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Ebola: Facts, myths and challenges

Ebola viral disease (EVD) is a re-emerging, zoonotic, viral hemorrhagic disease. The Ebola outbreak of West Africa in 2014-15 is the largest till date, affecting the metropolis as well as rural lives, in addition to that of health care professionals. The cardinal components to prevent EVD include early recognition, prompt diagnosis, dissemination dynamics, quarantine of cases, contact tracing, active surveillance, safe burials, infection prevention practices including PPE and societal education. All the above were challenged significantly in this outbreak. What started as a regional medical emergency rapidly evolved into an international catastrophe. Coordinated global efforts to strengthen the health care systems in resource-poor regions, along with public health education and community engagement were the prime factors which mitigated its impact. Favourable new vaccine and pharmaceutical interventions could be a breakthrough in combating this fatal and neglected tropical disease. The keynote will be an interactive session, exploring the past, present and future of Ebola viral hemorrhagic disease.

Biography

Neelam Doshi is a locum staff specialist in Microbiology at the Gold Coast University Hospital, where she is active in laboratory and clinical teaching across the continuum of medical learners. She also is designated as Associate Professor of Pathology at the Bond University Medical School, Gold Coast. She has both domestic and international medical training and work experience including India, UK & Saudi Arabia. She trained as a General Pathologist in India in 1994, then specialised as a fellow in Microbiology & Virology in UK/Australia. She was the Clinical Lead Consultant for Infection Prevention and Control at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust hospital, UK and played a key role in developing laboratory and infection control protocols for the UK NHS Influenza Emergency Preparedness in 2010.

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