



Speaker Profile

Speaker Ashley Lauren St. John

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Title Mast cells as targets for prognosis and treatment of dengue haemorrhagic fever

Abstract Dengue is a febrile illness that can develop into a life threatening disease known as severe dengue or dengue haemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome (DHF/DSS), involving vascular leakage, haemorrhaging, and organ failure. The circulation of multiple dengue virus serotypes and limited vaccine effectiveness and safety contribute to its world-wide burden of ~400 million infections yearly. The sudden onset of severe disease in most cases makes intervention and treatment of dengue more difficult when resources are limited or during an epidemic. Our efforts to understand the immune mediated mechanisms of vascular pathology, including microvascular permeability thrombocytopenia, haemorrhaging and shock will be discussed, as well as research to identify risk factors and biomarkers for severe disease that are applicable for patient populations in multiple regions of the world.

Biography Dr. Ashley St. John is an Associate Professor in the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School. She also holds appointments in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, National University of Singapore, the Department of Pathology, Duke University and the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute. Her research program focuses on viral immunology with emphasis on developing novel vaccination strategies, diagnostics, and therapeutics for infectious diseases.

Research interests Viral immunology, Mast cells, Vaccines.

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