

Research Seminar in Health Sciences and Medicine, 28.09.2026

Location: Alpenquai 4, 6005 Luzern

Room: Break room

Time: 14.30-15.30h

Speaker: Menisha Sivanathan, MSc, University of Lucerne

Project: From Vaccination Barriers to Early Warning: Closing Gaps in Vaccination and Infectious Disease Prevention

Session Information

Menisha Sivanathan's PhD project investigates the challenges across receiving vaccinations and disease prevention. The first project explores information-related factors associated with maternal vaccine hesitancy in high-income countries. The findings highlight that access to information alone may not be enough to support vaccination decisions among pregnant women; how information is communicated, trusted, and interpreted matters too. The second project uses an AI model to digitize vaccination cards to identify vaccination gaps among children with chronic diseases, pregnant women, and potentially migrant populations. Lastly, the third project explores the association between wastewater levels of RSV, influenza A and B, and SARS-CoV-2 with hospital confirmed cases across age groups and seasons. Together, these projects aim to identify challenges in receiving vaccines and explore ways to detect gaps early enough to support timely action.

About the speaker

Menisha Sivanathan is from Toronto, Canada. She is trained as a paramedic and worked for the Toronto Paramedic Services. Menisha is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Lucerne, working under the supervision of Asst.-Prof. Dr. med. Nora Fritschi in Person-Centred Medicine for Children and Adolescents. Both work collaboratively at the Children's Hospital Central Switzerland.