

COVID-19: US, Arab, and Global Perspectives

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM EDT

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Consequentialist Research in a Pandemic

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The COVID-19 Pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges that require research and response based in a variety of disciplines. In this talk, Dr. Omer will describe the development and implementation of a broad based research agenda responsive to the emerging needs of a fast moving pandemic. The talk will also emphasize the consequentialist nature of such a research agenda.

A Science-Based Approach to Inform Covid-19 National Response: The Case of Qatar

Laith Abu Raddad, Director of the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Biomathematics Research Core
Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar, Qatar

Description: In this contribution a high-level overview will be presented to highlight how a science-based approach was successful in leading to more effective COVID-19 national response. Such response, based on concrete data and facts rather than political considerations, reduced the toll of the epidemic, minimized risk (if not prevented) a second wave, avoided intermittent application of lockdowns and restrictions, and ensured economic and social functionality and stability. COVID-19 has been a challenge to humanity, but just like any other challenge, it cannot be confronted effectively without letting science play an influential role in policymaking.

Looking Beyond COVID-19: A Vision for Ending Pandemics

Mark Smolinski, President
Ending Pandemics, United States

COVID-19 is painfully demonstrating the cost of response to a pandemic is exponentially that of prevention. This presentation will share five components of systems change to disease surveillance essential to stopping a threat *anywhere* from becoming a threat *everywhere*. Engaging directly with the public, applying a One Health approach, expanding epidemic intelligence, collaborating across borders, and measuring progress will allow us to detect and contain outbreaks faster and lead us to a future of prediction and prevention.