



KEYNOTE: GLOBAL EMERGENCE OF VIRAL VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES – WHY AND HOW?

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The past three decades have witnessed a dramatic geographic expansion and increase in human incidence of many viral vector-borne diseases, most notably expansion of West Nile virus throughout the Americas, Japanese encephalitis virus in western parts of Asia, and Chikungunya virus in Africa, the Indian Ocean region, and parts of Southeast Asia and the Pacific. In addition, major Rift Valley fever epidemics have occurred in Africa, significant West Nile virus outbreaks have occurred occasionally in Europe and Russia, and tick-borne encephalitis and eastern equine encephalitis viruses have apparently expanded northwards. This lecture will explore the underlying complex sociological, environmental, virological, and climatic factors that may be responsible for these trends.