

PREVENTION IS HEALTH AND WEALTH

Vaccines and vaccination have made a fundamental contribution to healthcare, decreasing, controlling and wiping out the disease. These health effects translate to positive economic outcomes for individuals, healthcare systems and society.

However, the damage and consequences of diseases are rapidly forgotten, when the diseases are not seen in large numbers.

Further, the full benefits of vaccines are not recognised and they are often undervalued and /or underused. Poorer countries think they cannot afford them, though new vaccines or increased vaccination coverage could improve the health of the population. Understanding the full value and potential impact of vaccines is critical to public health.

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Professor Kang is Professor of Microbiology, at the Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences at the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore. She has worked on the development and use of vaccines for rotaviruses, cholera and typhoid, conducting large studies to define burden, test vaccines and measure their impact. She also studies the consequences of enteric infections and has shown that infections in early life impact future growth and cognitive development. She has established a strong training program for students and young faculty in clinical translational medicine aiming to build a cadre of clinical researchers studying relevant problems in India.

She is the first Indian woman to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. She serves or has served on the scientific advisory or strategic committee of several national and international institutions, including the Wellcome Trust, UK, the DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance, the International Vaccine Institute, and the International Centers for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. She is Vice-Chair of the Board of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and a Wellcome Trust nominated Board Member of Hilleman Laboratories, which is a partnership to support the development of affordable vaccines for low- and middle-income countries. She is a member of several advisory committees for the WHO, mainly related to research and the use of vaccines.



The Pune Knowledge Cluster (PKC) has been established by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. The aim is to bring together academia, R&D institutions and the industry of Pune and its surrounding regions to address the challenging problems of the region through innovative means, using scientific knowledge and engaging highly skilled human resources.

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