In Person Seminar: Investigation into Acute Febrile Illness in Belize and El Salvador

Emerging pathogens are global public health threats, with low to middle income countries in Central America having disproportionately high risks for transmission due to large population centers, areas of extreme poverty, and tropical climates. Outbreaks can overwhelm public health systems and severely strain the current diagnostic and case management capacities at the local level. To combat these disease threats, Dr. Murray and her colleagues convened a multi-disciplinary international team to create an acute febrile illness (AFI) surveillance network in Belize and El Salvador to detect and diagnose vector-borne, respiratory, and enteric pathogens. This AFI sentinel surveillance system works in tandem with vector and animal reservoir surveillance to create a One Health approach to detecting and combating disease threats. Through this effort, Dr. Murray and her team aim to meet their overall goal to understand, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats in this unique, high-risk region. Dr. Murray will discuss the team’s findings to date.