

International Forum on Ecology & Evolution of Avian Influenza

A webinar series by leading scientists (5/2021 - 12/2024)

July 05 (US), July 06 (Beijing), 2021

US: 9:00 pm Eastern Time; China: 9:00 am Beijing (1:00 pm GMT)



Richard Webby

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Richard Webby is a native of New Zealand, where he received his PhD in virology from the University of Otago. He moved to St Jude in 1999 to work under Dr. Rob Webster, a leader in the field of influenza viruses. He has remained at St Jude and is currently a Full Member in the Department of Infectious Diseases where he leads a research program focused on understanding how viruses, particularly influenza viruses, jump between host species and how we can improve our pandemic preparedness and response. He has published over 400 scientific manuscripts in this area and leads the NIH-funded St Jude Center of Excellence in Influenza Research and Response and the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza.

Factors controlling transmission of animal influenza viruses in humans.

The transmission of influenza viruses from animal reservoirs to, and subsequently between, humans is a prerequisite to pandemic emergence. The factors that control and limit this transmission are becoming better defined, but still largely unknown. Using a panel of viruses from avian hosts we have identified both viral and host factors that are involved in the process. These data show that transmission of avian viruses to mammalian hosts is associated with a loss of virus diversity limiting onward spread. We have also identified host pathologic responses to infection in the upper airway that segregate with airborne transmission suggesting that how the host responds to the virus can dictate its transmission properties.

Registration at <http://eomf.ou.edu/workshops/current/>

Organizers: University of Oklahoma, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USGS EESC; Sun Yat-sen University; China Agricultural University; CNIC, IVDC, China CDC

Organizing Committee Chairs: Xiangming Xiao (University of Oklahoma, USA), and Yuelong Shu (Sun Yat-sen University, China)