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IN THIS ISSUE

- CanPREP News & Updates
- Upcoming Focus Groups
- Pandemic News
- New Publications
- Books
- Feature: H1N1 Critical Care Triage Symposium
- 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. Previous editions are available at the [CanPREP archives](#).

CanPREP NEWS AND UPDATES

CanPREP Focus Groups

CanPREP will be holding a number of focus groups next month, as the project continues to engage the public on ethical issues in a pandemic.

As different age groups are affected by a pandemic in different ways, the project is looking to focus on select population groups and their specific needs. Thus, two focus groups will be held next month in order to engage older adult populations. These will be on December 8th in Toronto and on December 15th in Peterborough.

Primary care in the community setting has also been threatened by the current pandemic. CanPREP has planned three focus groups with organizations working in community care. These organizations include Calea, Circle of Care, and Therapy Healthcare. These focus groups are all planned to happen in December.

Public engagement is crucial to the success of this project as we want to hear what members of the public have to say about the ethical issues that arise in planning during an influenza pandemic.

Latest CanPREP Publications

[*Public Engagement on Social Distancing in a Pandemic: A Canadian Perspective*](#) was published in the November issue of the American Journal of Bioethics. This commentary illustrates the need for public engagement when forming guidelines on restrictive measures during an influenza pandemic. The paper

focuses on Canadian public views and reports CanPREP data from the national telephone survey, town hall forums, and stakeholder forum.

Contextualizing Ethics: Ventilators, H1N1, and Marginalized Populations is forthcoming in the January issue of Health Care Quarterly. This paper discusses challenges in using the ethical principle of utility as the sole determinant of resource allocation during an influenza pandemic. Furthermore, it discusses the scarce allocation of ventilators and highlights current pandemic issues being faced by Aboriginal Canadians.

Physicians' Legal Duty to Treat and Legal Right to Refuse Work During a Pandemic is another forthcoming CanPREP publication in the Canadian Medical Association Journal. This article outlines the legal duty to existing patients, non-patients, and the public. It also mentions the legal rights of physicians to refuse work in unsafe circumstances. Look for this paper in the December CMAJ issue.

CanPREP at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities



The 11th Annual ASBH meeting was held in Washington, DC from October 15-18, 2009. CanPREP was represented by team member Diego S. Silva. His presentation, entitled ***Translating and Sharing Ethics Knowledge: Citizens' Perspectives on Pandemic Influenza*** outlined the purpose of public engagement, why there is a need for pandemic planning, and the CanPREP study methods.

The ethical issues of Duty to Care and Priority Setting were highlighted in this presentation. Preliminary findings, along with raw data, from the CanPREP national telephone survey and the three Canadian town hall forums, were presented.

CanPREP's Canadian data was well received, and many American researchers showed great interest in collaborating with CanPREP.

Click [HERE](#) to access the presentation slides.

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.

[Canadians think H1N1 risks exaggerated: poll](#)

CBC News

The poll also found that while 39 per cent of Canadians approve of the government's handling of the virus's threat, 39 per cent disapprove. About 22 per cent did not know or had no response.

[What are the ethics of jumping the queue to avoid the flu?](#)

The Globe and Mail

Dr. Upshur also said that, in a society where citizens generally trust each other's moral behaviour, have a collective sense of caring for one another and have confidence in their governments to deliver on their commitments, there's a low likelihood of people sneaking treatment ahead of sequencing – queue-jumping, in a word.

[Did Canada botch the vaccine rollout?](#)

The National Post

"I try to think how they could have done any better and it's hard to see," said Dr. Kumanan Wilson, a public health expert at the University of Ottawa. "Public health warned us about this, it did happen. They said there was going to be a second wave, there was a second wave. They do have a vaccine available."

[Forget the poppies – our vets deserve flu vaccine](#)

The Globe and Mail

We vaccinated current soldiers en masse, along with their Taliban prisoners; per capita, the Department of National Defence has received far more vaccine than any province or territory. Why have we forgotten the veterans?

[H1N1's true toll not shown by death tally, picture may take months to come clear](#)

The Canadian Press

"Nobody has seen a flu season like this on the ground level," said Dr. Kumanan Wilson. "If you talk to any frontline worker, they've never seen anything like this. And we keep getting told this is nothing." "Emerg (emergency departments) are filled. All the children's hospitals are filled. Family docs I talk to say 'Oh my God, I've never seen so many flu cases.'"

NEW PUBLICATIONS (via .PDF links)

Stewart AM. [Mandatory Vaccination of Health Care Workers](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Nov;361(21).

Uyeki T. [Antiviral Treatment for Patients Hospitalized with 2009 Pandemic Influenza A \(H1N1\)](#). NEJM. 2009 Nov; [Epub ahead of print].

Baz M, Abed Y, Papenburg J, et al. [Emergence of Oseltamivir-Resistant Pandemic H1N1 Virus during Prophylaxis](#). NEJM. 2009 Nov;361(20).

Wenzel RP and Edmond MB. [Preparing for 2009 H1N1 Influenza](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Nov;361(20).

Griffiths S and Lau J. [The Influence of SARS on Perceptions of Risk and Reality](#). J Public Health. 2009 Nov; 31(4):466–67.

Oliver I and Lewis D. [Public Trust is Necessary to Protect the Population from Threats to Public Health](#). J Public Health. 2009 Nov;31(4):468–69.

Burls A. [Trust Me, I am a Policy Maker](#). J Public Health. 2009 Oct;31(4):470–71.

Ofri D. [The Emotional Epidemiology of H1N1 Influenza Vaccination](#). The New England Journal of Medicine. 2009 Nov;361(22).

Coker R. [Swine flu: Fragile health systems will make surveillance and mitigation a challenge](#). BMJ. 2009; 338.

Johnston L, Taylor G, Vearncombe M, Henry B. [Who is conflicted about handwashing?](#) CMAJ. 2009 Nov; 181(11).

Chen GW and Shih SR. [Genomic Signatures of Influenza A Pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 Virus](#). Emerg Infect Dis. 2009 Dec; 15(12):1897-1903.

Crawford JM, Stallone R, Zhang F, Gerolimatos M, Korologos DD, Sweetapple C, et al. Laboratory [surge response to pandemic \(H1N1\) 2009 outbreak, New York City metropolitan area, USA](#). Emerg Infect Dis. 2010 Jan; [Epub ahead of print].

Ormsby CE and Reyes-Teran G. [Influenza: Making Privileged Data Public](#). Science. 2009 Aug;325.

BOOKS

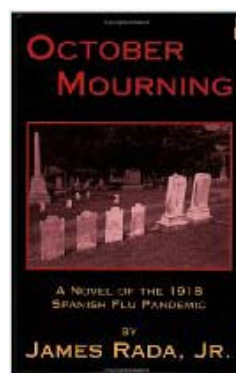


THE GABON VIRUS

Paul McCusker and Walt Larimore

In 1666, a horrible disease took the lives of almost every person in Eyam (pronounced Eem), England. Helping the sick and the dying was the mysterious and ghostlike Blue Monk, whose strange appearance terrified even those who were comforted by him.

More than three centuries later the disease has returned, more virulent than before. Every day more people are infected; every hour more die. With every tick of the clock the world approaches a global pandemic. A race against time becomes a race across continents -- to find a frightened boy who is carrying and spreading the disease wherever he goes, to thwart the machinations of corporate greed and fanatical sabotage, and to find the connection between a great tragedy of the past and a potential catastrophe of the present. Our present.



OCTOBER MORNING

James Rada Jr.

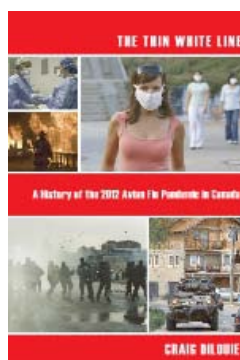
In October 1918, World War I was winding down, but the world had yet to face the deadliest killer known. Spanish Flu would devastate the world. In Cumberland, Maryland, Dr. Alan Keener, a young doctor fresh from medical school, suspects the flu has reached Allegany County. He wants to take steps to prevent its spread, but he is met with resistance from old-school doctors who believe that the flu's deadliness is overblown and easily treated. As Alan races along with other doctors trying to find some vaccine that works, he must deal with overwhelming sickness in the county. Nearly half of the residents have the flu and many are dying. Nurses and doctors are already in short supply because many are serving in the war. It becomes a critical shortage now as many fall sick with the flu themselves and those left have a workload that would be overwhelming even if there had been no shortage.



INFLUENZA VACCINES FOR THE FUTURE

Rino Rappuoli and Giuseppe Del Giudice

The emergence of H5N1 avian influenza in 1997 and of the influenza A H1N1 of swine origin in 2009 calls for new, rapid and sustainable solutions against both seasonal and pandemic influenza viruses. During the last ten years, science and technology have made enormous progress, and we are now able to monitor in real time the genetics of viruses while they spread globally, to make more powerful vaccines using novel adjuvants, and to generate viruses in the laboratory by reverse genetics. This volume not only provides state-of-the-art information on the biology of influenza viruses and on influenza vaccines, but is designed to be a resource to face the present H1N1 pandemic and to plan for long term global and sustainable solutions.



THE THIN WHITE LINE

Craig DiLouie

The Thin White Line was written before the swine flu pandemic to imagine what a severe influenza pandemic would look like in a modern country such as Canada. Presented as if it were a non-fiction history book describing a pandemic that has already happened, THE THIN WHITE LINE provides a thoughtful journey through a fictional severe pandemic.

FEATURE: Critical Care Triage for H1N1: A Symposium on Emerging Ethical Issues

CanPREP holds its second symposium, this time discussing the ethical issues in H1N1 critical care triaging

Priority setting and the allocation of ventilators and other scarce resources have been important areas when discussing ethical issues in a pandemic. On November 25th, 2009 CanPREP held a bioethics symposium at the Joint Centre for Bioethics in hopes of bringing some of these ethical issues forward. Not only do difficult questions still remain concerning priority setting of scarce resources, but strategies for triage and discharge in the intensive care unit (ICU) are also posing as challenges. The Symposium, entitled: 'Critical Care Triage for H1N1: A Symposium on Emerging Ethical Issues,' included a panel discussion with panelists chosen to provide current insight and discussion into the issues facing critical care during the progression of the H1N1 pandemic.



Invited panelists:

Andrea Frolic, PhD, Clinical & Organizational Ethicist, Hamilton Health Sciences

Gerda Kaegi, MA, Board Member, Canadian Pensioners Concerned, Inc.

Michael Christian, MD, FRCP(C), Infectious Diseases & Critical Care, Mt. Sinai Hospital

The Symposium was moderated by **Shawn Winsor**, MHSc, Director, Ethics Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Dr. Ross Upshur commenced the symposium with an overview of current and upcoming CanPREP research. This was followed by an introduction by Shawn Winsor on critical care triaging during the H1N1 pandemic and the various triage plans that are currently in circulation. He also spoke on the need for supplementary criteria, which can be used as non-clinical criteria secondary to the SOFA scoring scale. Winsor is the chair for the Joint Centre for Bioethics Pan Flu Supplementary Triage Criteria Taskforce. The aim of this taskforce is to generate a list of criteria that can help in the ICU admission process, once ventilated beds become limited.

*Critical Care Triage for H1N1:
A Symposium on Emerging Ethical Issues*

A Panel Discussion



Each panelist was then invited to the podium to discuss their current work in pandemic triaging. Andrea Frolic began by introducing the Hamilton Health Sciences Triage Plan, which was completed earlier this fall as a way of filling in the gaps of the Ontario pandemic plan. Frolic mentioned the need for an ethical framework, as a duty to individuals and the community. She also mentioned that the implementation of ethics in health policy brings forward several issues, including: 'who should be included as an expert?', 'what if the legal, medical, ethical, community, etc. views clash during deliberation?', and 'what is the definition of "good" when we are trying to do the most good for society?'

Gerda Kaegi, representing older adult populations, spoke on the continuous need for public engagement in order to build trust. She also expressed gratitude towards the CanPREP team for their engagement with the public in various research assignments. Kaegi stressed upon the ageism criterion, which is currently

found in many pandemic plans, and the drawbacks in implementing this criterion. She points out that ageism is not a medical criteria and that decision-makers must broaden their thinking of ageism in order for policies to be fair and ethical to all.

The final panelist of symposium was Michael Christian, a co-author of the critical care triage plan which has been implemented into the Ontario Health Pandemic Influenza Plan. Christian explained his protocol and clarified that at the time of the plan's preparation (2006) it was the best protocol they had. He discussed the inconsistencies between institutions and the need for a balanced playing field across hospitals. The need for supplementary criteria, after medical criteria have been applied, is also an area Christian believes must be focused on. He is also a current member of the Joint Centre for Bioethics Pan Flu Supplementary Triage Criteria Taskforce.

The ethical, as well as legal, issues brought forward by the panelists are all concerns that must be addressed when formulating pandemic triage plans. Furthermore, public engagement and communication between the general public and stakeholders is needed to ensure that ethical frameworks are implemented into pandemic plans correctly. CanPREP looks to tackle these ethical issues in future research.

The CanPREP team would like to thank all panelists and attendees for making the "Critical Care Triage for H1N1: A Symposium on Emerging Ethical Issues" a success.

The entire video broadcast of the symposium can be viewed online at the [CanPREP website](#) (front page).

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.

- **21st 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.

- **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 21st 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)