



## Speaker Profile

**Speaker** Indumathi Venkatachalam

**Designation** Consultant, Dept. Infectious Diseases and Dept. of Infection Prevention & Epidemiology, SGH

**Title** Infectious Disease Surveillance Systems in a Pandemic

Surveillance is integral to any effective infection prevention program. In a pandemic, particularly of a previously unknown emerging infectious disease, surveillance has to keep pace with the rapidly changing clinical landscape, both in terms of evolving disease characterization and workflows on the ground.

**Abstract** Recognizing the integral role of electronic healthcare data systems and range of expertise required, my team partnered with internal and external collaborators to develop integrated surveillance systems. Apart from limitations in hardware, software, skills and funding, data access issues posed by cybersecurity threats and personal data protection requirements are some of the constant challenges faced by the team. However, my team remains excited by the possibilities enabled by technology, to dream of systems that have not been possible before.

In the talk, development of new and management of existing surveillance systems during the COVID-19 pandemic will be discussed.

**Biography** Dr Indumathi is an infectious disease physician and clinical epidemiologist, with an interest in emerging and multidrug resistant bacterial and vaccine preventable infections, in particular the epidemiology and prevention of these infections in healthcare settings.

As a member of the epidemiology team at Singapore General Hospital (SGH), her focus has been on the development of syndromic and disease specific surveillance systems utilizing existing

electronic data systems and incorporating various data sources. The aim of these systems is to alert the team and relevant healthcare personnel to infectious disease threats so that preventative measures can be taken in a timely manner.

**Research interests** Infectious disease epidemiology, emerging and multidrug resistant bacterial and vaccine preventable infections in healthcare settings

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