



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



PARALLEL SESSION 1.2

**STRATEGIC INFORMATION AND THE EVOLUTION OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS
DISEASES: LESSONS FROM THE PAST AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES**



| BACKGROUND

The last century has witnessed an increase in the frequency of emerging infectious diseases (EID) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Climate change, environmental pressure, population movement, population growth and increasing overlaps between human and animal livelihoods have contributed to an acceleration of novel infectious diseases. In addition, the increasing pace of human and animal pathogens resistant to antibiotic therapies raises serious concerns about treatable infections becoming life threatening, raising the death toll and the economic cost to potentially unsustainable level within decades.

In this context, early warning systems and strategic information play a key role in preventing, detecting and responding adequately to emerging zoonosis and antimicrobial resistance. More surveillance systems are needed. New technologies, electronic health records, internet and social media have the potential to provide timely information on emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance that can supplement traditional surveillance systems. With these new tools, individuals and their communities can play a new role in participatory syndromic surveillance. Nevertheless, there are important caveats that need to be addressed, such as ensuring data privacy, underrepresentation of some categories such as infants, the elderly, or people lacking access to these new technologies.

| OBJECTIVES

This session will look at the recent changes in strategic information and how can they contribute to current surveillance systems in order to identify appropriate actions and interventions for preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.



Panelist / Moderator

Catherine Machalaba

Policy Advisor

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Catherine Machalaba serves as Policy Advisor at EcoHealth Alliance. As part of the USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats PREDICT-2 project she analyzes the effectiveness of One Health policies and practices, and is a researcher on a study of the epidemiology and ecology of Rift Valley Fever virus in South Africa. She works closely with partners at the World Bank, WHO, Convention on Biological Diversity and the Towards a Safer World network to advance environment, health and sustainable development synergies, and is a lead author of the World Bank Operational Framework for Strengthening Human, Animal and Environmental Public Health Systems at their Interface. Catherine chairs the American Public Health Association's Veterinary Public Health group and is program officer for the IUCN Species Survival Commission Wildlife Health Specialist Group. She holds a degree in Biology and a Masters in Public Health. Prior to joining EcoHealth Alliance in 2010 she conducted vector-borne disease surveillance and outreach at a district health office and completed a fellowship in healthcare systems redesign.