

Understanding the genome of SARS-CoV-2 from India
Guest Speaker: Dr. Vinod Scaria, CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi, India
Date: Friday, 10 July 2020 Time 11:30 am
Meeting Platform: YouTube live stream Coronavirus Webinar Series

Following questions will cover the highlights of the webinar

Major areas of concern

a) Origin and Epidemiology

1. How did the *Coronavirus* lead to this pandemic?
2. Could this virus be developed in the lab, as claimed by one of the Nobel Laureate, Luc Montagnier?
3. Does the virus pose a threat to human existence?
4. Does the cellular surface receptor, ACE-2, has any role to play in this? Is there any other receptor involved?

b) Mutation and infection

1. How rapidly is *Coronavirus* mutating and evolving?
2. Are some mutation clusters of *Coronavirus* more potent than others?
3. Will the diagnostic kits fail if the mutational rate of the virus rises? If so, how to tackle it?

c) Transmission

1. Why isn't it transmitted through blood transfusion?
2. Can we expect another pandemic to take place, as inactive genes may get activated with the passage of time?

d) Combating the disease

1. Can a flexible inhibitor for glycoproteins be developed, which can be effective for more than one virus?
2. Personalized medicines like hydroxychloroquine (antimalarial) which also are immunosuppressants, remdesivir (anti-viral), lopinavir-ritonavir (anti-viral), dexamethasone (glucocorticosteroids) are the only best solutions?
3. In what stage of vaccine development, we might be failing?
4. How will individual patients respond to different treatments or vaccines against CoV, once it has been developed?