunologic determinants of vascular inflammation in people with HIV (PWH).

Amit Sharma is an assistant professor in Department of Veterinary Biosciences in The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The primary research focus of his laboratory is to study how pathogens like retroviruses regulate multiple steps of their replication cycle by interfacing with host cell biology. Ongoing research in the lab is characterizing the retrovirus-host interactions in the non-human primate models of HIV-1 infection. In particular, Sharma examines the replication of chimeric HIV/SIV viruses (SHIVs) in the macaque model of HIV-1 infection.

Rajesh Deshmukh is a public health specialist TB with the Division of HIV and Tuberculosis (DGHT) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Mumbai office. His focus areas include infection prevention and infection control at health facilities, drug-resistant TB treatment adherence, public-private partnership for TB/DR TB, improving TB quality diagnosis, and TB preventive therapy. Prior to joining the CDC, Rajesh worked with World Health Organization - TB India as national consultant at National AIDS Control Organization, Ministry of Health, India and in several provinces in India since 2005, supporting the TB, TB-HIV, and drug-resistant TB program in India.

Abhay Satoskar is professor and vice chair of the Department of Pathology at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Satoskar's research interests are immunology and infectious disease with a focus on parasite immunology. A Global Health Innovative Technology Fund funded team of international experts led by Satoskar has developed a live attenuated vaccine for leishmaniasis. He has authored hundreds of publications, serves on editorial boards of several journals and served on panels of national and international funding agencies including NIH, NRF (South Africa), and NSERC (Canada).

Purnima Dubey is an associate professor in the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. She is a cellular immunologist and studies immune responses to infectious diseases and cancer. Projects in her laboratory include: a) creation and testing of novel vaccines against respiratory pathogens, b) discovery and validation of novel immunogenic proteins from *B. pertussis*, and c) identification and testing of neo-antigen vaccines against bladder cancer.

Murugesan Rajaram is an associate professor in the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The central goal of Rajaram's research program is to understand the molecular mechanism of host response to microbial infections of humans, particularly bacterial and viral diseases, using animal and in vitro models. His research has focused on 1) Understanding the molecular mechanism and pathogenesis of cardiac dysfunction caused by pneumonia causing bacterial and viral infectious agents and 2) Defining the mechanism of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* drug resistance.

Michael Oglesbee is the Director of the Infectious Diseases Institute and a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Oglesbee has led a 25-year research program focused on neurovirology, neuro-oncology, and comparative neuropathology. Relevant expertise is based upon a PhD in virology and a comparative medical education combined with specialty board certification in veterinary anatomic pathology.

Namal Liyanage is an assistant professor in the Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Liyanage's major research interests are to explore novel strategies to prevent and control chronic viral infections such as HIV through better understanding of the innate and adaptive immune responses. His recent studies have shown the critical role of mucosal innate lymphoid cells and natural killer cells in the prevention of SIV/HIV infections.

Jesse Kwiek is an associate professor and the vice chair for Teaching and Undergraduate Affairs in the Department of Microbiology at The Ohio State University. His collaborative, multidisciplinary research program synthesizes virology, epidemiology, and pharmacology to address fundamental questions about virus-host dynamics. Research in the Kwiek Lab focuses on the biology, pharmacology, and public health impact of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1).

Bradford McGwire is an infectious disease specialist at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.