This seminar will review dengue epidemiology in the Pacific, and discuss how certain unique aspects can be helpful in understanding pathogenesis of the severe forms of dengue virus infection.

Pacific nations have experienced regular epidemics of dengue fever (DF) and the more severe forms of the illness, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS). The rates of severe illness vary from one epidemic to the next, and the reasons for this are unclear, however epidemiological observations suggest that secondary infection with any of the four dengue viruses can contribute to the likelihood of developing severe disease. Unlike Southeast Asian nations, where all four variants of the dengue virus can co-circulate, Pacific countries generally experience epidemics associated with a single dengue virus, and this has allowed us to begin to address some of the fundamental questions regarding disease pathogenesis.

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(You can help reduce climate change by bringing your own cup. Mahalo!)

The community is welcome to attend this lecture