

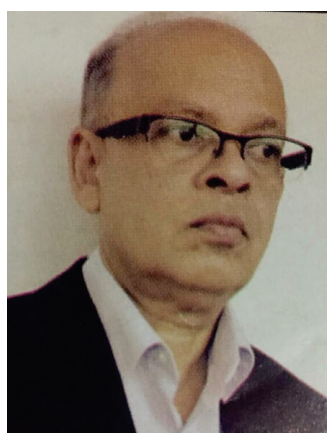
# ONE HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES

## FOOD SAFETY AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Veterinary expertise in zoonotic diseases has proven invaluable on a global scale when considering the diagnosis and management of foodborne diseases. Animal products are a major source of the food safety hazards, both microbiological (salmonella, norovirus, etc.) and chemical (antibiotics, beta-agonists, etc.). Antibiotic use in food animals and in the other areas of veterinary practice contributes to the overall development of antibiotic resistance. Moreover, animal products have been implicated in the international transfer of resistant bacteria. Another global issue that requires veterinary input is food security for the increasing world population growth. A major proportion of food, which is required in the next 50 years, is expected to be animal products. Most of the demand will come from the Asia Pacific Region. A number of strategies will be used to increase the availability of animal products, which include intensive farming. However, some challenges have been identified in intensive farming. That includes the amplified usage of antibiotics and other veterinary drugs, as well as unauthorized growth promoters (particularly in beef cattle and pigs). **The veterinary expertise will be of extreme importance in intensification of livestock farming, aquaculture, and in achieving food security.**

Current international guidelines strongly recommend using the risk analysis approach to manage risks associated with all food safety hazards. Risk management policy- and decision-making also need to consider the economic, political and social factors in which vets have the controversial task of balancing public good against private good. Vets in this region have to initiate risk communication strategies, possibly in collaboration with the medical profession under the One Health agenda, in order to influence the respective governments to proactively develop appropriate policies to manage these risks associated with animal products. In this respect, veterinary training for **undergraduates, postgraduates** and as continuing professional development, in the risk analysis approach to improve food safety cannot be over-emphasized. This seminar briefly reviews the contributions of the vets to food safety in the past and present, and discusses why such contributions are becoming even more important in the future. It also highlights why training of vets in food safety is fundamental to achieve food security.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Professor Nimal Pathiraja, BVSc, MRCVS, PhD, DVPH**, is a veterinarian who has specialized in Veterinary Public health with particular emphasis in food safety. Following a PhD from Edinburgh University, he had further training in Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health, and became a Diplomate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, UK. He is an accredited Lead Auditor with Lloyds of London. He has worked in academia (in the UK, Africa, Hong Kong and China), private sector, government agencies and International Organizations. While working for the UK Food Standard Agency (FSA), he was seconded to work in various European countries, including many newly joined EU member states. In this capacity, he enabled those countries to improve their food safety standards and achieve harmonization with the EU Food Regulations, using the risk analysis approach. While working for the FSA, in collaboration with Bristol University, he conducted the training programmes for the government vets working in the food safety area. Before joining Jinan University in China, he was with the Centre for Food Safety in Hong Kong. Currently he is also contributing to the MSc course in Food Safety and Toxicology offered by Hong Kong University

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**Jockey Club  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
and Life Sciences**  
in collaboration with Cornell University



**Date:**  
**5 December 2018,**  
**Wednesday**

**Time:**  
**11am – 12noon**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**ENQUIRIES**

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