

Advancing Maternal Health: Innovations & Collaborative Solutions

In collaboration with University of Melbourne

Session speakers with identified themes:

Session 1: Tackling Challenging Pregnancies

Theme: Unwanted fertility, community adolescent maternal newborn care

- Dr. Farnaz Sabet (University of Melbourne)
Expertise in adolescent maternal care, public health, and participatory women's groups in India
- Dr. Esha Chatterjee (IIT Kanpur)
Social Demographer with a focus on fertility, health inequalities, labor demography, migration, and aging

Session 2: Infections and Maternal Health

Theme: Infection management during pregnancy, low-resource diagnostics

- Dr Shivani Pasricha (University of Melbourne)
Spearheading rapid point-of-care diagnostics for infectious diseases with advanced technologies like CRISPR.
- Dr. Jaya Chakravarty (BHU)
Expertise in HIV/AIDS, opportunistic infections, and maternal health in endemic regions

Speakers from University of Melbourne

1. **Dr Shivani Pasricha**
Laboratory Head, Department of Infectious Diseases, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL)
Email: shivani.pasricha@unimelb.edu.au

Dr. Shivani Pasricha is a laboratory head in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Doherty Institute, spearheading rapid point-of-care diagnostics for infectious diseases with advanced technologies like CRISPR. She holds honorary positions at Victorian

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Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. Her team utilizes molecular and genomic approaches to enhance detection, prevention, and surveillance of infectious diseases, addressing critical clinical challenges.

2. Dr. Farnaz Sabet

Postdoctoral Fellow, Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Email: sabet.f@unimelb.edu.au

Dr Farnaz Sabet is an academic family doctor with global health expertise. She is currently a Global Health Fellow at the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and an Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne. She was a previous Assistant Professor of medicine in Jordan and has undertaken public health and policy work across refugee, humanitarian, and indigenous health settings, including UNHCR, IRC, Prime Minister and Cabinet in Australia and the Cape York Institute. In addition to her research and policy work she continues to work clinically. She received her medical degree from Monash University, a Masters in Global Health Science from Oxford University and a PhD on Adolescent Maternal Care, with a focus on participatory women's groups in India from the University of Melbourne.

Speakers from India

1. Dr. Jaya Chakravarty – HIV and Maternal Health

Professor, Department of General Medicine, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

Email: tapadar@gmail.com

Dr. Jaya Chakravarty is a leading clinician-scientist in the fields of internal medicine and infectious diseases. Her research is primarily focused on HIV/AIDS, HPV, and vector-borne diseases such as kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), particularly in resource-limited and endemic settings. She has contributed significantly to the understanding of immune

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responses in HIV-seropositive individuals, management of opportunistic infections, and the intersection of viral co-infections with social determinants of health.

2. Dr. Esha Chatterjee – Unintended Fertility and Maternal Health

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)

Email: eshachat@iitk.ac.in

Esha Chatterjee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. She holds a PhD in Sociology (University of Maryland College Park, 2020). Her primary research interests are in the fields of demography and gender, work, and family. Specifically, she has worked broadly in the areas of demography of the labor force, sociology of health, migration, and ageing. Her research has been featured in several prominent media outlets in India like The Hindu, The Print, Livemint, and Business Standard. Outside of academia, she has worked as a consultant at the World Bank on projects on 'Water and Gender', 'Demographic Trends in South Asia', and the 'Global Review of Aging Cities'. She has collected city level data for older adults in Kanpur and Agra; findings based on this survey can help design age-friendly policies.