

Keynote Speaker & Address

Keynote Speaker Introduction

Prof Neelika Malavige

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Prof. Neelika Malavige is a Professor of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and an academic visitor at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford. She also serves as the Head of the Global Dengue Program, at Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative since July 2022. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Infectious Diseases since 2020.

Neelika graduated from the University of Colombo, with a first class and several gold medals, and carried out her doctoral studies at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, which was funded by a Commonwealth scholarship. She was elected as the Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London in 2015, the Royal College of Pathologists in 2015 and the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka in 2022.

Prof. Malavige leads a large research group working on dengue, and COVID-19, focusing on immunopathogenesis of and vascular leak in dengue and translating these findings into clinical trials. She served as an expert member on several government COVID-19 related technical advisory groups on public health response, control strategies, vaccine evaluation, regulation and vaccine deployment strategies. Prof. Neelika has secured many Sri Lankan and International grants for her work on dengue and COVID-19 and published extensively in these areas. She has won several national and international awards for her work such as the Third World Academy Science (TWAS) young scientist award in 2012, CVCD excellence awards for best young researcher in 2008 and has done many orations. She has strong research collaborations with University of Oxford and her laboratory is a part of the A2CARES (Asian American Centers for Arbovirus Research and Enhanced Surveillance), which is one of the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases, NIH, USA.