

THE GIS
SPEAKER SERIES

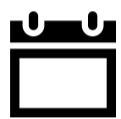


A cfDNA-based assay for early detection for cancer

Dr. Ramesh HARIHARAN, PhD

CEO and co-founder
Strand Life Sciences

Host: Shyam PRABHAKAR



Monday 6 April 2026
10.00am – 11.00am



GIS L2 – Seminar Room
60 Biopolis Street, Genome, Singapore 138672

About The Speaker

Ramesh Hariharan is CEO and co-founder of Strand Life Sciences and an Adjunct Professor at the Indian Institute of Science. Ramesh did his B.Tech from IIT Delhi and his PhD from the Courant Institute, New York University, before moving to the Max Planck Institute as a post-doc, and then taking up a faculty position at the Indian Institute of Science, where he spent 10 years as full time faculty working on Algorithms research before founding Strand. At Strand, Ramesh leads teams building genomic applications for diagnostics and drug discovery. Ramesh is the author of the book Genomic Quirks that describes the detective quest in solving diagnostic odysseys.

About The Seminar

Cancer outcomes are best when diagnosed early, but detection at an early asymptomatic stage is challenging, often involving invasive methods like endoscopy or imaging that involves radiation. The talk will describe (epi)genomic signals in the blood that could help early detection and present results from a large study in India. The study sequenced ~1500 subjects (~450 healthy controls and the rest with various types of cancers). Epigenetic signals that distinguish those with cancer were discovered from the data and used to design a rigorously validated predictor with a sensitivity of ~70% at a specificity of 98.6%. The assay was then optimized to run at relatively low cost. The talk will outline the results and also outline how this approach can be woven into clinical screening algorithms.