Prof. K. R. Thankappan is the professor and head of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Sciences Studies (AMCHS) at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, in Trivandrum — Kerala (India). AMCS is a leading public health research institution in India, and it hosted the country's first MPH program.

Prof. Thankappan has been a consultant to various international organizations including the WHO, the European Commission, and UNICEF, and has worked extensively in several countries of the South East Asia Region of the WHO, including DPR Korea, Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh and Myanmar. He is a member of the advisory group of several reputed Institutions in India such as the National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad, Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai and the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi. He has more than 125 publications and has been a reviewer for reputed journals such as the Lancet and the WHO Bulletin.

Prof. Thankappan's research focuses on chronic Non-Communicable Diseases and their risk factors, particularly tobacco. Over the last two decades his research has been instrumental for the integration of tobacco cessation programs in all 23 medical colleges under the Kerala University of Health Sciences as well as in TB control training programs across the state. In this seminar Prof. Thankappan will explore the evolving NCD control and prevention response to the changing epidemiological profile of India and the rapidly increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Chair: Professor Brian Oldenburg, Director of the Centre for Health Equity and Professor of NonCommunicable Disease Control, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

Discussant: Professor Barbara McPake, Director of the Nossal Institute for Global Health. Professor McPake is an internationally renowned health economist specialising in health policy and health systems research in low- and middle-income countries.