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Health Watch USAsm 2019 Patient Advocacy Report: 2019 has been one of Health Watch USAsm's most productive years. Our members have had coverage by top national news media and have published two major peer reviewed articles along with numerous op-eds and policy statements. In addition, our 2019 conference was a huge success.

Topics ranged from control of multi-drug resistant organisms, better medical device tracking, to the full disclosure of medical errors. On the following pages are lists of resources Health Watch USAsm has produced along with links to major articles, meeting presentations and radio shows:

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HW USA is a 501C3 Non-Profit Organization



Health Watch USA's 2020 Patient Safety Conference is scheduled for Monday Oct. 26th in Lexington Kentucky. The Keynote speakers will be Dr. Stephanie Strathdee and Dr. Thomas Patterson who will present the unbelievable story of Dr. Strathdee to save her husband, Dr. Patterson's life from a totally antibiotic resistant bacteria, *acinetobacter baumannii*. Her search discovered a 100 year old therapy, bacterial viruses or phages. With the help of the Naval Research Department, Texas A & M, University of California at San Diego the treatment was given to her husband who was on the brink

of death. And it worked, placing bacterial phages at the forefront of medical research to stop the epidemic of drug resistant bacteria. Now a best-selling book "The Perfect Predator".

Registration information to be announced. Check for details at www.healthconference.com

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Peer Reviewed Articles

1. Kavanagh KT, Brown RE, Kraman SS, Calderon LE, Kavanagh SP. Reporter Occupation and Source of Adverse Device Event Reports Contained in the FDA's MAUDE Database. Patient Related Outcome Measures. DOI: 10.2147/PROM.S212991 July 1, 2019. https://www.dovepress.com/articles.php?article_id=46767
2. Kavanagh KT. Control of MSSA and MRSA in the United States: Protocols, Policies, Risk Adjustment and Excuses. ARIC. DOI: 10.1186/s13756-019-0550 June 19, 2019 <https://aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-019-0550-2>

HW USA Meeting Presentations

1. 2019, Aug. 21: Dr. Stephanie Strathdee and Dr. Thomas Patterson present their real life struggle of Dr. Strathdee to save her husband, Dr. Patterson's life from a totally antibiotic resistant bacteria, *acinetobacter baumannii*. Her search discovered a 100 year old therapy, bacterial viruses or phages. With the help of the Naval Research Department, Texas A & M, University of California at San Diego the treatment was given to her husband who was on the brink of death. And it worked, placing bacterial phages at the forefront of medical research to stop the epidemic of drug resistant bacteria. Now a best selling book "The Perfect Predator" YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/hTjaG0pi1XM>
2. 2019, June 19: Andrew Jacobs, NYT's reporter on the Health and Science Desk discussed the NYT's investigative report on *candida auris*. The need for greater transparency and the implications of this epidemic. Health Watch USA Meeting, June 19, 2019. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/m6u0N7laf2Y>
3. 2019, May 8: Melissa Clarkson, PhD discussed her recent BMJ commentary regarding the term "Second Victim" and how it is viewed by patients who have suffered medical harm. Health Watch USAsm meeting, May 8, 2019. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/XURHky2FRd8>
4. 2019, April 17: Reena Duseja MD, MS, Chief Medical Officer for the Quality Measurement and Value Based Incentives Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services discussed CMS's program of quality metrics to promote healthcare quality and consumer choice. <https://youtu.be/tOPmdvvEwJY>

View 2019 Health Watch USAsm Patient Safety Conference Presentations

A variety of patient safety and patient advocacy presentations can be viewed at:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2019/>

Op Eds and Major Blog Postings

- 1. Infection Preventionists Are Underutilized and Underappreciated.** The CDC estimates (at a minimum) that 35,000 individuals die each year from resistant organisms with another 12,800 patients dying from C. difficile. This does not count the long-term disability many of the survivors will endure. The United Kingdom's Wellcome Trust report estimated that by 2050 antibiotic resistance will have a cumulative cost to the world of \$100 trillion dollars and 10 million lives will be lost each year. Infection Control Today. Dec. 15, 2019. <https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/hand-hygiene/conversation-kevin-kavanagh-md-infection-preventionists-are-underutilized-and-underappreciated>
- 2. Healthcare may not be a right, but it is a necessity for society. Almost everyone is worried about healthcare.** Kentuckians are pushing for reforms on a state level, but state administrations have limited ability to transform our system, since so much of the framework is mandated and fixed in stone by either federal law or federal dollars. Thus, lets promote a healthy Kentucky. If universal healthcare is not a right, it is a necessity, not just for the individual but for Kentucky's society as a whole. Lexington Herald Leader. Nov. 15, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article237405224.html>
- 3. Data for Action, Not Complacency, is Needed to Stop Dangerous Pathogens.** Economic and political forces in the United States are impeding the adoption of these important infection control tenets. But, as the toll of drug resistance on American citizens mounts, denials will become harder to make, and political policy may well merge with science. Hopefully, not too late. The Center For Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy July 22, 2019. <https://cddep.org/blog/posts/data-for-action-not-complacency-is-needed-to-stop-dangerous-pathogens/>
- 4. From plague to parrot fever, history shows inequity of medical care. Don't let it continue.** In the 1980s many of us witnessed the near lack of concern and urgency in the AIDs epidemic because it was initially perceived that it affected only a small minority group whom many disliked and who were easy to discriminate against. Lexington Herald Leader July 8, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/article232140957.html>
- 5. The changing narrative of MRSA infection control in the United States.** But of utmost importance, we need to protect our healthcare workers who may well be acting as reservoirs to spread these pathogens to patients and their families. Biomed Central. June 19, 2019. <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2019/06/19/the-changing-narrative-of-mrsa-infection-control-in-the-united-states/>
- 6. Collective ignorance and government timidity are public health threats.** I am a firm believer that we must learn from history or be doomed to repeat it. Unfortunately, the United States and many other nations appear not to have learned this lesson with

regard to public health and are heading down a dangerous path. Los Angeles Times. May 16, 2019. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-kavanagh-epidemics-health-public-policy-20190516-story.html> Kaiser Healthcare News: <https://khn.org/morning-breakout/viewpoints-lawmakers-need-to-pass-laws-to-end-all-vaccine-exemptions-lessons-on-the-decreasing-birth-rate-in-the-u-s/>

7. **Bevin's misery for his nine children is not necessarily over.** They are now at risk for shingles in later life. Shingles results from reactivation of the chickenpox virus. The misery can last from weeks to even years in people who develop complications. Lexington Herald Leader. Publication Online Mar. 29, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article228540174.html>
8. **News on hospital infections in Kentucky, nationally is not good. What needs to change?** "Instead of mathematically massaging the numbers lets institute additional interventions which other institutions have used successfully." Lexington Herald Leader. Publication Online Mar. 8, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article227301724.html>
9. **Patients now have more information about hospital prices, but will need patience to sort it out.** "Posting of the hospital's sticker prices in an accessible understandable format is a social responsibility that all hospitals should willingly undertake." Lexington Herald Leader. Publication Online Feb. 25, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article226598099.html>
10. **Arguments for medical review panels unjustified.** "We the people -- we the patients -- deserve health policy shaped by facts, not rhetoric reflecting fears and fantasies. Let's work together to solve real problems within health care in Kentucky. Melissa Clarkson is a member of Health Watch USAsm and an assistant professor of biomedical informatics at the University of Kentucky." Lexington Herald Leader. Publication Online Jan. 4, 2019. Print Jan. 7, 2019. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article223950295.html>

Public Comments Before Federal Committees.

1. **Risk Adjustment and the Need for More Comprehensive Reporting of Deadly Infections:**
Kevin Kavanagh, MD comments before the Presidential Advisory Committee on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria on the pitfalls for risk adjustment and the need for more complete and comprehensive data on infections from deadly pathogens.
Health Watch USAsm PACCARB Comment on July 11, 2019
<https://youtu.be/kShI4jDQvyk> [Download Presentation Script](#)
2. **Resistant Bacteria the Need for Increased Vigilance and Healthcare Worker Protection:**
Kevin Kavanagh, MD from Health Watch USAsm presents at Presidential Advisory Council for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria regarding the need for surveillance, to regard dangerous pathogens seriously and to protect our healthcare workers. **Health**

Watch USAsm PACCARB Comment on July 10, 2019. <https://youtu.be/aSdtHMUGvt8>
[Download Presentation Script](#)

3. **The importance of the microbiome to overall patient health and the prevention of infectious disease.** Until we have the capability of monitoring a patient's microbiome we should at least be screening for dangerous pathogens. Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. **Health Watch USAsm PACCARB Comment on Jan. 31, 2019.** <https://youtu.be/cLjN6MTkuPc> [PACCARB Oral Comments](#)
4. **The epidemic of drug resistant bacteria and the need for more resources and commitments to stop spread and to safeguard healthcare workers.** The need for increased surveillance of carriers and for healthcare worker safety. In addition, there should be a surveillance system for MDRO acquisitions in healthcare workers and an economic safety net. (PACCARB) - **Health Watch USAsm PACCARB Comment on Jan. 30, 2019.** <https://youtu.be/vcFwjD7uLtk> PACCARB Oral Comments
5. **Concerns regarding the efficacy of enhanced barrier precautions in preventing the spread of dangerous pathogens in nursing homes. Health Watch USAsm Public Comment CDC HICPAC Committee, Nov. 14, 2019.** View YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/Gijk606uY9E> [Download Written Comment](#)

The need for accurate reporting of and increase transparency of dangerous pathogens. Health Watch USAsm Public Comment CDC HICPAC Committee. May 16, 2019. View YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/zFGjj4D42x4>

6. Kevin Kavanagh, MD from Health Watch USAsm comments at the National Quality Forum CSAC meeting, April 24 -25, 2019. on:
 - The opioid epidemic and the effectiveness of opioids in chronic pain. <https://youtu.be/lOuYvfevv8M>
 - The unintended harms of improper risk adjustments for disparities. <https://youtu.be/JNpww5ALbEg>
 - NQF metric approval process and the role of the Scientific Methods Panel. <https://youtu.be/TEqvOBrIDks>

Radio and Video Comments,

1. Dr. Kevin Kavanagh - Fungus 50% mortality, 70% (of Candida auris) cases here (NY & NJ). John Catsimatidis. The CATS ROUNDTABLE. April 14, 2019. <https://soundcloud.com/john-catsimatidis/dr-kevin-kavanagh-fungus-50>
2. Kevin Kavanagh, MD comments on the importance of transparency and public notification of bacterial outbreaks in the New York Times' short video: A Mysterious Infection, Spanning the Globe in a Climate of Secrecy -- Resistant bacteria & Candida auris. April 7, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/players/offsite/index.html?videoId=100000005932983>

WVLK News Radio -- Jack Pattie Show

1. 2019, Sept. 25: Safety of the United States' Pharmaceutical Supply -- China Rx. Rosemary Gibson. Jack Pattie Show WVLK AM. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/3XApEUDymqk>
2. 2019, Aug. 8: Bacterial Phages. Dr. Stephanie Strathdee and Dr. Thomas Patterson present their real life struggle of Dr. Strathdee to save her husband, Dr. Patterson's life from a totally antibiotic resistant bacteria, acinetobacter baumannii. Jack Pattie Show WVLK AM. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/CRHiYDKkFcQ>
3. 2019 June 12: Hospital Quality Rankings. Dr. Kevin Kavanagh discusses hospital quality ranking systems and compares The Leapfrog Group and U.S. News & World Reports Ranking systems. Jack Pattie Show WVLK AM. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/yIT83-igM1g>
4. 2019 May 21: Public Health Topics -- Vaccines, Smoking, Restaurant Cleanliness - Jack Pattie Show WVLK AM (video edited). YouTube: <https://youtu.be/RTzxEhYUa6Q>
5. 2019 Apr. 9: William Schaffner, MD and Kevin Kavanagh, MD discuss the recent Hepatitis A epidemic in Kentucky, the Kentucky outbreak of E. Coli, and the outbreak of the dangerous fungus Candida auris, along with recent comments from the Kentucky Governor regarding the chickenpox vaccination. The importance of vaccination is stressed. Jack Pattie Show, WVLK - AM (video edited) YouTube: https://youtu.be/YqNN4HEF_vw
6. 2019 Mar. 14: Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS presents on the importance of surveillance and isolation of patients for the control of Staph Aureus and MRSA. New data from a recent Veteran Health Administration study are discussed and this study impacts the current CDC and WHO recommendations. Jack Pattie Radio Show. WVLK-AM. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wxT97hFxJaM>
7. 2019 Feb. 7th: Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS discusses the dangers of opioid addiction and new research showing they are no more effective than non-steroidal pain medications in the relief of chronic pain. In addition he discussed the alleged perverse marketing practices by the pharmaceutical industry. Jack Pattie Radio Show. WVLK-AM 590 News Radio. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4lv214b75TU>

Health Watch USA's Regulatory Comment Letters

1. Action letter to CMS requesting that informing a patient of an implanted medical device's information and UDI should become a condition of participation (COP) for a facility. Dec. 12, 2019. <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20191217-MedicareUDI-Info-Patients-5.pdf>
2. Comment letter from Health Watch USA (lead organization) and 14 non-profit advocacy organizations regarding tracking and preserving the medical device's Unique Device Indicator records, along with information regarding the distributor and prescribing physician. The UDI is a code which identifies the device. However, in the event the device is removed from the patient or the patient dies the records of the UDI may be deleted. In addition, there are no requirements for medical device implants to directly contain the UDI. Dec. 12, 2019. [http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20191212-Letter to FDA re UDI December 12-Final3.pdf](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20191212-Letter-to-FDA-re-UDI-December-12-Final3.pdf)
3. NQF Comment on Nursing Sensitive Metric --- Pressure Injury Metric <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20190517-Comment-PressureInjuryMetric-2.pdf> .

News Reports

1. Diamond F. A Conversation With Kevin Kavanagh, MD: Infection Preventionists Are Underutilized and Underappreciated. Infection Control Today. Dec. 14, 2019. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hand-hygiene/conversation-kevin-kavanagh-md-infection-preventionists-are-underutilized-and-underappreciated>
2. Diamond F. Newly Approved Test Can Diagnose MRSA in 5 Hours. Infection Control Today. Dec. 11, 2019. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/article/newly-approved-test-can-diagnose-mrsa-5-hours>
3. Ungar L. What states aren't doing to save new mothers' lives. USA Today. Nov. 14, 2019 <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/deadly-deliveries/2018/09/19/maternal-death-rate-state-medical-deadly-deliveries/547050002/>
4. Krisken T. Hospitals across Ventura County face penalties for readmission of Medicare patients. VC Star. Oct. 14, 2019 <https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2019/10/14/ventura-county-hospitals-face-medicare-readmission-penalties/3870392002/>
5. Control of MSSA and MRSA in the U.S.: Protocols, Policies, Risk Adjustment and Excuses. Infection Control Today. Jun 21, 2019.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/bacterial/control-mssa-and-mrsa-us-protocols-policies-risk-adjustment-and-excuses>

6. Jacobs A & Richtel M: Culture of Secrecy Shields Hospitals With Outbreaks of Drug-Resistant Infections. New York Times. April 8, 2019.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/health/candida-auris-hospitals-drug-resistant.html>
7. Kaiser Healthcare News: <https://khn.org/morning-breakout/critics-question-culture-of-secrecy-around-deadly-bacteria-at-medical-institutions-but-facilities-say-transparency-would-scare-patients-away/>
8. Moretti C. Dangerous 'Superbug' Sickens Hundreds in New York and New Jersey. NYNJ.com April 9, 2019. <https://nynj.com/dangerous-superbug-sickens-hundreds-in-new-york-a-new-jersey/>
9. Diamond M. Deadly, Drug-Resistant Fungus Detected In New York, New Jersey. WCBS 880. New York. April 8, 2019. <https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/candida-auris-fungus-sickens-hundreds-new-york-new-jersey>
10. Richtel M & Jacobs A: A Mysterious Infection, Spanning the Globe in a Climate of Secrecy. New York Times. April 7, 2019.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/06/health/drug-resistant-candida-auris.html>
 - Pharmacist.com: <https://www.pharmacist.com/article/mysterious-infection-spanning-globe-climate-secrecy>
 - MSN: <https://www.msn.ge/deadly-germs-lost-cures-a-mysterious-infection-spanning-the-globe-in-a-climate-of-secrecy>
 - The Western Journal: <https://www.westernjournal.com/deadly-drug-resistant-infection-showing-around-united-states/>
 - Infoba (Spanish): <https://www.infobae.com/america/the-new-york-times/2019/04/09/la-misteriosa-infeccion-que-se-esparce-por-el-mundo-debido-a-la-resistencia-a-antimicoticos/>
 - Folha De S. Paulo (Portugees):
<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/equilibrioesaude/2019/04/infeccao-misteriosa-causada-por-fungo-se-espalha-pelo-mundo.shtml>
 - The Straits Times. Candida auris fungus immune to drugs a new threat. Singapore. Apr. 9, 2019. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/fungus-immune-to-drugs-a-new-threat>
11. Innes S and Philip A: Medicare penalizing 15 Arizona hospitals over patient safety issues. Arizona Republic. Mar. 21, 2019.
<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-health/2019/03/21/fifteen-arizona-hospitals-penalized-medicare-patient-safety/3154205002/>

12. Kicken T. Los Robles hospital dinged again with Medicare penalty for infection rate VC Star Mar. 11, 2019 <https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2019/03/11/los-robles-regional-medical-center-medicare-penalty-infection-rate/3034965002/>
13. O'Donnell J. Hospitals know how to reduce or stop staph infections. So why are thousands still dying? USA Today. Mar. 6, 2019. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2019/03/05/mrsa-staph-infection-hospital-deadly-centers-disease-control-medicare-medicaid/3032939002/>
14. Ungar L: Examination needed of Kentucky's 'poor response' to deadly hepatitis A outbreak, lawmaker says. Courier Journal. Feb. 25, 2019. <https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/ky-legislature/2019/02/25/kentucky-lawmaker-calls-review-deadly-hepatitis-outbreak/2981050002/>
15. Evans G: CDC Drafts New Guidelines for Occupational Health. Hospital Employee Health. Jan. 1, 2019. <https://www.reliasmedia.com/articles/143702-cdc-drafts-new-guidelines-for-occupational-health>