

First Circular



insects → people

To achieve the objectives of



18-20 December, 2025
Thiruvarur (Tamilnadu)
(On Dec. 20, there will be a visit to historic places)

Organized by:

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health
Central University of Tamilnadu • Thiruvarur - 610005 (Tamilnadu), India

Sponsored by:



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18th
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF
MEDICAL ARTHROPODOLOGY
on
VECTOR-BORNE &
ZOO NOTIC DISEASES:
Challenges and
Solution to Epidemiology
and
Public Health

Dear Colleagues,

Medical Arthropodology is an incredibly exciting discipline which constitutes an integral part of public health, biomedical and bioengineering sciences. It includes various branches like medical entomology, medical arachnology, medical myriapodology and Medical carcinology. Although, most of the arthropods are not harmful to humans and, in fact, many are highly beneficial organisms, yet, many isolated groups of spiders, scorpions, mites, ticks and, particularly, insects concern humans because of their harmful nature of causing injuries through their poisonous bites and/or stings, disturbing tranquility of humans' living environment and, above all, playing a key role in transmitting a large number of deadly and/or debilitating diseases. Vector-borne & Zoonotic Diseases, caused by either parasites, bacteria or viruses, account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases worldwide, causing more than 700,000 deaths annually. Many arthropod-borne infections have in recent past made a spectacular come back with devastating impact (e.g., chikungunya, zika virus) , while some new infections, too, sprang up with an unseen complexity and novelty such as that of COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2. Consequently, Emerging and re-emerging vector-borne and zoonotic diseases the world over have now assumed a greater degree of significance than ever before!

Among the numerous infectious agents reported globally, 60% of pathogens were found to have a history of zoonotic origin. During past couple of decades India has witnessed a plethora of towering outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infectious arthropod-borne diseases which were all managed in the long run by a combined force of community participation and scientific agility and preparedness. Still many diseases such as, for example, Lyme disease, Rocky mountain spotted fever rickettsiosis, Ross fever, West Nile, dengue, Zika virus, chikungunya, malaria, WEE, EEE, Japanese encephalitis, Khyasanur Forest Disease, Scrub typhus, Powassan, human anaplasmosis, babesiosis etc. Several factors are responsible for the emergence and re- emergence of these and other deadly infections, most important among which include geographic expansion of the vectors, anthropization and, above all, Climate Change and Global Warming. The situation is grim and need tackling it through consilience. Solution to manage the future emerging and re-emerging infections lies in the scientific endeavours and implementation of necessary preventive and curative measures intelligently and diligently with the aid of efficient modern tools and strategies in an integrated manner.

The **18th SOMA International Conference of Medical Arthropodology** on **"VECTOR-BORNE & ZOONOTIC DISEASES: Challenges and Solution to Epidemiology and Public Health"** will hopefully provide a unique opportunity to bring all the possible knowledge at one platform for an extensive deliberation and solution-finding exercise.

With kindest regards, and looking forward to having your active participation in the 18th International Conference of Medical Arthropodology (SOMA), we remain,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr Natarajan Gopalan and Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi

The Department of EPH

The **Department of Epidemiology and Public Health** was established in August 2016. It offers two years Master Degree in Epidemiology and Public Health. Provides teaching, research, and service activities that helps public health practitioner, health care providers, and researchers to develop and apply population based approaches to maintain and improve the public's health in the heartland and the nation. The M.Sc., degree in EPH (Epidemiology and Public Health) is offered through the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, at CUTN. Known as the first University offering M.Sc in Epidemiology and Public Health, in the Country, this programme provides students with strong foundation in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, complemented by Qualitative and Behavioural Sciences. The department has well established laboratories equipped with modern scientific instruments and state-of-the art infrastructure. The faculty is actively engaged in research projects funded by various agencies like UGC, DST, ICMR. The Department has published more than 50 research papers in journals of national and international repute.



The CUTN, Thiruvavarur



The **Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN)**, nestled in the culturally rich region of Thiruvavarur, emerges as a distinguished beacon of higher learning. Established in 2009 under the auspices of the Government of India, CUTN embarked on a transformative journey aimed at democratizing access to quality education, particularly for marginalized communities. From its humble beginnings with just eight students in M.A. English Studies, CUTN has evolved into a dynamic institution offering a plethora of academic programs across various disciplines.

Situated amidst the historical tapestry of Thiruvavarur, a town steeped in the legacy of the Chozha dynasty, CUTN finds itself in a landscape adorned with art, music, and dance. This cultural backdrop infuses the university with a unique vibrancy, fostering an environment conducive to holistic learning and growth. The serene ambiance, accentuated by the gentle flow of the River Vettaaru, lends an aura of tranquility to both campuses of CUTN.

Comprising two picturesque campuses, each with its distinct charm, CUTN provides a conducive ecosystem for academic pursuits. The Neelakudi campus, replete with academic facilities, amenities, and lush greenery, serves as the primary hub of learning, housing state-of-the-art infrastructure including libraries, laboratories, and administrative blocks. It is complemented by the Nagakudi campus, dedicated to faculty and staff, fostering a close-knit community conducive to collaborative endeavors.

At its core, CUTN remains steadfast in its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. The university's comprehensive range of academic programs, spanning research, postgraduate, integrated, and undergraduate studies, caters to diverse interests and aspirations. With impressive rankings of 89th by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and 12th by the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF), CUTN has earned recognition for its commitment to academic excellence. Collaborative initiatives with esteemed institutions such as SVPISTM and SACON further enrich the academic landscape, providing students with invaluable opportunities for intellectual exploration and growth.

CUTN's academic offerings include 61 programs across 13 schools and 28 departments. Among these are 29 research programs, 22 specialized programs, 6 integrated programs, 2 undergraduate programs, and several postgraduate diploma courses. These programs cater

to a wide array of fields including humanities, sciences, technology, and arts, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for students.

Beyond academia, CUTN stands as a custodian of the region's cultural heritage, promoting traditional arts while embracing contemporary practices. Its dedication to environmental conservation and rural development initiatives underscores its commitment to sustainable growth and societal welfare. Through various outreach programs, CUTN extends its impact beyond the confines of its campuses, bridging the gap between aspirations and opportunities for all sections of society.

As a beacon of hope and learning, the Central University of Tamil Nadu embodies the ethos of inclusive education, heritage preservation, and sustainable development. Its journey from inception to prominence is a testament to its unwavering dedication to academic distinction and societal impact. In essence, CUTN stands not only as an institution of higher learning but also as a symbol of inspiration and emulation in the realm of education and beyond.



Society of Medical Arthropodology

The **Society of Medical Arthropodology** (SOMA; www.soma16.org), established in 2016 as a non-profit scientific society, is a unique scientific association devoted to the enhancement of knowledge about arthropods for their biomedical, pharmacological, bioengineering and nutrition significance – with an aim of serving Science and Society. The Society works as a “Global Family of Friends” comprising under one single umbrella all the public/veterinary health researchers from across the world. The society is interested in promoting Arthropodology through:

- (i) the encouragement of understanding, cooperation and friendship among medical arthropodologists throughout the world,
- (ii) encouragement of international collaboration in medico-arthropodological research activities and services,
- (iii) planning and organization of national/international symposia and regional meetings of medico-arthropodologists, and
- (iv) conservation of arthropods of pharmacological and nutritional importance, and their natural habitats through taxonomic and biodiversity explorations.

How to reach the Venue

To reach the **Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), located in Thiruvavarur, Tamil Nadu**, you can follow these detailed directions based on common modes of transportation:

By Air:

The nearest major airport to Thiruvavarur is **Tiruchirappalli International Airport (TRZ)**, which is approximately 130 kilometers away from the university.

Train:

Thiruvavarur Junction (TVR) is the nearest railway station to the Central University of Tamil Nadu. It is well-connected to major cities in India.

By Road:

Thiruvavarur is well-connected by road and can be accessed from various cities in Tamil Nadu. From **Chennai**: Thiruvavarur is approximately 300 kilometers from Chennai. You can drive to the university or take a bus/Train from Chennai to Thiruvavarur.

Places to visit near CUTN ?

Thiruvavarur- the abode of music and melody. Thiruvavarur, a sublime temple town, rich in lagoons is a major pilgrimage town. Thiruvavarur is located at the confluence of three rivers namely the Sukumar, Valaiyar and Odambokki Rivers. This fertile land rich in heritage is the birthplace of the trinity of Carnatic music, Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Syama Sastri. This land of music is a prominent pilgrimage center in Tamilnadu. Located in Thiruvavarur, Central Tamil Nadu offers convenient access to prominent tourist attractions such as the World Heritage sites of Trichy, Madurai, Thanjavur, Gonngaikonda Cholepuram and Mahabalipuram, as well as natural retreats like Coutrallam Falls and Kanyakumari, Hill stations like Munnar, Kodaikanal, and Ooty, along with the enchanting Indo French enclave of Pondicherry, are also easily reachable. The city boasts a strong culture of education, learning, and artistic engagement. In October, Thiruvavarur experiences a pleasant climate with cool breezes and mild temperatures, creating an ideal atmosphere for outdoor festivities and cultural events. For more details about tourist attractions in Thiruvavarur and nearby locations, please see the following links:

<https://www.tamilnadutourism.com/thiruvavarur/index.php>

[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g1584823-Activities-Thiruvavarur Tiruvavarur District Tamil Nadu.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g1584823-Activities-Thiruvavarur_Tiruvavarur_District_Tamil_Nadu.html)

<https://www.tourmyindia.com/states/tamilnadu/thiruvavarur.html>



International Conference on

“VECTOR-BORNE & ZOONOTIC DISEASES: Challenges and Solution to Epidemiology and Public Health”

Thrust areas

- i) Prognosis, Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Control and Management of emerging and re-merging –
 - (a) Viral Diseases, (b) Fungal Diseases, (c) Bacterial Diseases,
 - (d) Protozoan diseases (e) Helminthic diseases, and (f) Zoonotic Diseases
- (ii) Medical Arthropodology (Medical/Veterinary/Forensic Entomology, Arachnology, Myriapodology and Carcinology)
- (iii) Taxonomy and identification of Vectors
- (iv) Vector Biology and Ecology
- (v) Vector Ecology.
- (vi) Control and Management of Vectors
- (vii) Climate Change and its impact on emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- (viii) Evolution of Emerging Diseases.
- (ix) Use of AI in taxonomy, vector identification and preventing outbreaks in future
- (x) Development of integrated tools from the biology and behavior of medically important Arthropods.

Abstract Submission

The participants are requested to send a copy of the abstract for oral /poster presentation not exceeding 250 words (in WORD, 12 pt, single space, without References, Tables or Figures, through e-mail to: gopalan@cutn.ac.in, with a cc to Dr Sujit Kumar Behra; e-mail: behra@cutn.ac.in) on or before **30th August, 2025**. **ALL ABSTRACTEES WILL HAVE TO INVARIALLY REGISTER WITH FEES PAID.**

Posters should be 4x5 ft in size. A Poster should be representative to a future manuscript; with structured details aided with appropriate Table(s) and Figure(s) as well as References.

Abstracts must be based on **ORIGINAL** research and should have a clear Title, which should be followed by Names of authors, and next by their affiliations. The Abstract should be prepared in a structured style as: Title, Summary, Background, Material & Methods, Observations & Results and Discussion.

If more than one author, the presenting Author's name should be underlined. His/Her Email must appear at the end of his/her affiliation.

Registration

Registration fee for the Conference will be as follows:

Category	Early Registration	Spot Registration
Student	Rs. 900	Rs. 990
Research Scholars	Rs. 2500	Rs. 3500
SOMA Life Members	Rs. 3000	Rs. 4000
Faculty/Scientist	Rs. 3500	Rs. 4500
Accompanying person	Rs. 1500	Rs. 2500

Registration and Abstract submission are open now. Registration fee should be paid in favour of Society of Medical Arthropodology by way of Bank Account e-Transfer to the bank details given below.

N.B.: Acceptance of an Abstract is subject to duly paid Registration Fee with Form filled and submitted with bank proof to Prof. N. Gopalan (gopalan@cutn.ac.in)

Bank Account Details for Registration Fee Payment

Registration fee has to be paid through online mode using the details given below:

- (1) Name of the Bank : **STATE BANK OF INDIA**
- (2) Account No : **35969148573**
- (3) Branch : **CUTN Branch, Thiruvapur**
- (4) IFS Code : **SBIN0018724**
- (5) MICR No. : **610002013**
- (6) Account type : Savings Account



Alternatively, this QR can be also scanned for paying registration Fee.

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All registrants, except Accompanying Persons, will be entitled to conference portfolio with conference paraphernalia incl. Abstracts book, and, along with accomplices, to tea, snacks, lunch and any sponsored dinner during the conference.

Accommodation

Nearby Hotel Ten Rooms, on payment basis by the individual occupant (Rates may be inquired). For Research Scholars/Students, accommodation will be made, as far as possible, in the respective Boys' and Girls' Hostels of the CUTN. For some members we will book accommodation in CUTN Guest House.

The Venue

The seminar will be held at the **CUTN, Thiruvapur**. The University and Guest house are located 12 km from the Railway Station and Bus Stand. The Trichy Airport in is around 75 km away from CUTN.



Climate

The climate is expected to be very pleasant during December occasional showers. The minimum-maximum temperature reaches to 21.3°C to 35.9°C. It is the best time to visit and sightseeing, too.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Prof. M. Krishnan

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
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Thiruvavur, TN

&



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The Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor
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Dr Natarajan Gopalan, Professor, Dept of EPH
CUTN, Thiruvavur • Mobile : 9179936322



Joint Secretary

Dr Sujit Kumar Behra

Dept of EPH, CUTN, Thiruvavur, TN



International Conference Coordinator

Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi, President, Society of Medical Arthropodology &
Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Organization of International Conferences



International Conference Collaborator

Dr B. Reddy Naik

Secretary General SOMA

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IMPORTANT DATES / DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

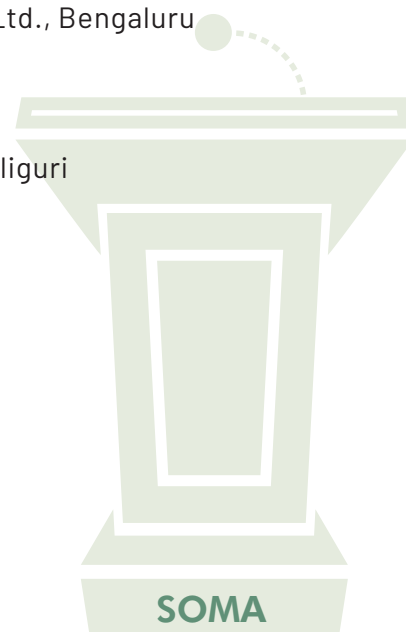
Conference Dates**18 - 20 December, 2025****Sightseeing *, #****20 December, 2025 (Extra costs*)****Early Registration****On or before 30th August, 2025****On-Spot Registration****On 18-20th December, 2025 (with 500/- extra)****Abstract submission****On or before 30th August, 2025**

* Interested participants will be needed to pay for the visits to historic places such as Thanjore Temple and other close by places, on 20th Dec., 2025 itself.

Please contact: **Dr Behra** • Mobile: **7978186308**; Email: **behra@cutn.ac.in**

Plenary / Keynote Lectures

1. Plenary Lecture **Prof. Dr Devinder Singh**
Pro VC, Chandigarh Univ., Mohali, Punjab, India
2. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr B.K. Tyagi**
President, SOMA
3. Keynote Lecture **Dr. Anoop Velayutham**
Scientist 'E', ICMR-HQ, Delhi
4. Keynote Lecture **Dr . K. S. Venkateswaran**
Chief Scientist, Tetracore, USA
5. Keynote Lecture **Prof. V. Venkatesalu, Rted**
Deptt. of Botany, Annamalai University
6. Keynote Lecture **Dr Vijay Veer**
Former Director, DRL (DRDO), Tezpur, Assam
7. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr Jagbir Singh**
Former Head, Deptt. of Zool. & Env't Sci, PU, Patiala
8. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr B. Reddy Naik**
Head, Zool. Deptt. & Dir., SRRIP, OU, Hyderabad
9. Keynote Lecture **Dr R.S. Sharma**
Former Scientist, SAG Level & Ex. Addl. Dir., NCDC, Delhi
10. Keynote Lecture **Dr Rina Tilak**
Former Scientist 'G', AFMC, Pune
11. Keynote Lecture **Prof. E. Pushpalatha**
Former Head, Zool. Deptt., Calicut Univ., Kerala
12. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr N. Gopalan**
Deptt. of Epidemiol. & Pub. Hlth., CUTN, Thiruvavur
13. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr Devinder Kaur Kocher**
Zoology Department, PAU, Ludhiana
14. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr Madhavi P.**
Zoology Deptt., OU, Hyderabad
15. Keynote Lecture **Dr Sambashiva Daravath**
Assistant Professor, Nizam Coll. (OU), Hyderabad
16. Keynote Lecture **Dr P.K. Srivastava**
Ex-Jt. Dir., NCVBDC, Delhi
17. Keynote Lecture **Dr Varun Tyagi**
Eurofins Advinus Agrosoci. Serv. India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru
18. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr Abhijit Mazumdar**
Zoology Deptt., Burdwan Univ., Burdwan
19. Keynote Lecture **Prof. Dr Dhiraj Saha**
Head, Zoology Univ., North Bengal Univ., Siliguri
20. Keynote Lecture **Dr Kalpana Baruah**
Ex-G (H Gr), NCVBDC
21. Keynote Lecture **Dr Manas Sarkar**
Reckitt Benckiser, Gurgaon
22. Keynote Lecture **Dr Roop Kumari**
WHO Country Office in India, Delhi
23. Keynote Lecture **Dr R.K. Dixit**
Scientist 'E', ICMR-NIMR, Delhi
24. Keynote Lecture **Dr Himmat Singh**
Scientist 'E', ICMR-NIMR, Delhi
25. Keynote Lecture **Dr A.N. Shriram**
Scientist 'D', ICMR-VCRC. Puducherry



ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE &
ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

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