



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) April 15, 2019

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services



William Schaffner, MD



## William Schaffner, MD, Discusses the Importance of the Chickenpox and Hepatitis A Vaccine.

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, WVLC - AM April 9, 2019. (video edited)

View on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/YqNN4HEF\\_vw](https://youtu.be/YqNN4HEF_vw)

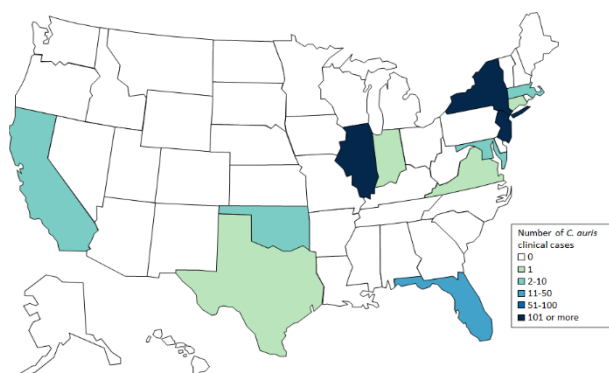


Kevin Kavanagh

## A Mysterious Infection, Spanning the Globe in a Climate of Secrecy

New York Times: "Scientists say that unless more effective new medicines are developed and unnecessary use of antimicrobial drugs is sharply curbed, risk will spread to healthier populations. A study the British government funded projects that if policies are not put in place to slow the rise of drug resistance, 10 million people could die worldwide of all such infections in 2050, eclipsing the eight million expected to die that year from cancer." .... "Why the heck are we reading about an outbreak almost a year and a half later — and not have it front-page news the day after it happens?" said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a physician in Kentucky and board chairman of Health Watch USA, a nonprofit patient advocacy group. "You wouldn't tolerate this at a restaurant with a food poisoning outbreak." --- Article plus Video:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/06/health/drug-resistant-candida-auris.html>



NYT's short video: A Mysterious Infection, Spanning the Globe in a Climate of Secrecy -- Resistant bacteria & *Candida auris*

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/players/offsite/index.html?videoId=10000005932983>

## **Culture of Secrecy Shields Hospitals with Outbreaks of Drug-Resistant Infections.**

NYT: "In January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent out an urgent public alert about a deadly bacteria, resistant to virtually every known antibiotic, that sickened more than a dozen Americans who had elective surgery at Grand View Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico. But when similar outbreaks take place at hospitals on U.S. soil, the CDC makes no such public announcement. That is because under its agreement with states, the CDC is barred from publicly identifying hospitals that are battling to contain the spread of dangerous pathogens." Jacobs A & Richtel M. New York Times. April 8, 2019.

NYT: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/08/health/candida-auris-hospitals-drug-resistant.html>

LHL: <https://www.kentucky.com/living/health-and-medicine/article229059359.html>

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh - Fungus 50% mortality, 70% cases ( of *Candida auris*) here (NY & NJ) (8 mins)  
John Catsimatidis. The CATS ROUNDTABLE. April 14, 2019.

<https://soundcloud.com/john-catsimatidis/dr-kevin-kavanagh-fungus-50>

Diamond M. Deadly, Drug-Resistant Fungus Detected In New York, New Jersey. WCBS 880. New York. Apr. 8, 2018: <https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/candida-auris-fungus-sickens-hundreds-new-york-new-jersey>

## **By 2050 it is projected that there will be 10 million deaths per year worldwide, at a cumulative cost to the nations' GDP of 100 trillion dollars.**

UK / Welcome Trust Antibiotic Resistance Report Dec 2014

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20141200-UK-WT-AMR\\_Review\\_Paper-Tackling\\_a\\_crisis\\_for\\_the\\_health\\_and\\_wealth\\_of\\_nations\\_1.pdf](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20141200-UK-WT-AMR_Review_Paper-Tackling_a_crisis_for_the_health_and_wealth_of_nations_1.pdf)

UK / Welcome Trust Antibiotic Resistance Report May 2016

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20160500-UK-WT-160525\\_Final%20paper\\_with%20cover.pdf](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20160500-UK-WT-160525_Final%20paper_with%20cover.pdf)



**Governor Bevin's misery for his 9 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 for weeks even years in people who develop complications.

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article228540174.html>

## **Comment on Prevalence, Underlying Causes, and Preventability of Sepsis-Associated Mortality in US Acute Care Hospitals**

JAMAOpenNetwork: "But when medicine makes the leap from a death caused deliberately to one caused by a preventable error we all too often use the patient's terminal condition to negate or ignore the occurrence. I feel many would question the logic behind this philosophy and that almost all would realize this is not how one achieves a high-performance delivery system which is patient centered."

[Download Comment](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2724768) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2724768>

## **Medicare penalizing 15 Arizona hospitals over patient safety issues**

Arizona Republic: "Some critics of the penalty program, including the industry group the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, say the program tends to unfairly punish hospitals caring for the sickest patients and those with complex health needs. Proponents say the program provides transparency in an industry where patient safety information available is difficult to find for consumers. They also note that the penalty program is risk-adjusted for teaching hospitals.

"All these metrics were not just pulled out of the air by the federal government," said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, founder of the national patient safety organization Health Watch USA. "They had significant input from the health-care industry." "

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-health/2019/03/21/fifteen-arizona-hospitals-penalized-medicare-patient-safety/3154205002/>

## **Healthcare Finances**

### **The Growing Executive-Physician Wage Gap in Major US Nonprofit Hospitals and the Burden of Nonclinical Workers on the US Healthcare System.**

"From 2005 to 2015, the mean major nonprofit medical center CEO compensation increased from USD 1.6 ± 0.9 million to USD 3.1 ± 1.7 million, or a 93% increase (R = 0.112; p = 0.009). "

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30001293>

### **Patient groups funded by drug makers are largely mum on high drug prices**

"It is worrisome because it is a conflict of interest even if you can't prove it changes their position," says Ezekiel Emanuel, an oncologist and professor who chairs the University of Pennsylvania's department of medical ethics and health policy. "The patient voice carries a disproportionate amount of weight."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/01/21/patient-groups-drug-makers-high-drug-prices/79001722/>

## **Healthcare Quality**

### **Duke Settles Doctored Data Lawsuit for \$112.5 Million**

Ivan Oranski - Medscape: "In one of the largest-ever such agreements with an academic institution, Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina, has settled a whistleblower lawsuit alleging that lung researchers there used fake data in National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant applications."

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/910871>

### **B.C. study uncovers deaths caused by medical device coatings coming loose**

<https://vancouversun.com/news/national/b-c-study-uncovers-deaths-caused-by-medical-device-coatings-coming-loose>

### **Hospital viruses: Fake cancerous nodes in CT scans, created by malware, trick radiologists**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/04/03/hospital-viruses-fake-cancerous-nodes-ct-scans-created-by-malware-trick-radiologists/>

## Health Watch USA April 17, 2019 Meeting



Reena Duseja, MD, MS, the Acting Director for Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group in the Centers for Clinical Standards and Quality at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be this month's speaker. In this role, she oversees the measure development and analyses for a variety of CMS quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs.

Date: April 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM ET. Over Adobe Connect. To attend please email a [healthwatchusa@gmail.com](mailto:healthwatchusa@gmail.com)

## Health Watch USA May 8, 2019 Meeting



Melisa Clarkson, PhD discusses the perspective of patient advocates regarding the term "second victim". Dr. Clarkson is currently an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Kentucky. Read BMJ Commentary: <https://www.bmj.com/content/wbr>364/bmj.l1233>



Shantanu Agrawal, MD, President and CEO of the National Quality Forum. The NQF has the responsibility to evaluate and recommend metrics to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He will present on the importance of patient advocacy,

Date: May 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM ET. Over Adobe Connect. To attend please email [healthwatchusa@gmail.com](mailto:healthwatchusa@gmail.com)

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