



June 2010 ► Volume 4, Number 2



University of Toronto  
Joint Centre for Bioethics



Canadian Institutes  
of Health Research

Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada

## IN THIS ISSUE

- CanPREP News & Updates
- CanPREP at CFNU's Pandemic Roundtable
- Pandemic News
- New Publications
- Books
- Feature: CanPREP @ the 2010 CBS Annual Meeting
- Upcoming Events and Conferences
- Other

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

### Research-Based Play highlights CanPREP Findings

At the second CanPREP Stakeholder Forum in May 2010, the CanPREP team performed a reading of a theatre presentation, written by CanPREP researcher Kate Rossiter and colleagues. This research-based play incorporated archival research with CanPREP research, largely stemming from the public engagement through Town Hall Forums, focus groups, and national surveys. The play is now being presented in Brantford, Ontario, where it will be acted out by local actors.

The goal of the play, *Abide with Me: The Story of Two Pandemics*, was to use theatre and performance as a means to transfer knowledge, and engage audiences, in the process of ethical deliberation in pandemic planning and response. It was created using a student ensemble cast that worked with historical information about Brantford's social history and the community's experience of the 1918 influenza pandemic. Information was gathered from many historical locales including the Brant Museum and Archives, Brantford General Hospital Archives and Nurses Alumni, as well as the Brantford Public Library. To provide a sense of first-hand contextual detail, participant interviews were conducted with local community members who shared their memories and stories of the event.

Where: Brantford General Hospital Chapel (2nd Floor)

When: Friday July 23rd, 2010 at 7:30pm

Saturday July 24th at 2pm OR 7:30pm.

See the official theatre poster at [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca)

or click [HERE](#) for the Brant Theatre Website.



## Public Engagement to Inform Ethically Challenging Public Health Policies

The H1N1 pandemic has given urgency to the complexity of numerous moral challenges raised by outbreaks of infectious diseases. It has reinforced the consensus view that a key concern in preparing for, and responding to all types of public health threats, is the need to develop and maintain trust and cooperation between governments and their citizens.

CanPREP researcher, and Research Officer for the NCCCHPP, Christopher McDougall, along with co-researcher Francois-Pierre Gauvin, held a workshop at the 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Meeting in Kelowna, BC titled '*Public Engagement to Inform Ethically Challenging Public Health Policies: Approaches, Evidence, and Insights.*' The workshop focused on the lack of citizen voices in the shaping of both general health policy goals, and of norms that guide decision-making during public health emergencies, like the H1N1 pandemic. This lack generates deficits of legitimacy and fairness, and threatens the effectiveness of government interventions.



Centre de collaboration nationale  
sur les politiques publiques et la santé

National Collaborating Centre  
for Healthy Public Policy

The workshop opened with a discussion of the theory and practice of public engagement, focusing on its value for ethical deliberation as an approach to connecting Canadian citizens with health professionals, policy-makers, researchers,

and vulnerable populations. This was followed by a review of recent research that has explicitly employed public engagement methodologies to elicit diverse values and perceptions on the ethics of public health, notable in pandemic planning. The CanPREP project was used as a case study for this section of the presentation, where its methodological framework, themes, and Town Hall Forum and survey findings were highlighted. The aims of public engagement were also outlined, which include capturing a range of opinions, probing reasoning behind specific beliefs/positions, and engaging people as 'citizens' and not as policy-makers or health professionals.

A copy of the presentation can be downloaded [HERE](#).

---

## CanPREP at the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union Pandemic Roundtable

On June 1st, 2010, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union (CFNU) hosted a roundtable discussion on pandemic preparedness. Many health and labour stakeholders came together to share experiences from the recent H1N1 outbreak and to discuss forward-thinking strategies to aid in continued pandemic preparedness efforts. Experts from various backgrounds highlighted the three pillars integral to pandemic preparedness: public health, infection control, and occupational health and safety. The unique challenges faced by Aboriginal communities in Canada were also explored.

CanPREP researcher Cécile Bensimon presented on the ethical challenges relevant to an influenza pandemic and highlighted key ethical dilemmas that required attention during the H1N1 outbreak. These dilemmas include CanPREP's major themes: public health restrictive measures, health care worker obligations, and priority setting.



Governments and health leaders seldom make the values behind their decisions public. Furthermore, scientific uncertainty often underpins the difficult public health decisions that must be made during an emergency. Dr. Bensimon raised a very important question: how can we rely on science in situations where there is no science? Because issues related to pandemic planning and response have ethical underpinnings, she proposed the use of an ethical framework, such as *Stand on Guard for Thee*, to guide such decision making.

Dr. Bensimon urges the public to have conversations regarding what values we will use in emergency decision-making before another crisis strikes. She mentioned the use of CanPREP Town Hall Forums and their effectiveness in highlighting the perspectives of average citizens. Policies can be made using very different rationales, and it is important to be explicit on what grounds we use to guide our decisions. She introduces Public Health Ethics as an emerging field addressing ethical issues related to communicable disease planning.

For a copy of the presentation, visit [www.canprep.ca](http://www.canprep.ca), or click [HERE](#).

---

## 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.

### [H1N1 flu shots protect against Spanish flu too](#)

The Toronto Star

New research suggests the antibodies many people around the world generated against the 2009 virus — either through being ill or by getting vaccinated — would protect them if a lab accident resulted in the release of the 1918 virus or if terrorists tried to use it as a bio weapon.

### [What are the public-health lessons of H1N1? Preach less, engage more](#)

The Globe and Mail

In times of (potential) crisis such as a feared pandemic, existing networks have to be put to good use. One of the big mistakes of the H1N1 vaccination campaign was not providing vaccine to individual physicians and clinics. The large clinics, which were costly and took a lot of time to set up, should have supplemented not supplanted normal operations.

### [Ottawa stumbled on H1N1, Ontario's medical officer says](#)

The National Post

Last year's wave of the H1N1 flu virus spread quickly to more than 200 countries and led to the deaths of 17,700 people worldwide. In Canada, 426 deaths to date have been attributed to the outbreak, which began in the spring of 2009. The majority of the deaths occurred in Ontario.

### [H1N1 decision free of money interest: WHO](#)

CBC News

The head of the World Health Organization says her decisions about swine flu were not influenced by advisers' links to pharmaceutical companies, which were pointed out in a critical journal article this month. The article in the BMJ, formerly known as the British Medical Journal, pointed out that WHO did not disclose potential conflicts of interest among some of the experts involved in writing guidelines for pandemic flu preparations.

### [Telephone and internet surveys will improve estimates of flu incidence, experts say](#)

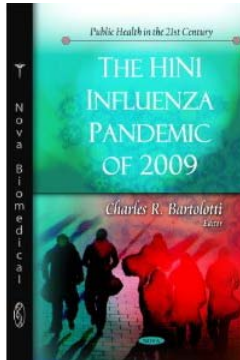
BMJ News

Andrew Hayward, of University College London and chief investigator of the Flu Watch study, noted that conventional flu surveillance assesses only "the tip of the iceberg"—those people who consult their doctor. So the royal college's figures took into account only people who sought out health services for their flu symptoms, whereas Flu Watch recruited whole households and therefore included asymptomatic infection too.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

- Parment WE. [Pandemic Vaccines - The Legal Landscape](#). New England Journal of Medicine. 2010 May;362(21):1949-52.
- Goldkind SF, Sahin L, Gallauresi B. [Enrolling Pregnant Women in Research — Lessons from the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic](#). New England Journal of Medicine. 2010 Jun;362(24):2241-43.
- Gilman SL. [Moral panic and pandemics](#). Lancet. 2010 May;375(9729):1866-67.
- Blank DL, Bodansky DM, Forbes A, Garde E, Story F, Roalfe AK, Tait L. [Influenza vaccination of future healthcare workers: a cross-sectional study of uptake, knowledge and attitudes](#). Vaccine. 2010 Jun;28(29):4668-72.
- Cohen D, Carter P. [WHO and the pandemic flu "conspiracies."](#) BMJ. 2010 Jun;340.
- Lau JTF, Griffiths S, Choi KC, Tsui HY. [Avoidance behaviors and negative psychological responses in the general population in the initial stage of the H1N1 pandemic in Hong Kong](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010 May;10:139.
- Lemaitre M, Carrat F. [Comparative age distribution of influenza morbidity and mortality during seasonal influenza epidemics and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010 Jun;10:162.
- Hsieh YH. [Age groups and spread of influenza: implications for vaccination strategy](#). BMC Infectious Diseases. 2010 Jun;10:106.
- Openshaw PJM, Dunning J. [Influenza vaccination: lessons learned from the pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 influenza outbreak](#). Mucosal Immunol. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print].
- To KW, Lee S, Chan TO, Lee SS. [Exploring determinants of acceptance of the pandemic influenza A \(H1N1\) 2009 vaccination in nurses](#). Am J Infect Control. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print].
- Apisarnthanarak A, Mundy LM. [Outbreak of Influenza A \(2009\) H1N1 among Thai Healthcare Workers: Is It Time to Integrate a Vaccination Program?](#) Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print].
- Merchant AM, Marcolini EG, Winters ME. [Treating Critical Illness Caused by the 2009 H1N1 Influenza A Virus](#). J Emerg Med. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print]
- Gagnon R, Primeau MN, Roches AD, Lemire C, on behalf of the PHAC-CIHR influenza Research Network (PCIRN). [Safe vaccination of patients with egg allergy with an adjuvanted pandemic H1N1 vaccine](#). J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2010 Jun 23. [Epub ahead of print]
- Thompson M, Heneghan C. [Antivirals for pandemic influenza: a triumph of policy over evidence?](#) Trends Pharmacol Sci. 2010 Jun; [Epub ahead of print]

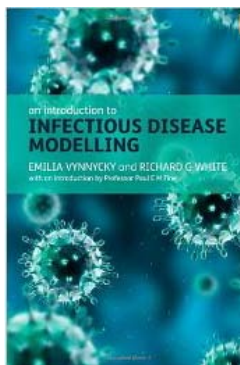
## BOOKS



### THE H1N1 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 2009

Charles R. Bartolotti

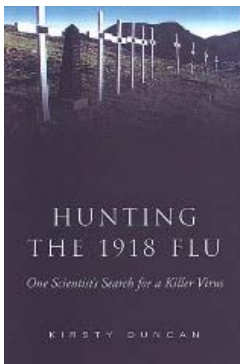
This book provides a synopsis of key events, actions taken, and authorities invoked by WHO, the U.S. federal government, and state and local governments to determine and mitigate the phases of a flu pandemic. Additionally, this book addresses select legal issues in relation to the pandemic including emergency measures, civil rights, liability, and employment issues. Also discussed is the U.S. response to global human cases, mandatory vaccination precedents, the potential farm sector effects of 'swine flu', and the Department of Defense's role during a flu pandemic.



### AN INTRODUCTION TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE MODELLING

Emilia Vynnycky and Richard White

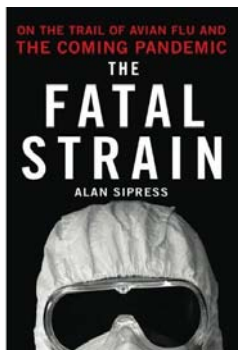
Mathematical modelling is increasingly being applied to interpret and predict the dynamics and control of infectious diseases. Applications include predicting the impact of vaccination strategies against common infections and determining optimal control strategies against HIV and malaria. Though many public health and infectious disease researchers are aware that mathematical modelling would be of use to them, few have had any formal training in this area. This book is designed to fill this gap. By reading the book and completing the accompanying exercises, readers will understand the basic methods for setting up mathematical models and how and where models can be applied. This book will be of interest to epidemiologists, public health researchers, policy makers, veterinary scientists, medical statisticians and infectious disease researchers.



### HUNTING THE 1918 FLU: ONE SCIENTIST'S SEARCH FOR A KILLER VIRUS

Kirsty E. Duncan

Responding to the sustained interest of a reoccurring pandemic after the Spanish flu, Kirsty Duncan in *Hunting the 1918 Flu* presents a detailed account of her experiences as she organized a multi-national, multi-discipline scientific expedition to exhume the bodies of a group of Norwegian miners, buried in Svalbard, all of whom died from the Spanish flu virus.



### THE FATAL STRAIN

Alan Sipress

When avian flu began spreading across Asia in the early-2000s, it reawakened fears that had lain dormant for nearly a century. During the outbreak's deadliest years, Alan Sipress chased the virus as it infiltrated remote jungle villages and teeming cities and saw its mysteries elude the world's top scientists. In *The Fatal Strain*, Sipress details how socioeconomic and political realities in Asia make it the perfect petri dish in which the fast-mutating strain can become easily communicable among humans. Once it does, the ease and speed of international travel and worldwide economic interdependence could make it as destructive as the flu pandemic of 1918.

## FEATURE: CanPREP at the 21<sup>st</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Meeting

The 21st Canadian Bioethics Society Annual Conference was held in Kelowna, BC from June 9-12, 2010. This year's theme, *Voices of the Community*, was aimed at raising awareness and highlight how various perspectives are effectively heard, or not heard, within the bioethics community. The theme allows for the consideration of 'voices' from the perspective of patients and families, professionals, and the vulnerable populations.

The CanPREP Workshop titled, *Engaging Voices of the Public: A Workshop by the Canadian Program of Research on Ethics in a Pandemic*, was presented in order to discuss the importance of public engagement and the role it plays in ethical deliberation. The goal of the workshop was also to display the methodology the CanPREP project used in order to obtain its data.

The session began with an overview of the CanPREP project, its methodology, activities, and policy impacts. The project's engagement events included the 2 public symposia, four internationally webcasted seminars, two Stakeholder Forums, and research-based theatre. A condensed version of CanPREP's national survey was distributed to workshop participants in order to gauge responses from the bioethics community. These results were then compared to the results from CanPREP's second national survey.

Workshop participants were then divided into two groups and a mock 'Town Hall Forum' was conducted. Like CanPREP's popular Canadian Town Hall Forums in the past, an ethical scenario regarding influenza pandemic priority setting was presented. This was followed by individual group discussion, in which participants were asked to give their thoughts and position on the topic. Group facilitators then presented each group's major themes and ideas to the entire workshop.



CanPREP research and results were then presented in the workshop. Here, data from the Town Hall Forums and the national survey was compared for each of the areas of research – Duty to Care, Priority Setting, Restrictive Measures, and Global Governance.

Through this mock exercise it was interesting to note that many of the findings from workshop participants overlapped with those seen in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Saint John Town Halls. The need for active public engagement and deliberation, pre-planning, and transparent communication were all mentioned.

When comparing survey results of workshop participants to CanPREP's second National Survey, both groups agreed that healthcare workers should receive the highest priority for antiviral protection. When asked to choose the sole purpose for the Canadian pandemic plan, national survey participants responded that the main purpose should be to save the most lives globally, while workshop participants stated the plan should be aimed at saving the most lives in Canada.

With CanPREP's great success at this year's Canadian Bioethics Society conference, it hopes to participate again next year in Saint John, NB, where the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting will be held.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- **Abide With Me: A Story of Two Pandemics** in Brantford, ON, July 22, 23, 24, 2010.  
[\[http://branttheatre.com/new.html\]](http://branttheatre.com/new.html)

This research-based play incorporates archival research with CanPREP research, largely stemming from the public engagement through Town Hall Forums, focus groups, and national surveys.

- **Ethics at the Business-Health Care Interface Conference** in Toronto, ON, September 17-19, 2010.  
[\[http://www.researchimpact.ca/resources/events/CBERNSep2010.html\]](http://www.researchimpact.ca/resources/events/CBERNSep2010.html)

- **International Data Sharing Conference** in Oxford, UK, September 20-22, 2010.  
[\[http://helex.medsci.ox.ac.uk/data-sharing-international-conference-1\]](http://helex.medsci.ox.ac.uk/data-sharing-international-conference-1)

The purpose of this conference is to bring together leaders in the field to discuss the issues raised by data sharing in genomics as well as bringing experts from other domains to add a new dimension to these debates.

- **American Society For Bioethics and Humanities Annual Meeting** in San Diego, CA, October 21-24, 2010. [\[http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html\]](http://www.asbh.org/meetings/annual/index.html)

CanPREP will be presenting at two of the sessions this year. Stay tuned to further newsletter editions for more information.

- **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)