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Welcome to the CanPREP Pandemic Digest, a monthly summary of key pandemic headlines, events, and learning opportunities for collaborators and students. If you have questions, comments or contributions, please contact us at [canprep@gmail.com](mailto:canprep@gmail.com). Previous editions are available at the [CanPREP archives](#).

## CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

### CanPREP heading to the 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference

The 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society annual conference will be held from June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Kelowna, British Columbia. The theme for this year's conference is 'Voices of Community.'

CanPREP has been accepted to present its pandemic research at this year's conference. More specifically, a student run workshop will be set up. This workshop will discuss the importance of public engagement and the role it plays in ethical deliberation, as well as report key findings and implications from the CanPREP national study, Town Hall and Stakeholder Forums.

A 'mini' Town Hall Forum' will be run at this workshop, similar to the town hall forums held by CanPREP in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Saint John. Participants will also be able to complete the same pre and post surveys that were administered in CanPREP Town Hall Forums, providing insight into the utility of moral deliberation.

CANADIAN BIOETHICS SOCIETY  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE BIOÉTHIQUE

Look for the "**CanPREP @ the Canadian Bioethics Conference**" Feature in the June edition of the CanPREP Digest, and at [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca).

## CanPREP Publication in BMC Public Health



[Canadian Survey on Pandemic Flu Preparations](#) was published on BioMed Central Public Health in March 2010. The article, written by several CanPREP team members, discusses results from CanPREP's National Telephone Survey in which a random sample of 500 Canadian citizens were surveyed. The aim of this survey was to obtain opinions on key ethical issues in pandemic preparedness and planning. Click the link above for free access to the full article.

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### **Public Health Ethics in Practice: Workshop on the practical impact of ethical frameworks and their relevance to decision-making during the H1N1 pandemic**

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP) held a workshop on public health ethics and H1N1 response. The day-long conference, held in Montreal, QB, brought together representatives from Canadian provinces and territories, along with individuals from key federal health agencies and international pandemic policy experts, to discuss the application and integration of normative ethical analysis within public health practice and policy.

The full-day conference consisted of facilitated discussions involving plenary discussions, break-out groups and report back exercises, and a questionnaire-based needs assessment and feedback instrument. Openness and productive exchange of information were the main goals of this workshop.

Three key questions were addressed during the workshop:

- How did existing ethical frameworks for pandemic planning and response assist, guide and/or constrain actual deliberation and decision-making during the H1N1 response?
- What are the implications of the existence of a variety of guides for ethical decision-making during a public health crisis?
- What support, resources, and access to expertise in terms of practical ethical guidance are needed by public health actors at territorial/provincial, regional, and local levels?

CanPREP team member, and Research Officer for the NCCHPP, Christopher McDougall, facilitated the 'Survey of Pandemic Plans and Related Policy Statements Containing Frameworks for Ethical Decision-Making' session at the workshop. CanPREP's Cécile Bensimon also presented on the importance of infectious diseases and ethics. She discussed the issues surrounding social distancing, duty to care, priority setting, risk management, and access to treatment.

## PANDEMIC NEWS

### [WHO Disease Outbreak News: Swine influenza - Daily Situation Update](#)

World Health Organization

Daily Influenza A (H1N1) Update. Update includes worldwide confirmed cases and deaths, along with WHO travel recommendations.

### [ProMED-Mail – The Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases](#)

A global electronic reporting system for outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases & toxins, open to all sources. Subscribe to daily email updates. ProMED-mail is a program of the [International Society for Infectious Diseases](#).

### [Cases of H1N1 Flu Virus in Canada](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada

A detailed daily update of swine flu cases in Canada – updated bi-weekly.

### [Did seasonal flu vaccine hike H1N1 risk? Answers finally come](#)

CTV News

A set of controversial studies that suggested getting a previous seasonal flu shot doubled a person's risk of catching pandemic H1N1 last spring has finally been published - though the mystery of whether the finding is real remains. Still, making public health policy during a pandemic based on data most people hadn't seen was far from ideal, said Dr. Ross Upshur.

### [Alberta wants refund for early H1N1 vaccine expiry](#)

CBC News

"This isn't a safety issue. It wasn't a question of reactions. It's just that once it gets past six months, it's not as potent as it was," said Dr. James Talbot, Alberta's senior medical officer of health.

### [External committee is to look at criticisms of WHO's management of H1N1 pandemic](#)

BMJ News

The review of WHO's role in the pandemic will include preparedness and planning; disease surveillance and epidemiology; risk assessment; communications; technical support for outbreak response; drug development and access; resource mobilisation, and coordination.

### [H1N1 response needs frank review: WHO](#)

CBC News

WHO's top flu official acknowledged that close public scrutiny would likely continue into the handling of the outbreak by the UN body and governments worldwide, but insisted it was easy to criticize with hindsight.

### [More hands being washed at GTA hospitals](#)

Toronto Star

A year after Ontario began mandatory reporting of hand hygiene in health care facilities, staff at GTA hospitals are showing signs of significant improvement in washing their hands before and after they interact with patients. The numbers, though still far from perfect, should bring relief to patients. Across the province, rates of compliance jumped more than 10 per cent, from 69 to 79 per cent since last year.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

Viboud C, Simonsen L. [Does Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Increase the Risk of Illness with the 2009 A/H1N1 Pandemic Virus?](#) PLoS. 2010; 7(4).

Seale H, Heywood AE, McLaws ML, Ward KF, Lowbridge CP, Van D, MacIntyre CR. [Why do I need it? I am not at risk! Public perceptions towards the pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 vaccine.](#) BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10(99).

Capua I, Cattoli G. [One Flu for One Health.](#) Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Apr; 16(4).

Loeb M, Earn DJD, Smieja M, Webby R. [Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 risk for nurses after trivalent vaccination .](#) Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Apr; 16(4).

Ritvo P, Wilson K, Gibson JL, Guglietti C, Tracy CS, Nie JX, Jadad AR, Upshur REG. [Canadian survey on pandemic flu preparations.](#) BM Public Health. 2010; 10(25).

Halder N, Kelso JK, Milne GJ. [Analysis of the effectiveness of interventions used during the 2009 A/H1N1 influenza pandemic.](#) BMC Public Health 2010; 10(168).

Matsumoto C, Sobata R, Uchida S, Hidaka T, Momose S, Hino S, et al. [Risk for transmission of pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 virus by blood transfusion.](#) Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Apr; 16(4).

Schabas R. [Seasonality and H1N1.](#) CMAJ. 2010 Apr; 182(6): 593.

Cook, Alethia H. [Securitization of Disease in the United States: Globalization, Public Policy, and Pandemics.](#) Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy. 2010; 1(1).

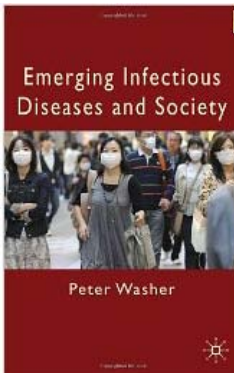
Kok G, Jonkers R, Gelissen R, Meertens R, Schaalma H, de Zwart O. [Behavioural intentions in response to an influenza pandemic.](#) BMC Public Health. 2010; 10(174).

Hsieh YH. [Age groups and spread of influenza: implications for vaccination strategy.](#) BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010; 10(106).

DeLeo, Rob A. [Anticipatory-Conjectural Policy Problems: A Case Study of the Avian Influenza.](#) Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy. 2010; 1(1).

Settembre EC, Dormitzer PR, Rappuoli R. [H1N1: Can a pandemic cycle be broken?](#) Sci. Transl. Med. 2010; 2(24):14.

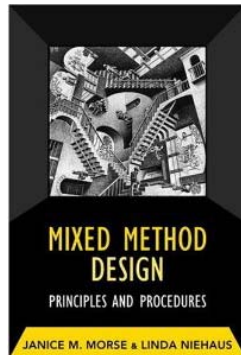
## BOOKS



### **EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SOCIETY**

Peter Washer

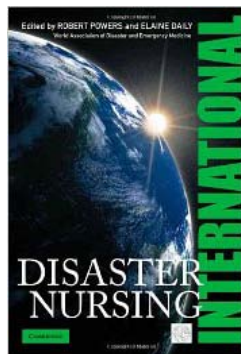
*Emerging Infectious Diseases and Society* is an engrossing account of the historical underpinnings of the idea of emerging disease, and a trenchant dissection of the ways in which it is put to social and political use today. Washer writes in clear, even-handed language that makes the book rewarding reading for the public and professionals alike. He masterfully translates complicated scientific debates to reveal the deeply embedded fears, myths and misconceptions that characterize contemporary thinking about infectious disease. In the 1970s it seemed infectious diseases had been conquered, but today global epidemics seem to pose a new, more sinister, threat. This fascinating study explores these new infectious diseases, such as Swine Flu, SARS and AIDS, and the re-emergence of old threats, and discusses their role in society.



### **MIXED METHOD DESIGN: PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES**

Janice M. Morse and Linda Niehaus

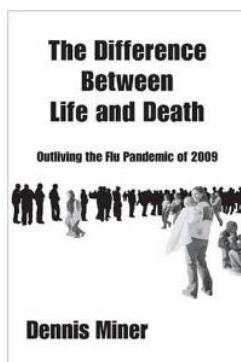
The use of mixed methods designs for conducting research has become a major trend in social science research. Renowned methodological experts Janice Morse and Linda Niehaus present a guide to intermediate and experienced researchers on the possibilities inherent in mixed method research. They offer the basic principles of conducting this kind of study, then examine a wide variety of design options available to the researcher, including their strengths and weaknesses and when to use them. Providing examples from a variety of disciplines, examining potential threats to validity, and the relationship between method and theory, the book will be a valuable addition to the methodologist's library and a useful text in courses in research design.



### **INTERNATIONAL DISASTER NURSING**

Elaine Daily and Robert Powers

The effects of a disaster on healthcare can range from conditions that immediately besiege the system with large numbers of patients, to catastrophes that strain its long-term sustainability. Nurses, as frontline health professionals, must have an understanding of the situations they may face before, during and after a disaster and they must develop the skills and strategies to provide effective and immediate care. *International Disaster Nursing* is the first truly comprehensive and internationally focused resource to address the diversity of issues and myriad scenarios that nurses and other health personnel could encounter during a disaster event.



### **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH: OUTLIVING THE FLU PANDEMIC OF 2009**

Dennis Miler

This is a story of hope and survival. Self-reliance and traditional family values help our family to stick together and outlive the flu pandemic crisis. Throughout this life changing experience, there are elements of self reliance, fear, death of a loved one, courage, family conflict, self preservation, life's lessons, going back to the simple basics, and so much more. My hope is to create more public awareness and help people to prepare themselves and their families for the imminent calamity that one day each of us will likely have to face. On that dreadful day when the pandemic comes, all of us will know in our hearts that we did not do enough to prepare for it, and if it just so happens that we do live through it, we will live out the rest of our lives burdened with the knowledge and the guilt of that unforgiving fact.

## FEATURE: Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics (CAPT)

The Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics (CAPT) held their annual meeting from March 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Toronto, ON. The title of this year's conference, "**Facts, Figures, and the Art of Health Care Decision-Making: linking knowledge generation to health outcomes**" speaks to the need to translate the results from rigorous scientific investigation to health policy and decision-making.

The CAPT Mission is to advance population-based research of therapeutic interventions to improve the health outcomes of Canadians by:

- Bringing together diverse perspectives
- Facilitating open exchange of ideas and collaboration, and
- Influencing policy and practice

The CAPT Vision is to become the recognized Canadian leader for linking population-based therapeutic research, policy and practice to optimize health outcomes.



CAPT ACTP

Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics

As the national voice of population therapeutics in Canada, CAPT is committed to fostering ongoing networking between practitioners, researchers and policy makers, and increasing the visibility and recognition of the organization. Over the past year, the Board has surveyed the membership on future directions for CAPT. In June 2008, the combined 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 Board members held a strategic planning session to incorporate membership responses into revitalizing the mission, vision and values of the organization.

The Scientific Committee had designed the conference program to achieve the CAPT mission by inviting a wide variety of keynote speakers and panelists, by including more panel sessions than in previous conferences, and by balancing sessions in pharmacoepidemiology and health economics with others in health policy.

Although the annual CAPT meeting has traditionally been focused on the epidemiologic component of population health, in response to the membership's requests, the focus of this year's meeting was more on the translation of research into policy, and novel approaches to developing policy.

On Monday March 29<sup>th</sup>, CanPREP had a chance to be part of the session titled, "**Vaccine / H1N1 Symposium Policy/Epidemiology/Media Lessons Learned.**" CanPREP's Cécile Bensimon spoke on the ethical challenges in pandemic response. She also discussed the issues surrounding social distancing, duty to care, priority setting, risk management, and access to treatment. CanPREP hopes to uncover potential collaboration areas in policy between itself and CAPT in the future!

For more information on the CAPT meeting, or to view the meeting's final program, please visit them at [www.capt-actp.com](http://www.capt-actp.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **The Annual CAHSPR Conference** in Toronto, ON, May 10-13, 2010.

[\[http://www.cahspr.ca/Conferences/tabid/78/language/en-US/Default.aspx\]](http://www.cahspr.ca/Conferences/tabid/78/language/en-US/Default.aspx)

The Annual CAHSPR Conference brings together over 400 of Canada's leading researchers, decision makers, managers and trainees to exchange ideas and share findings from the most recent studies in health services and policy research.

- **21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference** in Kelowna, BC, June 9-12, 2010.

[\[http://en.cbskelowna2010.ca\]](http://en.cbskelowna2010.ca)

The theme of the 2010 Canadian Bioethics Society Conference is "Voices of Communities" focusing on voices of patients and families, voices of professionals and voices of the vulnerable.

- **CPHA - Public Health in Canada: Shaping the Future** in Toronto, ON, June 13-16, 2010.

[\[http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2010.aspx\]](http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2010.aspx)

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), public health practitioners from across the country and around the world will meet in Toronto to celebrate a century of achievements and to shape the future of public health.

- **9th Canadian Immunization Conference, Immunization: A Global Challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** in Québec City, QC, December 5-8, 2010.

[\[http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cnic-ccni/2010/index-eng.php\]](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cnic-ccni/2010/index-eng.php)

Every two years, the Conference brings together researchers and scientists; physicians; nurses; pharmacists; vaccine experts; health promoters; and health policy makers to expand knowledge on immunization and learn about the latest developments in immunization research, innovation and practice.

## FEEDBACK

Questions or comments? Interested in submitting something to the Digest? Looking to highlight your organization/institution's current pandemic influenza ethics work? [Contact us at canprep@gmail.com](mailto:canprep@gmail.com)