Healthy Planet, Healthy People:
The Impact of Climate Change on Vector-borne Diseases
Monday, October 5, 2020 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

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A. Desiree LaBeaud, MD, MS
Professor, Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases), Stanford School of Medicine

Talk Description:
Ambient temperature is an important determinant of vector-borne disease transmission and suitability, affecting the life-cycle of the pathogen and mosquito vector. Ecological models can predict optimal temperatures for transmission. However, these models need to be validated with human disease incidence data. In addition, climate change (including warmer temperatures and extreme weather events) creates opportunities for the emergence and re-emergence of vector-borne disease threats.

Climate change impacts the entire planet and directly impacts all of us, including women and children. Dr. Desiree LaBeaud and her research group have performed several studies to uncover the impact of climate change on vector-borne diseases. In this talk, Dr. LaBeaud will first identify the mechanisms by which climate change can promote the emergence of vector-borne diseases. She will then illustrate the association of temperature change using case studies of malaria and dengue in Kenya. Finally, she will discuss strategies to forecast disease incidence based on climate inputs so we can respond to these disease threats in a future, warmer world.

About the Speaker:
Dr. Desiree LaBeaud is a physician-scientist, epidemiologist, and professor in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Stanford University’s School of Medicine. She received her MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and trained with the Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital pediatric residency program and the pediatric infectious disease fellowship program at Case Western Reserve University, while earning her master’s degree in Clinical Research and Epidemiology. Dr. LaBeaud studies the epidemiology and ecology of domestic and international arboviruses and emerging infections, with an interest in the vector, host, and environmental factors that affect transmission dynamics and spectrum of disease. Her current field sites include Kenya, Grenada, and Brazil. She currently heads a clinical research lab focused on better understanding the risk factors and long-term health consequences of arboviral infections and the most effective means of prevention.