

Symposium Title: Uncovering the hidden burden of acute febrile illness and their infectious causes in rural South and Southeast Asia

Symposium Description

Our symposium will present a selection of findings from the South and Southeast Asian Community-based Trials Network (SEACTN) research program to illustrate the hidden burden of acute febrile illness (AFI) at the community-level and in healthcare settings.

SEACTN was launched to establish the epidemiological baseline of febrile illness in hard-to-reach, remote communities and to identify opportunities for improving clinical management. The initiative centred around fever surveillance with comprehensive diagnostics in rural villages of 5 countries: Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, providing a unique opportunity to capture the exposures, aetiology, and outcomes of preventable disease in rural communities.

With a combination of inter-connected studies investigating multiple aspects of febrile illness, we have the unique opportunity to capture the exposures, aetiology, and outcomes of preventable disease in rural communities.

First, we will provide an overview of the network, its main components and some key findings relating to the burden of febrile illness in the region. We will then highlight the use of novel serological approaches to comprehensively define disease burden and exposure in melioidosis using molecular and serological diagnostics of over 7,000 AFI patients. Next, our speakers will spotlight high-impact opportunities to improve AFI clinical management through better prognostic and diagnostic tools. We will present a prospective hospital-based study identifying early biomarkers for predicting severe outcomes. Our last speaker will share early results from metagenomic sequencing to identify novel aetiologies of febrile illness.

Speaker 1: Elizabeth Batty

Presentation title: Overview of the South and Southeast Asian Community Based Trials Network (SEACTN)

Speaker 2: Sophie Kang

Presentation title: Using sero-diagnosis to determine *B. pseudomallei* as a cause of acute febrile illness hospitalizations in rural communities of Southeast Asia

Speaker 3: Abdullah Saeed Khan

Presentation title: Biomarkers for prediction of severity in patients with febrile illness

Speaker 4: Aorarat Suntronpong

Presentation title: Metagenomic sequencing to inform febrile aetiology in southeast Asia