



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

Strongyloides
Australia

Webinar Jointly hosted by
ACTM and Strongyloides Australia

Friday 16th February 2024

Strongyloidiasis in India: a glimpse into the challenges of integrating it with STH control programmes



Dr Abhishek Mewara, MD

Additional Professor in

Department of Medical Parasitology

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research
Chandigarh, India

Biography:

Dr Abhishek Mewara is an Additional Professor in the Department of Medical Parasitology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India. He obtained an MD (Microbiology) from PGIMER, Chandigarh, after his MBBS. He has over 90 papers and wrote a "Textbook of Medical Parasitology" for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students. His research interests include molecular diagnostics, genomics, pathogenesis, drug resistance, and epidemiology aspects of strongyloidiasis, malaria, trichomoniasis, neurocysticercosis, echinococcosis, and other medically important parasitic diseases.

Abstract:

In the last decade, we have seen a shift in the approach towards strongyloidiasis—from a disease considered relevant only in immunosuppressed population to its recognition as a disease targeted for control as a public health problem in the World Health Organization's NTD Roadmap 2021–2030 along with the other three soil transmitted helminths (STH). The recent estimates indicate more than 600 million people infected with *Strongyloides stercoralis* worldwide which is more than that of hookworm and whipworm infection burden estimates. Though there is a lack of studies from India, *S. stercoralis* is estimated to infect about 15–35% of the population in different regions of the country. Whereas, a variety of risk factors have been described for the development of severe strongyloidiasis, such as corticosteroid therapy, malignancy, etc., the spectrum of risk factors may be much broader and there may be situations where the immunosuppressed status of an individual may remain obscure. In addition, the parasite may also be affecting immunocompetent individual and may be an important cause of chronic morbidity like other STH infections. There are many aspects of strongyloidiasis such as its mapping, policy of screening of immunocompromised vs. general population, treatment regimens for asymptomatic vs. those with hyperinfection and disseminated disease, role of preventive chemotherapy in control strategies, etc., which are incompletely understood and need to be explored for its effective control. It is also important to understand the molecular epidemiology of *S. stercoralis* and the zoonotic aspects of its transmission. Thus, though the control of human strongyloidiasis has been clubbed under the umbrella of STH control programmes, the disease poses some unique challenges which may require additional strategies before the control targets can be achieved.

A one hour ACTM webinar in collaboration with Strongyloides Australia. Registration is open to all Medical and Healthcare professionals.

Register at the Following Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcu-qrzMrGNbIXfOOrFuLGkJD1T9tRIK->

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Webinar is being held at 2.00PM NSW, VIC, ACT / 1.00PM QLD / 5.00PM NZ / 6.00AM JOH / 4.00AM UK