



Health Watch USASM Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug. 1, 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

From plague to parrot fever, history shows inequity of medical care. Don't let it continue.

Lexington Herald Leader OpEd: "Obviously, mankind has a long history of ignoring and not investing resources in disadvantaged "disparate" populations. 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. The affluent and government officials view themselves as unaffected and often did not wish to commit the needed resources to reverse the epidemic.

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/article232140957.html>



Collective ignorance and government timidity are public health threats.

LA Times OpEd: "I live in Kentucky, a state with the nation's largest hepatitis A outbreak, an emerging measles outbreak and a governor who said he exposed his children to chickenpox rather than get them vaccinated. In the past year, two heads of infection control in Kentucky's Department of Health have left the position. The first one was asked to leave after he expressed the need for an urgent increase in infection control funding. 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."

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-kavanagh-epidemics-health-public-policy-20190516-story.html>



Public Comments at the July 2019 PACCARB Meeting

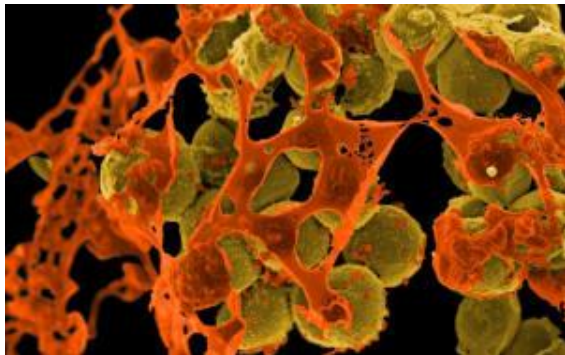
Resistant Bacteria the Need for Increased Vigilance and

Healthcare Worker Protection: Kevin Kavanagh, MD from Health Watch USA 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. <https://youtu.be/aSdtHMUgVt8>

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 USA PACCARB Comment on July 11, 2019 <https://youtu.be/kShI4jDQvyk>



CDDEP Blog: Data for Action, Not Complacency, is Needed to Stop Dangerous Pathogens.

Denying the problem will certainly cost lives and has the potential to bring many fields in modern medicine to a near standstill, including chemotherapy, transplantation, and even elective surgery. 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.

<https://cddep.org/blog/posts/data-for-action-not-complacency-is-needed-to-stop-dangerous-pathogens/>

These superbug-fighting viruses are making a comeback

In 2010, Texas A&M University opened the Center for Phage Technology; the US Naval Medical Research Center began studying phages in earnest a year later. In 2018, inspired in part by Patterson’s recovery — detailed in a memoir Strathdee co-authored with Patterson called The Perfect Predator — UC San Diego founded the Center for Innovative Phage Applications and Therapeutics (IPATH).

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/7/5/20682988/phages-antibiotic-resistance-bacteria-virus-research-health>

WHO declares Ebola outbreak an international health emergency

https://www.statnews.com/2019/07/17/who-declares-ebola-outbreak-an-international-health-emergency/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters

HHS Has Failed to Report Nearly Two-Thirds of Its Medical Malpractice Payments to National Data Bank, New Analysis Shows

"Public Citizen Findings Show Long-Term Systemic HHS Noncompliance With Reporting Requirements, Calls on Congress to Act"

<https://www.citizen.org/news/hhs-has-failed-to-report-nearly-two-thirds-of-its-medical-malpractice-payments-to-national-data-bank-new-analysis-shows/>

Even campaign trail shouldn’t lead doctor to forego science on vaccinations

Lexington Herald Leader Commentary

<http://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/LexingtonHeraldLeader/shared/ShowArticle.aspx>

Healthcare Quality

Average life expectancy in the US has been declining for 3 consecutive years

USA Today: "A baby born in 2017 is expected to live to be 78.6 years old, which is down from 78.7 the year

before, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. The last three years represent the longest consecutive decline in the American lifespan at birth since the period between 1915 and 1918, which included World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic, events that killed many millions worldwide."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/07/09/u-s-life-expectancy-decline-overdoses-liver-disease-suicide/1680854001/>

Prevalence, severity, and nature of preventable patient harm across medical care settings: Systematic review and meta-analysis

"Around one in 20 patients are exposed to preventable harm in medical care. Although a focus on preventable patient harm has been encouraged by the international patient safety policy agenda, there are limited quality improvement practices specifically targeting incidents of preventable patient harm rather than overall patient harm (preventable and non-preventable)."

<https://www.bmj.com/content/366/bmj.l4185>

Medical mistakes harm more than 1 in 10 patients. Many are preventable.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/medical-mistakes-harm-more-1-10-patients-many-are-preventable-n1030996>

Association of Coworker Reports About Unprofessional Behavior by Surgeons With Surgical Complications in Their Patients

JAMA Network: "The adjusted complication rate was 14.3% higher for patients whose surgeons had 1 to 3 reports and 11.9% higher for patients whose surgeons had 4 or more reports compared with patients whose surgeons had no coworker reports (P = .05)."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/2736337>

Healthcare Quality

Pharma shells out \$3B to doctors and hospitals—with Roche, Sanofi leading: CMS

FiercePharma: "Those payments include everything from royalties paid to teaching hospitals to physician speaking and consulting fees to free food and travel. The industry paid out an additional \$4.93 billion for research and development."

<https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/big-pharma-hits-3b-payments-to-doctors-and-teaching-hospitals-cms>

Federal judge blocks rule that would have required drugmakers to include list prices of medications in television ads

Washington Post: "Three drug manufacturers — Merck, Eli Lilly and Amgen — sued the administration after the Department of Health and Human Services finalized the rule in May, arguing that HHS overstepped its authority because it did not have permission from Congress to impose the requirement."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/federal-judge-blocks-trump-rule-requiring-drug-prices-in-tv->

[ads/2019/07/08/9738e92e-a1e0-11e9-b732-41a79c2551bf_story.html](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/915133)

Pain Societies Told to Disclose Financial Ties to Opioid Makers

Medscape: "Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who heads the committee, and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), the minority leader, sent letters to 10 organizations asking about their financial relationships with opioid makers and other medical entities that manufacture products to treat pain." <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/915133>

Health Watch USA Aug. 21, 2019 Meeting

He Was Dying. Antibiotics Weren't Working. Then Doctors Tried a Forgotten Treatment.

Speaker: Dr. Thomas Patterson presenting on Phage Therapy and his new book "The Perfect Predator" detailing how this old forgotten treatment saved his life from a deadly superbug, *Acinetobacter baumannii*. This should be one of the most interesting presentations we have had. Aug 21, 2019 meeting (7:00 PM ET) In addition, important information will be presented and decisions to be made regarding the Oct. 17, conference.

To attend meeting send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

MotherJones: <https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/05/the-best-viral-news-youll-ever-read-antibiotic-resistance-phage-therapy-bacteriophage-virus/>

Health Watch USA Oct. 17, 2019 Conference



Public Health in Crisis
MDRO Epidemics & FDA Oversight
Health Watch USAsm Patient Safety
Conference
Oct 17, 2019 in Lexington Kentucky

Speakers include: <http://www.healthconference.org>



- 1) Author & Epidemiologists: Dr.P.H.Ralph R. Frerichs Truth, Lies and the Greater Good — Cholera’s Unexpected Arrival in Haiti;
- 2) Past Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders; Importance of School Health and Vaccinations;
- 3) USA Today Reporter, Jayne O'Donnell & Kaiser Healthcare News Reporter, Laura Ungar: The Patient Safety Story: Lessons from Two Reporters in the Trenches;
- 4) FDA Expert Panel Chair: Raeford Brown, MD: FDA and Opioid Recommendations: Resistant bacteria: Risks of antibiotic use in livestock and non-prescription antibiotics;
- 5) FACT Food Safety Director and Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working, Steve Roach.

Registration is now open for the 2019 HW USA Patient Safety Conference: <http://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/payment.htm>

Download Brochure: http://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2019Conference_downloads/Brochure.pdf



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