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11 October
2022

IVIR LECTURE SERIES

"Access to Medicine During
Pandemics"
by Prof. Sapna Kumar

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We are 



Speaker

Sapna Kumar holds the John Mixon Chair in Law at the University of Houston Law Center and is currently a Visiting Researcher at the University of Copenhagen's Centre for Advanced Studies in Biomedical Innovation. She has written extensively about international law and administrative law issues relating to patent rights.

Professor Kumar is a 2018–2019 Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Grant recipient and researched the use of technically-trained patent judges at the University of Strasbourg's Center for International Intellectual Property Studies in France and at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Germany.

Details of the lecture

Date: 11 October 2022
Time: 15.30 - 17.00 CET (Amsterdam)
Place:
- IViR Room, REC A 5.24
- online via Zoom

Please visit www.ivir.nl to register for this lecture.

Wealthy countries with major pharmaceutical industries have historically supported strong patent rights and opposed temporarily abrogating them—even to save lives. However, as COVID-19-related drug shortages arose, governments began reassessing their views. The European Union (EU) and various EU member states issued new policies and passed legislation facilitating their ability to provide drugs to their citizens for the duration of the pandemic. They signalled a willingness to use “compulsory licensing,” in which a government issues a license to a third party to produce a patented invention without the patent holder’s permission, in exchange for paying compensation.

In this talk, Professor Sapna Kumar will provide an overview of compulsory licensing and discuss the role that it can play in lessening pandemic- and epidemic-driven drug shortages. She will further discuss why it ultimately was not enough to prevent widespread vaccine shortages, and discuss needed changes to alleviate future drug shortages.