Health Watch USA℠ Newsletter

Activity for the Month of Oct. Health Watch USA℠:

-- 1 Peer-Reviewed Publication.

-- 1 Articles/op-eds regarding COVID-19.

-- 1 Presentations.

-- 2 Deepfake Videos.

Information Regarding Health Watch USA℠ Sept. 14th, 2022 COVID-19 Conference - Frontline Worker Safety: https://healthconference.org

Health Watch USA℠ 2022 Activities Report:
https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20221231-HWUSA-Report-2022-2.pdf

Health Watch USA℠ 2021 Activities Report:
https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20211231-HWUSA-Report-2021.pdf

Health Watch USA℠ 2020 Activities Report:
https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20201231-HWUSA-Report-2020.pdf

Nov. 1st, 2023, Health Watch USA℠ Webinar

Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society
Health Watch USA℠

Free registration, continuing education and full agenda are available at:
https://healthconference.org

View Conference Introduction

Health Watch USA℠ - Peer Reviewed-Publications, News Articles & OpEds

Viewpoint: Patient Safety in Primary Care – Patients are not just a beneficiary but a critical component in its achievement.

The aim of this manuscript is to underscore the importance of patient safety in primary care and to stimulate future research in developing a metric for the culture of safety in primary care, which also incorporates the patient perspective. Patients should be viewed not only as beneficiaries of patient safety but also as a critical component of its maintenance.
Medicine. Sept. 15, 2023. https://journals.lww.com/md-journal/fulltext/2023/09150/viewpoint__patient_safety_in_primary_care__.3.aspx

A Keynote Speaker's Journey: Strategies to Maximize Respiratory Safety During Air Travel Amid a Pandemic

A high-risk for severe COVID-19 keynote speaker, Kevin Kavanagh, MD, shares strategies for safe air travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing mask usage, vaccinations, and air quality monitoring, with mixed observations throughout the journey. On the return, Logan airport had carbon dioxide levels consistently around 600 (549 to 690), making my wait much safer, but I kept my mask on. There was no downside to doing so. I flew on the exact same plane, and carbon dioxide levels were around 2000 ppm. Again, I stayed masked. When I landed, I hurried out of the airport with the stagnant and probably aerosol-ridden air, and then made it back home. The one thing that was very evident was the United States has a long way to go in providing clean indoor air. But for me, so far, so good, I have not developed a respiratory infection. *References* Infection Control Today. Oct. 16, 2023.
https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/a-keynote-speaker-s-journey-strategies-maximize-respiratory-safety-during-air-travel

Health Watch USA℠ - Meeting Presentations & Comments

Health Watch USA presented at the Massachusetts Nurses Association Convention in Boston Mass on October 11, 2023 on ways that Artificial Intellegence can Promote Workplace Safety and Decrease Workplace Violence.

Two related AI videos which discuss benefits and risks of AI in healthcare are below:

The Dangers of AI In Healthcare (Written by Prometheus, a Microsoft Edge AI, Checked by Kevin Kavanagh)

AI has been increasingly incorporated throughout the healthcare space. Machines can now provide mental health assistance via chatbot, monitor patient health, and even predict cardiac arrest, seizures, or sepsis. AI can offer diagnoses and treatments, issue reminders for medication, create precise analytics for pathology images, and predict overall health based on electronic health records and personal history — all while easing some of the burden placed on doctors. However, there are several challenges and dangers of utilizing AI in the healthcare sector. A recent report entitled "Artificial Intelligence, Bias and Clinical Safety" argues that in other industries, machine learning bots are often able to quickly correct themselves after making a mistake — with or without human intervention — with little to no harm done. However, there is no room for trial and error when it comes to patient health, well-being, and safety. At this point in time, healthcare AI can't weigh the pros and cons of a course of action or take a better-safe-than-sorry approach as a human doctor might. In certain situations, a doctor may "play it safe" after carefully considering the safety and comfort of a patient, whereas a medical AI bot may go full-throttle with an invasive strategy in order to produce the intended result.

Link to Deepfake Video: https://youtube.com/shorts/ZfFzI4OZxNc

Here is what ChatGPT-4 stated when asked "How can artificial intelligence reduce patient violence in healthcare".

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to reduce patient violence in healthcare by identifying patients who are at risk of violent behavior and intervening before an incident occurs.

AI can analyze patient data, such as medical history, medication use, and behavioral patterns, to identify patients who may be at risk of violent behavior. This information can then be used to develop personalized care plans that address the patient's needs and reduce the risk of violent behavior. Additionally, AI can be used to monitor patients in real-time and alert healthcare providers if a patient's behavior becomes aggressive or violent. This can help healthcare providers intervene before an incident occurs and prevent harm to the patient or others.

However, it is important to note that AI is not a panacea for patient violence in healthcare. There are many factors that contribute to patient violence, including staffing levels, training, and environmental factors. AI should be used as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing patient violence that includes these other factors.

Link to Deepfake Video: https://youtube.com/shorts/zvaDtRw84vc

These deep fake videos on healthcare are almost completely AI generated.
1. The video's script was a portion of a prompted response by ChatGPT-4.
2. An AI read the script using a cloned voice of Dr. Kevin Kavanagh.
3. Another AI then animated the still photograph of a younger Dr. Kavanagh and synced the lip movement to the audio track.
4. Subtitles were then automatically generated for the videos.

CDC/HICPAC's Draft Guidance for Health Care Respiratory Protection and Infection Control and Compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act.

Eleven healthcare/patient advocacy organizations along with 21 patient advocates and healthcare providers have petitioned the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider the needs of immunocompromised patients and healthcare workers in their formulation of new draft recommendations for infection control. Such consideration is mandatory under The Americans with Disabilities Act.

The importance of this initiative is underscored by the recent EPOCH and INFORM studies which document and underscore the profound risks that immunocompromised individuals have when exposed to COVID-19. The EPOCH-US Study concluded that:"Immunocompromised populations appear to be at substantial risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes, leading to increased costs and HCRU. Effective prophylactic options are still needed for these high-risk populations as the COVID-19 landscape evolves." One of the areas which is both at high risk for COVID-19 transmission and unavoidable for immunocompromised individuals are healthcare settings.

View Letter: https://www.healthwatchusa.org/HICPAC-CDC/Downloads/20231024-CDC-HICPAC_ADA-Letter.pdf

Preventing Aerosol-Transmissible Diseases in Healthcare Settings: The Need for Protective Guidelines and Standards -- **Rutgers School of Public Health, a Health Watch USA℠ Co-Sponsored Event.**

* COVID-19 was not recognized as an aerosol transmissible disease by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) until May of 2021. This resulted in exceptionally high rates of infection and many deaths among healthcare workers and patients.

* The "Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare

Settings", produced in 2007, is currently being updated by the CDC's Healthcare Infection Control and Prevention Advisory Committee (HICPAC).

* These updated guidelines will form the basis for state and local health departments' recommendations to prevent future infectious disease exposures and outbreaks in healthcare settings.

* The revision process has lacked transparency and input from outside the Committee, and the preliminary draft recommendations have been described as weak and ineffective.

Download Meeting Report & View Videos: https://rutgerstraining.sph.rutgers.edu/PreventATD/

Health Watch USA℠ Articles of Interest

COVID infection can cause brain damage in dogs, study suggests

Our findings of degenerative changes in the dog brain during SARS-CoV-2 infection emphasize the potential for transmission to other hosts and induction of similar signs and symptoms. The dynamic brain changes in dogs highlight that even asymptomatic individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2 may develop neuropathologic changes in the brain. Emerging Infectious Diseases. CDC. Nov. 2023. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/29/11/23-0804_article

Impact of COVID-19 on immunocompromised populations during the Omicron era: Insights from the observational population-based INFORM study

"Immunocompromised individuals continue to be impacted disproportionately by COVID-19 and have an urgent need for additional preventive measures beyond current vaccination programmes. These data can help determine the immunocompromised groups for which targeted prevention strategies may have the highest impact." "Immunocompromised individuals continue to be impacted disproportionately by COVID-19 and have an urgent need for additional preventive measures beyond current vaccination programmes. These data can help determine the immunocompromised groups for which targeted prevention strategies may have the highest impact."
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepe/article/PIIS2666-7762(23)00166-7/fulltext

Covid antibodies making dengue more severe, suggests study by govt-run institute

The analysis by scientists at the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) under the central government's department of biotechnology, titled "SARS-CoV-2 antibodies cross-react and enhance dengue infection" "This study is the first to demonstrate that anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies can cross-react with DENV-2 (dengue virus 2) and can enhance its infection through antibody- dependent enhancement (the ability of antibodies from a previous infection to help a virus infect greater numbers of cells than it would have on its own)," says the study. https://www.msn.com/en-in/health/health-news/covid-antibodies-making-dengue-more-severe-suggests-study-by-govt-run-institute/ar-AA1ivGFY

Preprint: https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.10.09.557914v1

However, it appears to help with DENV NS1 infections.
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9420930/

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Nov. 1st, 2023 Health Watch USA�macr Webinar

Long COVID's Impact on Patients, Workers & Society
Health Watch USAᵐ

For More Information Go To: http://www.healthconference.org

Speakers for the Nov. 1st 2023 Webinar Include:

Ambassador Deborah Birx, MD Past White House Coordinator Coronavirus Response (USA) "Impact of Long COVID on the United States**".**

Peter J. Hotez, MD, PhD, Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine. will present on "Global Vaccines and Vaccinations: The Science vs The Anti-science."

Dr Hotez will discuss the impact of developing new low cost and accessible vaccines for global health, including a recombinant protein COVID-19 "people's vaccine" now administered to more than 100 million adolescents and children in India and Indonesia. He will also discuss new trends in antivaccine sentiments in the US and an escalating and globalizing antiscience empire.

Additional Presenters:

1. Pam Belluck, New York Times Reporter -- Presentation: "How Long COVID is affecting people's jobs and their needs at work."

2. Eleni Iasonidou, MD, Pediatrician, Founder of Long Covid Greece and a one of the very first Greek representatives to join Long Covid Kids. Presentation: "Long Covid and its impact on children."

3. Georgios Pappas, MD, PhD, Physician, Researcher and Advocate. Specializing on zoonoses and preparedness against deliberate and natural outbreaks/ epidemics – Presentation: "Combating Disinformation regarding COVID-19 and Long COVID."

4. Jane Thomason, MSPH, CIH, Industrial Hygienist, National Nurses United & California Nurses Association -- Presentation: "The impact of Long COVID on Nurses."

5. Greg Vanichkachorn, MD, MPH, Occupational and Aerospace Medicine, Mayo Clinic-- Presentation: "Symptoms, treatment and rehabilitation of patients with Long COVID."

6. Dr. Wilmore Webley, PhD, University of Massachusetts, -- Presentation: "The effectiveness of vaccines to prevent Long COVID."

7. Brian T. Walitt, MD, MPH, Clinician with the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. -- Presentation: "Neuropsychiatric manifestations of Long COVID & Chronic Fatigue Syndrome."

Continuing Education Is Planned for Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapy, Dentistry and Respiratory Therapy. For More information Go To:
http://www.healthconference.org

Download Speaker Bios: https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-

files/2023Conference_downloads/_Bios-Speakers-2023-HWUSA-Conference-6.pdf

Download Webinar Agenda: https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2023Conference_downloads/_Agenda-1.pdf

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Download last year's summary white paper from 2022 Worker Safety Conference **(Journal of Patient Safety):** https://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Fulltext/9900/Frontline_Worker_Safety_in_the_Age_of_COVID_19__A.126.aspx

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