

SYMPOSIUM 3 – INFECTIOUS DISEASES

FOCUS: EMERGING PATHOGENS

Emerging Infectious Diseases: The Third Epidemiologic Transition

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The epidemiological transition model describes the changing relationship between human populations, their environment, and diseases which affect them. The first transition occurred with the shift to agriculture resulting in a pattern of infectious and nutritional diseases still evident today. In the last century, some populations have undergone a second transition, characterized by a decline in infectious disease and rise in chronic, degenerative disease. This presentation analyses the proposal that we are now undergoing a third epidemiological transition, in which a resurgence of familiar infections is accompanied by an array of novel diseases, all of which have the potential to spread rapidly due to globalization. It outlines the opportunities for innovative approaches to mitigate these risks.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)