

ASPR TRACIE Speaker Series
Brief Speaker Biographies

Healthcare Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic Speaker Series

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Environmental Health and Safety for COVID-19
Isolation and Quarantine Hotels

Priya Dhagat, MS, MLS(ASCP), CIC

Associate Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program, NYC Health + Hospitals

Ms. Dhagat is the Associate Director of the System-wide Special Pathogens Program within the Department of Emergency Management at New York City Health + Hospitals, the nation's largest municipal healthcare delivery system overseeing special pathogen preparedness and response throughout acute care, ambulatory, and post-acute care facilities. Additionally, she has supporting role within the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), and the New York City Health + Hospitals Institute for Diseases and Disaster Management. Prior to her current role, Ms. Dhagat served as an infection preventionist in which the core of her efforts focused on infectious disease and hospital acquired infection surveillance, outbreak investigation, communicable disease exposure prevention and preparedness and response planning for infectious disease threats. Ms. Dhagat has a strong background in laboratory science, microbiology, infectious diseases and infection prevention, and holds national certifications in Medical Laboratory Science and Infection Control and Epidemiology from the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology.

COVID-19 Response

Ms. Dhagat is a member of NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 Incident Management Team, providing ongoing support, guidance and assessments related to infectious disease emergency management and infection prevention and control within healthcare and public settings such as hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, long term care facilities, COVID-19 isolation and quarantine hotels, alternate care sites, special medical needs shelters and administrative office settings. As part of a multi-disciplinary team, she has collaboratively developed numerous operational plans and educational resources related to workplace safety, infection prevention and crisis communication. Additionally, Ms. Dhagat supports health and safety efforts for the Enhanced Investigations Unit of NYC Test and Trace Corps, the City's COVID-19 contact tracing program.

Syra Madad, D.H.Sc, MCP

Senior Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program, NYC Health + Hospitals and Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University

Read Dr. Madad's bio here: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/syra-madad-bio-covid-19-role.pdf>

Ritu Pati, MD, MPH

Medical Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 Response

Dr. Ritu Pati is an infectious disease physician and medical epidemiologist in the HIV Care and Treatment Branch, Division of Global HIV and TB at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She provides technical assistance for HIV programs supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Serving as CDC clinical advisor on a PEPFAR interagency task force, she has led the development and dissemination of global guidance on the optimization of HIV treatment regimens. Since April 2020, Dr. Pati has held several leadership roles in the CDC COVID-19 response, including Director of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Jacob Javits New York Medical Station and Lead of the Interagency IPC Workgroup Force for the New York City COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Hotel Program.

Before joining the CDC, Dr. Pati was Director of Research at the Spencer Cox Center for Health, Mount Sinai Institute of Medicine, in New York City. She has led both local and international collaborations and has co-authored numerous community and epidemiologic research articles. Dr. Pati earned her medical and public health degrees from the University of Connecticut, and completed her training in internal medicine, general preventive medicine, and infectious diseases at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology.

Janet Wang, MPA (in progress)

Director of Regulatory Affairs, NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens

Janet is an experienced healthcare leader and technical expert with more than 15 years of experience in environmental health and safety (EH&S), regulatory compliance and operations management. Currently, she is the Director of Regulatory Compliance at NYC Health and Hospitals/Queens where she develops and implements regulatory strategies while managing continuous survey readiness. Prior to this role, she was the Environmental Health and Safety Lead for the COVID-19 Hotel Programs and NYC Test and Trace, Take Care Hotel Program where she developed, implemented and managed the EH&S and infection prevention and control programs for the hotels. She was also the lead assessor for selecting the hotels for the program while working with multiple NYC agencies, including the Office of the Mayor. She held dual roles while performing this work as the Director of Care Management where she worked to develop and implement NYC Health and Hospital's Care Management Strategy, serving high-risk patients, to eleven acute-care facilities.

Before joining NYC Health and Hospitals, Janet held multiple leadership roles for the Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS). Most recently, she was the Director of Operations and Emergency Services for Mount Sinai Brooklyn, where she ensured that the daily operations of the hospital ran smoothly. She was the Safety Officer and managed both clinical and non-clinical departments while setting parameters to ensure efficacy and efficiency. Prior to this role, she was the Director of Safety Programs for MSHS where she led and managed regulatory compliance for the Joint Commission, CMS, NYC DOHMH, NYSDOH, FDNY, DEP/DEC, EPA, OSHA, and other applicable AHJ requirements and standards system-wide. Janet holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Georgia State University and is currently working on her Master in Public Administration at Purdue University.