4 PM, Thursday, 25 January 2018
Main Auditorium,
Biological Sciences Building
Indian Institute of Science

SEASONAL AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

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Professor Kanta Subbarao was appointed Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in 2016. Prior to this, she was Chief of the Emerging Respiratory Viruses Section of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, NIAID, National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the United States from 2002–2016 and Chief of the Molecular Genetics Section of the Influenza Branch at the US CDC from 1997–2002. Kanta is a virologist and a physician with specialty training in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. Her research is focused on newly emerging viral diseases of global importance including pandemic influenza, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and includes study of virus biology and pathogenesis, immune responses to infection and vaccination, development and preclinical and clinical evaluation of vaccines.

The epidemiologic success of influenza viruses that cause annual epidemics and sporadic pandemics, results from its remarkable ability to change gradually (antigenic drift) or abruptly (antigenic shift). The diversity and antigenic change in influenza viruses create a challenge for prevention and treatment. Seasonal influenza vaccines and stockpiled pandemic influenza vaccines have to be updated periodically to keep pace with antigenic drift. Several strategies to develop broadly cross-reactive or universal influenza vaccines are being actively explored. Antiviral drugs that inhibit the viral neuraminidase are the mainstay of treatment. However, the need for improvement is well recognised. Progress and challenges will be discussed.

Live webinar:
http://www.youtube.com/c/IndianAcademyofSciences

High tea will be served after the lecture.
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