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PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS



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How to Defeat Science Deniers



The unexpected furor and back-pedaling over Indiana's anti-gay "religious freedom" law has already highlighted problems. Right-wing assumptions turned out to be woefully out of line with emerging changes in social attitudes, and establishment politicians were caught completely off-guard. But what if there's even more of that to come on a very different subject — climate change?

See: <http://www.alternet.org/environment/how-defeat-science-deniers-even-wingnuts-learn-reality-good-business>

Women in Developed Countries Are More Likely To Be Physically Assaulted

Women in developed countries like Canada and the United States are more likely to be physically assaulted than women in developing countries, a new study suggests. Using data from the International Crime Victimization Survey from 45 countries, researchers reviewed physical and sexual assault victimization statistics at the national level to determine whether the societal structures around victims played a part in the frequency of attacks.



See: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/re->

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What Are UN Special Rapporteurs?

The Special Rapporteurs are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures' experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.



See: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Children/Pages/ChildrenIndex.aspx>

New Global Center Launched To Address Chronic Diseases



A new international health research partnership plans to tackle chronic diseases ranging from diabetes to dementia in an integrated way. Dinesh C Sharma reports from New Delhi.

The Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions (CCCC), launched in New Delhi, India, on April 7, brings together experts from four leading institutes in Europe, America, and Asia - Emory University, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) to increase collaboration in research into non-communicable diseases.

See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60739-5/fulltext?rss=yes](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60739-5/fulltext?rss=yes)

ExxonMobil's Dangerous Business Strategy

The year 2014 was the hottest on instrument record, a grim reminder of the planetary stakes of this year's global climate negotiations, which will culminate in Paris this coming December. The world's governments have agreed to keep human-induced warming to below 2° Celsius (3.6° Fahrenheit). Yet the current trajectory implies warming far beyond this limit, possibly 4-6° Celsius by the end of this century. The answer, of course, is to shift from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy like wind and solar power, and to electric vehicles powered by low carbon electricity



CIDS. Glomar Beaufort Sea II. Japan

See: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/exxonmobil-oil-drilling-climate-change-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2015-04>

Climate Change Does Not Cause Extreme Winters!?



Cold snaps like the ones that hit the eastern Canada and United States in the past winters are not a consequence of climate change. Scientists have now shown that global warming actually tends to reduce temperature variability.

Repeated cold snaps led to temperatures far below freezing across the eastern United States in the past two winters. Parts of Niagara Falls froze, and ice floes formed on Lake Michigan. Such low temperatures had become rare in recent years. Pictures of icy, snow-covered cities made their way around the world, raising the question of whether climate change could be responsible for these extreme events.

See: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/03/150327132207.htm>

Messing With Mosquito DNA Creates Angry Buzz In Florida

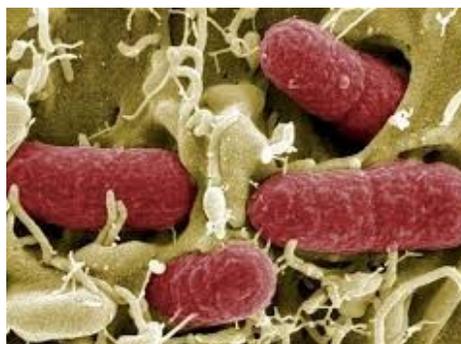
In the bite-size community of Key Haven, like so many other mosquito-plagued spots up and down the Florida Keys, residents long ago made peace with insecticides dropped into town by planes or rumbling by on trucks. Cans of Off! are offered at outdoor parties. Patio screens are greeted with relief.

Keys residents are far less enamored of another approach to mosquito control: a proposal to release the nation's first genetically modified mosquitoes, hatched in a lab and pumped with synthetic DNA to try to combat two painful, mosquito-borne viral diseases, dengue and chikungunya.



See: http://old.seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2025738203_modifiedskeetersxml.html

Drug-Resistant 'Superbug' Poses Threat In Canada



A nasty stomach bug that sickens thousands of people in Canada each year is growing resistant to most of the medicines used to kill it and could begin to pose serious threat, says a Canadian microbiologist. A "superbug" strain of shigella is being blamed for an increasing number of illness outbreaks in Canada and the U.S. Last week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the antibiotic-resistant strain had caused several clusters of illness that began when people picked up the bug while travelling to such places as India and the Dominican Republic, and then spread it to others back home.

See: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/drug-resistant-superbug-poses-threat-in-canada-1.2316690>

The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health

The Guttmacher Institute has released ***Adding It Up*** reports every five years since 2004. The latest report demonstrates that if all women who want to avoid pregnancy used modern contraceptives, and if all pregnant women and their newborns received care at the standards recommended by WHO, the benefits would be dramatic: unintended pregnancies would drop by 70 percent and maternal and newborn deaths would drop by 67 percent and 77 percent, respectively.



See: www.rbhealth.org/event/adding-it-costs-and-benefits-investing-sexual-and-reproductive-health

Japan's Aging Should Be Viewed as an Achievement, Not Negatively



UNFPA Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin presents the State of the World Population 2014 report in London, England. —Daily Images

With more than half of its population older than 45 years, Japan is the world's most aged nation. It is experiencing aging at a faster speed than any other developed country, with its median age projected to reach 53 in 2050.

As executive director of the U.N. Population Fund, Babatunde Osotimehin usually focuses on the other end of the population spectrum: the health of pregnant women and babies and the education of young people. But he also pays great attention to population aging as it is an accelerating trend with global implications.

See: <http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2015/03/18/qa-japans-aging-should-be-viewed-as-achievement-not-negatively/>

How I Overcame Burnout (And So Can You)

We all want to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Doing so should bring meaning and fulfillment into our lives, as well as motivate and inspire us to do more. This is what we expect when we make purposeful work the focus of our career.

Unfortunately, many of us in the social good and development sector experience the opposite instead - burnout.

If you've identified that you're on the fast track to burnout, the sooner you course correct, the better. Here are the three steps I took to pull back from burnout, which I've since been sharing with those I now coach through the process of recovery.



See: <https://www.devex.com/news/burnout-how-i-overcame-it-so-you-can-too-85901>

CONFERENCES &



SYMPOSIUMS

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Ebola epidemic is our contemporary opportunity to seize a cosmopolitan moment: to increase our understanding of our global interdependence, seeing that my health and well-being is dependent of that of the other. It is therefore wise self-interest to be concerned for the health and welfare of others."

James Orbinski, MD

Date	Conference	Location	Registration Site
May 7-8, 2015	Global Health/Global Justice 2015: Making New Medicines Accessible to All	Toronto, Ontario	https://mitusengupta.com/2015/04/11/global-healthaccess-to-medicines-conference-at-ryerson-all-are-welcome/
June 16-18, 2015	Summer Institute on Human Trafficking	Lakehead University Orillia, Ontario,	https://conferences.lakeheadu.ca/sioht/
June 29-30, 2015	4th Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2015)	Singapore, Singapore	http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/4th_annual_global_healthcare_conference_ghc_2015
Aug. 25-27, 2015	The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015	Manila, Philippines	http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health
November 5-7, 2015	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Bonaventure Hotel - Montreal, Quebec	http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/



R. Upshur, J. Lavery, J. Tustin, D. Fisman, J. Orbinski, A-E. Birn (Tim Jagatic on Front Page) "Deconstructing Public Health Emergencies: Learning from Ebola Symposium" at Hart House, University of Toronto, April 21, 2015

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Dear Colleagues

Please join us for the fourth annual Day of Action against refugee Health Cuts. It will take place on June 15th, 2015 in 18 cities across Canada-save the date. More information will be available about local events over the next few days.

The Federal Government continues to deny health care coverage to vulnerable refugee groups. Numerous national health care organizations (see list below), artists, faith based groups and even provincial health ministers have publicly condemned the cuts. The Federal Court of Canada found the cuts to be a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and forced the government to rescind the cuts. Unfortunately in Nov 2014, they introduced a new program that did not restore previous coverage to refugees and refugee claimants. They are also appealing the Federal Court decision to take away the coverage for pregnant women and children that they were forced to restore.

Join your colleagues on June 15, 2015 to protest the cuts to refugee health insurance. This is an election year-the Federal Government needs to know that Canadians will not tolerate these costly and unjust cuts to refugee health insurance.

More information can be found at <http://www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca/day-of-action-june-15-2015.html>

Please forward to any interested friends or colleagues. See you on June 15, 2015.

Meb Rashid and Philip Berger

On behalf of the Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care