



## Interdisciplinary Global Health Dialogue Series

# Molecular clues and social inequities: Lessons in geographic variability, methyl donors, and unintended consequences through the lens of retinoblastoma

Retinoblastoma is the quintessential cancer whose study inspired the formulation of the two-hit hypothesis, that cancer development requires inactivating both copies of a key gene. Its etiology is poorly understood, though its namesake gene is amongst the most studied. As one of few pediatric tumors with global variation in incidence, and despite its tell-tale 'cat's eye' appearance, it is surprisingly understudied.

In this lecture we explore how the geographic variability and underlying social inequities of retinoblastoma have led to an exploration of methyl donors, global food policies, and examining potential unintended consequences relevant for carcinogenesis and neurodevelopment.

### Dr. Manuela Orjuela-Grimm

Dr. Manuela Orjuela-Grimm is an epidemiologist and pediatric oncologist at Columbia University. Her research focuses on environmental exposures with underlying social determinants, in particular looking at windows of developmental susceptibility, especially childhood and adolescence, in Mexico and among overland migrants from Latin America. She leads a multi-sector working group on the measurement of food security in overland migrants and is the principal investigator of several National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded studies. An alumna of Yale and Harvard Universities, she is presently an International Guest Lecturer in the faculty of Sociology at Bielefeld University.

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12:00 – 13:10

Online via Zoom

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