



United Nations  
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# REGIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

an institution of education, training and research

Established by the Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India

Under the Auspices of UNESCO

NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone, Faridabad-Gurgaon Expressway, Faridabad - 121 001, India

## Invited Seminar Series

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



**Prof. Maria Elena Bottazzi**  
**Baylor College of Medicine**  
**Houston, Texas, United States**

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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017. RCB Seminar Hall, at 11:30 AM**