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Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

International HIV Research Seminar Series

"Exploring Multidimensional Aspects of Aging in HIV"

Reena Rajasuriar, PhD
Pharmacy Lecturer
Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya, Malaysia



Thursday, October 24, 2019
10:00 am-11:30 am
135 College Street, Suite 200
New Haven, CT

Light refreshments will be provided.

Contact dini.harsono@yale.edu for questions or if you will be joining by video/telephone conference.

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Reena Rajasuriar, PhD

Pharmacy Lecturer

Faculty of Medicine

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Dr. Reena Rajasuriar is a CIRA International Visiting Fellow working with Frederick Altice, MD, MA, Julia Rozanova, PhD, and Sheela Sheno, MD, MPH, Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Rajasuriar is a senior lecturer in the Department of Medicine, University of Malaya and an adjunct Research Fellow at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne University, Australia. She is also a post-doctoral scientist for the Centre of Excellence for Research in HIV/AIDS (CERiA) in University of Malaya. Reena graduated with her Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) from University Science Malaysia in 2000 and Master's in Clinical Pharmacy in 2003. She was awarded her PhD degree in Immunology by Monash University Australia in 2012 and her doctoral research focused on immunogenetics in HIV patients. Dr. Rajasuriar coordinates the translational research program in HIV immunology at CERiA and heads the Immunotherapeutics Laboratory at University of Malaya. Her current research focuses on the immunopathogenesis of accelerated aging and modulators of immune activation in HIV.

”Exploring Multidimensional Aspects of Aging in HIV”

Successful aging is a multidimensional concept which encompasses the avoidance of chronic comorbidities and disability, maintenance of physical and cognitive function and engagement in social activities. Thus, studies on aging in people living with HIV (PLHIV) should ideally utilise measures which reflect the overall health status of an individual rather than the mere presence or absence of chronic comorbidities as surrogate end-points of aging. However, to date, only few studies have characterised aging among PLHIV from a multidimensional perspective encompassing physical, mental and social deficits or used comprehensive geriatric assessment approaches to characterise the phenotype of aging in this population. Consequently, this has led to significant gaps in our understanding of interactions between common conditions in HIV as individuals age, how the co-existence of multiple conditions affects treatment responses and how healthcare services can best be integrated to meet our patients' needs. Additionally, most research assessing aging have largely been focused in the middle-age to elderly (65 years and older) age categories although aging is a continuous concept and the pathogenic processes driving aging are likely at play well before the clinical presentation of these conditions. In this presentation, I will introduce the concept of functional aging and highlight the importance of transitioning from measuring chronic comorbidities as a surrogate of aging in HIV to assessing geriatric syndromes. I will share research findings from the Malaysian HIV and Aging cohort which profiles the multidimensional construct of aging among PLWH with well controlled HIV disease and associated risk factors. The presentation will also address the gaps in routine HIV care provision in the low- and middle-income countries setting and the challenges we face in introducing integrated patient-centric care.