

IMCB Research Excellence Seminar Series



Speaker : Prof Anurag Agrawal

*Dean, BioSciences and Health Research,
Trivedi School of Biosciences,
Ashoka University, India
Former Director, Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology
(a national laboratory of CSIR), India*

Date : 24 August 2022, Wednesday

Time : 3:00PM - 4:00PM

Venue : IMCB Seminar Room 3-46, Level 3, Proteos, Biopolis

Host : Vinay TERGAONKAR

Seminar :

a) Variants and Vaccines: Lessons from the COVID19 pandemic

b) Technology, Society and the Future of Health

Talk 1: Variants and Vaccines: Lessons from the COVID19 pandemic (25 min)

The SARS CoV2 virus has evolved under mounting pressure from natural and vaccine-induced immunity. The Gamma variant in Manaus, Brazil, and the Delta variant in Delhi, India, led to unexpectedly severe waves, even after population infection rates had crossed 50%. Delta went on to create a fresh global wave. We examine the early data from India during the Delta wave and discuss what we have learnt about such variants, and whether vaccines can stop future waves.

Talk 2: Technology, Society and the Future of Health (20 min)

Science is knowledge while technology is application of that knowledge for a purpose. However, natural sciences must be complemented by social sciences to ensure that technologies and their applications move us toward desired futures as a society. We discuss emerging technologies in biomedicine and the challenges in ensuring that their applications serve the intended purpose.

About the Speaker :

Professor Anurag Agrawal is Dean, BioSciences and Health Research, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University, India, and former director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, a national laboratory of CSIR, India. After completing graduate medical education at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, he further trained in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, USA, followed by a PhD in Physiology from Delhi University. His primary research is in respiratory biology and broader interests are in a new vision of health and healthcare seen through the lenses of emerging technologies. He serves on numerous national and global advisory groups, recently chairing the World Health Organization technical advisory group for viral evolution, the Lancet-Financial Times commission for governing digital health futures, and serving on the pandemic preparedness subgroup at the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence. He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 2014, the Sun Pharma Foundation award in 2020, and is a fellow of the Indian national science academies. As of 20th March 2022, Prof Aggarwal had 201 publications; h-index: 59; citations: 42125.

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