“Zika virus infection and congenital Zika syndrome: What have we learned after the pandemic?”

The ability of Zika virus to cause congenital defects in fetuses and infants, as exemplified during the recent pandemic in the Americas, is an unprecedented feature in a mosquito-borne viral infection. The seminar will describe how rapid urbanization, globalization and an increasingly mobile society created the conditions for the emergence of Zika virus. The talk will also explore the factors that contributed to the severity of the outbreak of microcephaly and birth defects at the epi-center of the pandemic in Brazil, and will discuss the potential for the virus to return and cause epidemics in the future.