



**Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical
Microbiology and Pharmacology**



SEMINAR TRMD 690

Development of Strand-Specific PCR to Detect Replicating SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 Patients



Testing for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is an essential diagnostic tool for monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the gold standard for the diagnosis of acute SARS-CoV-2 infection is quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR), which is based on nucleic acid amplification technology and targets the genome of SARS-CoV-2. Despite the widespread use of qRT-PCR in clinical settings, it cannot differentiate between replicating and non-replicating virus. Therefore, we aim to develop a strand-specific qRT-PCR multiplex assay that can detect both positive- and negative-sense replicating RNA strands that are synthesized during SARS-CoV-2 infection. With this assay, we can determine the infectiousness of symptomatic and asymptomatic COVID-19 patients and ultimately aid in clinical decision-making for patients who are positive for SARS-CoV-2.

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**Wednesday, September 29, 2021
12:00 – 1:00 PM HST**

Zoom Details

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97962975142?pwd=aFdJZmhrbjdDOGQ2UFZHZTYyeDhUZz09>

Meeting ID: 979 6297 5142

Passcode: 306033

For further information, contact Dr. Vivek R. Nerurkar - Tel. 808-692-1668; email: nerurkar@hawaii.edu
Seminar Schedule @ <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/tropicalmedicine>