



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

October 29, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 34

Guinea Study Finds Women Immune to Ebola

A group of women Ebola survivors in Guinea have been found to be immune to the disease. The virus is continually re-entering the blood of survivors but being immediately killed off. What is likely to be happening is that the virus is lingering around immune-privileged sites like the gonads and the spinal cord while continually leaching into the body. The survivor, though, never experiences symptoms because it is instantly soaked up by the immune system.

[Read More on ace2faceafrica.com](http://ace2faceafrica.com)



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Ebola Crisis: Two New Cases Confirmed Disease Free Water Challenge Eradicating A Pathogen	2
Hurricane Patricia: A Monster Honduran Fishing Village and Dirty Energy A Mass Die-off of Earth's Coral Reefs	3
Rise in Large Scale Refugee Movement UN Upholds Human Rights Minorities Speak Up in Latin America	4
Weekly Bulletin: QOTW & Events	5
FYI: Conversation with Stephen Lewis	6
FYI: Graduate Degree GH Programs	7
FYI: 2015 Global Hunger Index	8

The Oceans Are Becoming Too Hot for Coral, and Sooner than Expected

Warm conditions are building to a point where corals are severely threatened across the tropical Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Corals are losing colour across the three major ocean basins; a sign of a truly momentous global change.

[Read More on resilience.org](http://resilience.org)





Ebola Crisis: Two New Cases Confirmed in Guinea

The week before last was the first week that the three worst-affected countries - Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia - had seen no new infections. The virus has killed more than 11,000 people in nearly two years. One case was found in the capital Conakry and the other in Forecariah, a town in western Guinea. The case in Forecariah appeared to be linked to a previously known chain of infection, while the one in Conakry seemed to be new.

[Read More on BBC](#)

Disease Free Water, a Global Health Challenge, Commands an International Team Effort

Antibiotic resistance is a growing global public health threat causing an estimated 23,000 deaths in the US alone each year. One historically overlooked avenue by which antibiotic resistance can spread is through contact or consumption of contaminated water. For example, recent news articles have raised fears about human sewage tainted water at some of the venues for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and the potential spread of resistant 'super-bugs'.

[Read More on Eurekalert.org](#)



Eradicating A Pathogen

To exterminate a living species by accident is normally frowned on. To do so deliberately might thus seem an extraordinary sin. But if that species is *Plasmodium falciparum*, the sin may be excused. This parasitic organism causes the most deadly form of malaria. Together with four cousins, it is responsible for about 450,000 deaths a year, and the ruination of the lives of millions more people who survive the initial crisis of disease. Besides the direct suffering this causes, the lost human potential is enormous. The Gates Foundation, an American charity, reckons that eradicating malaria would bring the world \$2 trillion of benefits by 2040.

[Read More on Economist.com](#)



Why did Hurricane Patricia Become a Monster so Quickly?

Hurricane Patricia zoomed from tropical storm to record-beater in 30 hours flat like a jet-fueled sports car. Why? The Pacific storm had just the right ingredients. Plenty of warm water provided the energy for what meteorologists call explosive intensification. The air was much moister than usual, adding yet more fuel. And at the same time, upper-level crosswinds called shear that restrain a hurricane from strengthening were missing.

[Read More on The Big Story](#)

Honduran Fishing Village Says Adios to Candles and Dirty Energy

A small fishing village on the Caribbean coast of Honduras has become an example to be followed in renewable energies, after replacing candles and dirty costly energy based on fossil fuels with hydropower from a mini-dam, while reforesting the river basin. They now have round-the-clock electric power, compared to just three hours a week in the past. Fishing and farming are the only sources of work in the village, which makes electricity all the more important: in the past, because they couldn't refrigerate their catch, they had to sell it quickly, at low prices.

[Read More on ipsnews.org](http://ipsnews.org)



This is What a Mass Die-off of Earth's Coral Reefs Looks Like

Earth's coral reefs are in the midst of a massive dieoff, triggered by abnormally hot temperatures in ocean basins worldwide. It's hardly the first time in recent history that the world has witnessed a widespread coral bleaching event, and it won't be the last. In several decades, coral reefs could literally be extinct, a striking casualty of global climate change.

[Read More on gizmodo.com](http://gizmodo.com)



Rise in Large Scale Refugees Triggers New International Population Order

The unprecedented flow of hundreds and thousands of migrants and refugees continues from war-ravaged countries to Europe. Our world is undergoing a major population shift that will reshape economic development for decades. While this poses challenges, it also offers a path to ending extreme poverty and shared prosperity if the right evidence-based policies are put in place nationally and internationally.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](http://ipsnews.net)

United Nations Upholds Human Rights, World Bank Dismisses Them

The United Nations has always remained one of the most vociferous and passionate advocates of human rights, exemplified in the creation in 2006 of a 47-member Human Rights Council in Geneva to uphold its mandate. But, in its own political yard, the World Bank, is apparently working at cross-purposes. Specifically, the two words 'human rights' are missing from the safeguard requirements while they should be a priority.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](http://ipsnews.net)



Minorities Speak Out in Latin American Population Conference

Latin American countries with the largest numbers of indigenous people are: Mexico (nearly 17 million), followed by Peru (7.2 million), Bolivia (6.2 million) and Guatemala (5.9 million). The problems indigenous people face include forced displacement from their land, scarcity of food, pollution of their water sources, soil degradation, malnutrition and high mortality rates. Infant mortality rates among indigenous people are still higher than among the rest of the population. The biggest inequalities are found in Panama, Peru and Bolivia, in that order. And malnutrition is a major problem in Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua.

[Read More on ipsnews.net](http://ipsnews.net)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The willingness of every parent repeatedly to vaccinate their child may be the single most critical reason for success to date. Often, it is the parents of children who have contracted the virus who become our strongest advocates...I believe that polio can and will be eradicated.."

Peter Crowley,
UNICEF's polio team leader, commenting on the 99.9% reduction of cases.

[Read More on Devex](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Nov 5	Devex Virtual Grad School Fair e	On-line	https://app.brazenconnect.com/
Nov. 5-7	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Montreal Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/
Nov. 16-18	2015 Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH)	Kingston Canada	http://www.cucoh.com/about
Nov. 18-20	9th World Alliance For Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) & The Americas' Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) Global Conference 2015	St. John's Antigua	http://warfs15.squarespace.com
Nov. 25-27	7th Canadian Science Policy Conference 2015	Ottawa Canada	http://www.sciencepolicy.ca/
Apr 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco US	http://cugh.org/



[@PlanetaryWeekly](#)

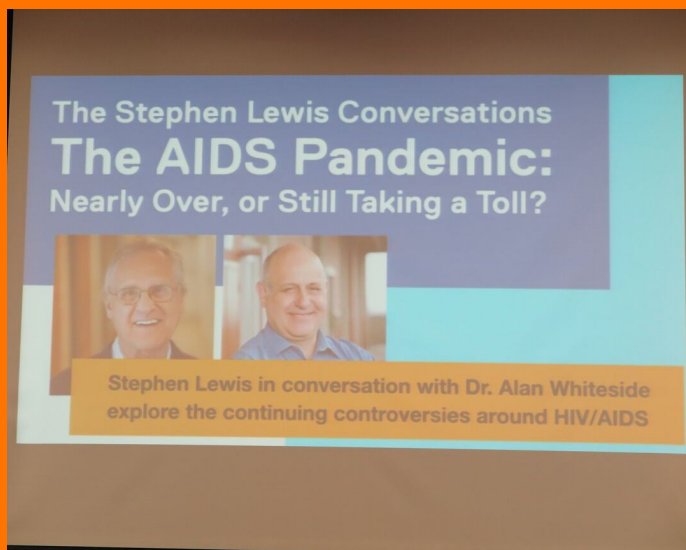


[@PlanetaryHealthWeekly](#)



[Planetary Health Weekly](#)

**CONNECT WITH
Planetary Health Weekly**



Conversations with Stephen Lewis

Conversation Event with Professors Stephen Lewis (Ryerson) and Alan Whiteside (Wilfrid Laurier)

The Planetary Health Commission in collaboration with the Faculty of Community Services successfully launched *The Stephen Lewis Conversations - The AIDS Pandemic: Nearly Over or Still taking a Toll?* at Ryerson University, Toronto, October 21, 2015.

[Watch the full event on ryecast.ca](http://ryecast.ca)



12 Graduate Degree Programs to Further your Global Development Career

A postgraduate education is typically an essential component of a global development professional's career path. A quick peek at the job postings on Devex or other job boards will reveal that an overwhelming majority require, or strongly prefer, candidates with a master's level education or higher.

In fact, 79 percent of professionals believe the global development workers of the future will need a postgraduate degree to be successful in their careers, according to a recent Devex study conducted in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development and Population Services International.

But even if you've decided to pursue a master's degree, how do you narrow your choices of study?

[Read More on Devex](#)



Synopsis: 2015 Global Hunger Index: Armed Conflict and the Challenge of Hunger

The 2015 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report, the tenth in an annual series, presents a multidimensional measure of national, regional and global hunger. It shows that the world has made progress in reducing hunger since 2000, but still has a long way to go, with levels of hunger still serious or alarming in 52 countries. The theme of this year's report is armed conflict and the challenge of hunger. Conflict and hunger are closely associated. Indeed, conflict is the main cause of persistent severe hunger, and countries with the lowest levels of food security are often engaged in or recently emerged from war. Although conflict and hunger often travel hand in hand, history has shown that hunger need not result from conflict.

[Read More on ifpri.org](http://ifpri.org)



An evening of engaging and stimulating conversation on HIV/AIDS with Stephen Lewis and Alan Whiteside, Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University, Toronto, October 21, 2015.

[Watch the full event on ryecast.ca](http://ryecast.ca)

This Newsletter is FREE.

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published by the Planetary Health Commission at Ryerson University in Toronto, ON, CANADA.

To Subscribe/Unsubscribe: <http://planetaryhealth.ca/contact>

CONTACTUS



@PlanetaryWeekly



planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com



@PlanetaryHealthWeekly



Planetary Health Weekly



planetary health commission

Discover: <http://planetaryhealth.ca/>

Editor: Dr. David Zakus
Email: dzakus@ryerson.ca

Production: Anna Oda

**Ryerson
University**

**Faculty of
Community
Services**

Programs designed to transcend disciplinary boundaries to find lasting solutions to social issues.

Child & Youth Care
Disability Studies
Early Childhood Studies
Midwifery
Nursing
Nutrition
Occupational & Public Health
Social Work
Urban & Regional Planning

350 Victoria St.
Toronto, ON
M5B 2K3