



TOPICAL DISCUSSION

New Cornell Center to Lead Pandemic Prevention and Response in New York State and Beyond

Co-Hosts:

Dr. Jay Varma, co-Director, Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response, Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Alex Travis, co-Director Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response, College of Veterinary Medicine

Please join us for **one** of two conversations held as virtual Topical Discussions:

Session 1: Thursday, April 14, 2022, 12:00-1:00 P.M. ([Register](#))

OR

Session 2: Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 12:00-1:00 P.M. ([Register](#))

(Zoom link will be e-mailed to you after registering)

If you experience any difficulty registering, please contact
Mark Lawrence (mal64@cornell.edu). Thank you!

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic revealed critical vulnerabilities in local, national, and global systems for ensuring our collective security against infectious diseases and other acute threats to health. Cornell has established a new, university-wide, Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response that will conduct research, training, and service across five technical areas: prevention, prediction, protection, preparedness, and response. In 2022, the Center will have funds for investigators across the University to support transdisciplinary research and practice that advance pandemic prevention and response. The goals for this discussion include (1) share scope and potential impact of Cornell Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response, (2) capture lessons learned from COVID-19 preparedness and response, (3) invite connections among faculty from multiple campuses and, (4) identify Cornell research and practice (ongoing, proposed) that supports the five technical areas (prevention, prediction, protection, preparedness, and response).

Background and Host Bios

As New York's Land Grant University, Cornell University is dedicated to having impact, promoting the health and safety of New Yorkers, disseminating knowledge and skills, improving NY's agricultural production and food supply, preserving NY's natural resources for future generations, and promoting NY's economic development. As we are seeing with COVID-19, pandemics and other public health crises have devastating consequences on every one of these dimensions of our State. Accordingly, Cornell University has invested in creating a new Center for Pandemic Prevention and Response. This Center ties together activities across our campuses, with central support and organization provided in our Ithaca campus by the Department of Public & Ecosystem Health (home to our Master of Public Health Program) and in our New York City campus by Weill Cornell Medicine's Department of Population Health Sciences. With 2/3 of all emerging infectious diseases originating in non-human animals, unique value is provided to NYSDOH by Cornell's existing partnerships with the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture & Markets, and our world-class animal disease diagnostic and surveillance capabilities. Because pandemics are by definition global in nature, activities associated with the Center will occur throughout the world.

[Dr. Alex Travis's](#) research explores a diverse set of subjects related to One Health, which is interdisciplinary work that links the functions and wellbeing of people, animals, and the environment. His lab interests include development of point-of-care diagnostic technologies and human and animal reproduction, and his field interests include efforts to help alleviate poverty and hunger in developing countries in ways that provide environmental co-benefits. Dr. Travis serves as [founding Chair of the Department of Public & Ecosystem Health](#) at the College of Veterinary Medicine, and is founding Director of Cornell's [Master of Public Health Program](#).

[Dr. Jay Varma](#) was recently recruited to Weill Cornell Medicine as a professor of population health sciences after spending more than two decades in public service with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most recently, he served as New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio's senior adviser for public health, where he counseled the mayor on the city's public health response to the pandemic and organized its COVID-19 testing, tracing and vaccination campaigns.

[The Carpenter-Everett Family Topical Lunches](#) are hosted by The Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability.

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