

# ONE HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES

## ASSURING FOOD SAFETY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD – ARE WE READY?

The food chains of today are becoming increasingly global as a consequence of the demand for year-round supply, as well as due to dietary recommendations and a growing consumer appetite for exotic food. Therefore, food chains are also becoming more complex due to the diversity and location of actors involved in such trans-boundary and trans-continental food systems. However, such benefits also come at the cost of increased risks. One example illustrating global spread of a hazard through trade is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). After the identification of prions as the causative agent of the disease, complex and uncontrolled trade networks led to its global spread, and hindered rapid eradication. A current challenge to global food safety is antimicrobial resistance. While control measures are being promoted at highest levels, and while there are no trade restrictions at the moment, numerous uncertainties remain in relation to this hazard specifically and emerging food safety threats in general.

Risks are not limited to biological and chemical hazards and their emergence, spread and management. Complex food systems also harbour other challenges such as difficult traceability, food scares among consumers due to “fake-news”, concerns for sustainable production conditions related to energy spent for production and transport, governance at national and international level and fair distribution of profit along the production chain. While surveillance, risk assessment and other epidemiological approaches can provide useful evidence to facilitate the functioning of global food systems, other aspects are currently not well integrated or neglected. As a consequence, the vulnerability of food markets is increasing. In the future, more integrated and novel strategies are needed to assure not only the safety but also the resilience of global food systems and thus – ultimately – consumer trust.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Professor Katharina D.C. Stärk, Dr.med.vet., PhD, MRCVS, DipECVPH**, graduated as a veterinarian from Zurich Veterinary School, Switzerland, and obtained her PhD from Massey University, New Zealand. Over the last two decades, she has conducted applied research on infectious diseases and zoonoses as well as risk analysis, surveillance and animal health decision making in relation to animal-derived food. She has worked in diverse environments including Swiss government, private industry in Denmark and academia in Switzerland and the UK. Katharina has repeatedly served on international working groups and expert panels for EFSA and the OIE. Katharina is currently Head of Department of Animal Health at the Federal Office for Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs, Bern. She is also honorary Professor of Veterinary Public Health Policy at the Royal Veterinary College, London, and at the VETSUISSE Faculty, Zurich, as well as Adjunct Professor at City University, Hong Kong. Her professional passion lies in translating science into practice with the aim to assure safe food for all.

### BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Centre for Applied One Health Research and Policy Advice at the Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences, City University of Hong Kong



**College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences**

in collaboration with Cornell University



Date:  
25 March 2019,  
Monday

Time:  
1pm – 2pm

Venue:  
TYB-2-G02, G/F, Block 2  
Meeting Room 5  
To Yuen Building, City  
University of Hong Kong

ALL ARE WELCOME

### ENQUIRIES

Tel: (852) 3442-2234  
Dr Ioannis Magouras

Email:  
ioannis.magouras@cityu.edu.hk