



Venture Center

NCL Innovation Park  
Pashan road, Pune-08

# **BIOPUNE SEMINAR SERIES**

Bio Pune Seminar Series presents talks in the area of Bio Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Bioinformatics, Biomass value addition and related areas which are of interest and relevance to the bio sciences based technology and entrepreneurship community in Pune.

DBT-BIRAC supported



BioIncubator

## **BioPune Seminar # 11**

On

### **Global Health Technologies: Innovative and multidisciplinary research & development to combat neglected tropical diseases**

By

#### **Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi**

Associate Dean, National School of Tropical  
Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics, Section of  
Pediatric Tropical Medicine, Baylor College  
of Medicine; Deputy Director Sabin Vaccine  
Institute Product Development Partnership,  
Houston, Texas, USA

on

**Monday, 27 Feb 2017**

**10 am -12 pm**

Lecture Theatre, Venture Center  
900 NCL Innovation Park  
Dr. Homi Bhabha (Pashan) Road,  
Pune – 411008

**Register here:**

<http://bit.ly/2kEPNY1>

This is a free event, but registration is required

\*Tea shall be served at 9.45 am at the venue.

#### **Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi**



#### **Abstract**

The neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are the most common infections of the poorest people in the world and who live on less than US\$2 per day. They include ancient scourges such as hookworm and other soil-transmitted helminth infections, Chagas disease, amoebiasis, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, and dengue. Together, these NTDs produce a burden of disease that in certain regions even exceeds HIV/AIDS, while simultaneously trapping “bottom billion” in poverty through their deleterious effects on child physical and intellectual development, pregnancy outcome, and worker productivity.

The high prevalence and incidence of the major NTDs afford an opportunity for joint cooperation and alliances to address the highest prevalence conditions and accelerate the development of alternative control tools such as vaccines for the major NTDs. One of the major hurdles in the critical path for the development and testing of novel and translational discoveries is overcoming the “valley of death”, or product development gap for taking a bench discovery to the point where it shows a clear path to the clinic. A perspective of a sustainable model to accelerate translation of discoveries into new vaccines and applied by the Sabin Vaccine Institute Product Development Partnership (Sabin PDP) founded to develop recombinant protein vaccines targeting NTDs will be presented.

#### **About the speaker:**

Maria Elena Bottazzi, PhD is the Associate Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She is also the Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Dr. Bottazzi directs the Research and Administration of the Section of Pediatric Tropical Medicine and is the Deputy Director for the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development, part of the Sabin Vaccine Institute Product Development Partnership (PDP).

Dr. Bottazzi is an internationally-recognized scientist with more than 15 years of experience in translational research and vaccine development for neglected tropical diseases. In addition, her major interest is in the role of vaccines as control tools integrated into international public health programs and initiatives. Dr. Bottazzi is the Editor in Chief of Current Tropical Medicine Reports, Springer, US and an Associate Editor for Public Library of Science (PLOS) Neglected Tropical Disease Journal. She is the author or co-author of more than 100 scientific and technical papers in molecular, cellular biology, immunoparasitology, and vaccine development. She has participated in more than 200 conferences around the globe in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, has given an array of television, newspaper and radio interviews and is the recipient of multiple extramural grants and awards. Dr. Bottazzi's philosophy focuses on motivating and empowering peers and the young generations of scientists building strong inter- and intra-relationships and positively contributing to scientific and global health effectiveness.