

# RYERSON UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

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Dr. Peter Piot—SEE BACK PAGE

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# PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON  
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS



Volume 1, Issue 4

April 2, 2015

## AIDS #1 Killer Of Adolescents



Global health organizations said Tuesday that AIDS is now the leading cause of death for adolescents in Africa, and the second leading cause of death among adolescents globally. Road accidents and injury are the number one killer of adolescents globally, said Michael Hollingdale, a UNAIDS spokesman.

About 120,000 people aged between 10-19 years died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2013.

See: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/291ce5b575824ddb99843ca122c1fca3/groups-aids-number-1-killer-adolescents-africa>

## Ways to Engage, Empower and Activate Environmentally Minded Youth

Problem solving. From games and mystery novels to space exploration and medical science, problem solving is something we humans do, and in many cases we do it very well. When it comes to the problems facing our environment, however, there seems to be a glitch in this fundamental human skill set. Fortunately for all of us, young people have a different view.

See: <https://www.devex.com/news/3-ways-to-engage-empower-and-activate-environmentally-minded-youth-85789>



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## Will Climate Change Affect the Spread of Tropical Diseases?

Many tropical diseases such as malaria, Chagas disease and dengue are transmitted to humans via mosquitoes and other carriers known as vectors. These vector-borne diseases continue to have a major impact on human health in the developing world: each year, more than a billion people become infected and around a million people die. In addition, around one in six cases of illness and disability worldwide arise from these diseases.



See: [https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/02/will-climate-change-affect-the-spread-of-tropical-diseases/?utm\\_content=buffercadd&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer&utm\\_source=mailoutinteracti](https://agenda.weforum.org/2015/02/will-climate-change-affect-the-spread-of-tropical-diseases/?utm_content=buffercadd&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&utm_source=mailoutinteracti&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Global%20Health%20Weekly%20-%20Vol%204%20Issue%209)

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## Lowest Sea Ice Ever Recorded



The latest satellite data shows the winter maximum extent of Arctic sea ice this year is the lowest recorded since measurements began in 1979. Provisional data from the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in the US shows 2015 has broken the previous record set in 2011 by 130,000 square kilometers.

Warm air temperatures in the Arctic have been a key reason why less ice has formed this winter, the NSIDC says.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-8Vh4D3ljE>)

See: [http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2015/03/arctic-sea-ice-hits-lowest-winter-peak-on-record/?utm\\_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm\\_campaign=e012cf9054-Carbon\\_Brief\\_Weekly\\_260315&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3ff5ea836a-e012cf9054-303440217](http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2015/03/arctic-sea-ice-hits-lowest-winter-peak-on-record/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=e012cf9054-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_260315&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-e012cf9054-303440217)

## Cap Must Be Set to 1.5°C to Fight Climate Change

The cap on global temperature increases should be lowered to 1.5 degrees Celsius from 2 degrees °C, says a report by Petra Tschakert, a geographer from Pennsylvania State University. [SciDev.net](http://SciDev.net)

World leaders must reduce the long-held target of limiting global warming to below two °C to avoid catastrophic impacts on the world's poorest people, says a leading climate scientist.

See: [http://www.dailylead.com/03/27/15/expert-cap-must-be-set-15-degrees-celsius-combat-climate-change#.VRloo\\_5FCUk](http://www.dailylead.com/03/27/15/expert-cap-must-be-set-15-degrees-celsius-combat-climate-change#.VRloo_5FCUk)



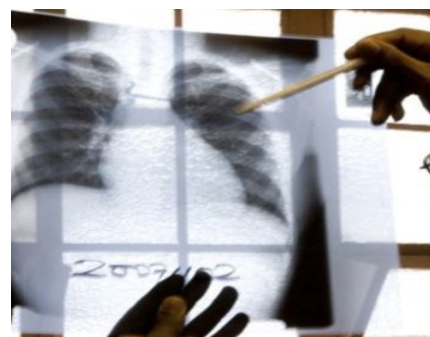
## Global Food Security



**By 2050, the world** will need to feed more than nine billion people, requiring nearly 70 percent more food than we consume today. *Global agriculture towards 2050*, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 2009, fao.org. Moreover, an expanding global middle class will demand more meat and other protein-rich foods, while extreme weather could slash yields in important agricultural regions. At the same time, prices of wheat, rice, and a number of other basic food commodities have been rising for a decade (Exhibit 1). Volatile food prices have repeatedly led to instability—and as the exhibit shows, the volatility continues to increase.

## TB, MDR-TB and XMDR-TB

In Kenya, one clinic in Nairobi's Mathare slum is treating 48 patients suffering from MDR-TB. One of the patients suffers from the extreme-drug resistant form of the disease [XDR-TB], which requires one to be under constant injection and oral medication for a minimum of 24-months. Home to more than half a million people, the shanty town is over-crowded. Health officials say this is a place vulnerable to an outbreak of tuberculosis...Partners In Health estimates 500,000 people develop MDR-TB every year and 10%



See: <http://www.voanews.com/content/medical-organizations-unite-to-battle-multi-drug-tuberculosis/2692605.html>

## Edible Insects: Grub Pioneers Aim To Make Bugs Palatable



Could insects be the next sushi and bug-burgers the new sirloin steak? Pat Crowley, founder of Chapul, which makes energy bars from finely milled crickets, hopes so!

Mr. Crowley launched his bug bars, which blend powdered cricket protein with ingredients such as ginger, chocolate and dates, from his home town of Salt Lake City in 2012. He began by stir-frying mealworms and crickets at parties and noticed that while some of his guests crunched fearlessly, others jib-bed when met by an insect eye. So he looked for ways to make insects palatable.

See: <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/bc0e4526-ab8d-11e4-b05a-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#slide0>



## Reproductive Health: R&D For The Developing World

Reproductive health is a broad concept that covers the reproductive processes, functions and system at all stages of life. It involves access to comprehensive services such as family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS. Some persistent reproductive health problems in developing countries (DCs) are not due to research and development (R&D) gaps. For example, they can be due to weak health systems, cultural barriers or lack of information. However, in many cases, R&D gaps remain a problem. The purpose of this report is to capture those investments specifically aimed at reproductive health R&D gaps in DCs, where the need is greatest.



See: <http://www.policycures.org/downloads/RH%20full%20report.pdf>

## Albinism in Tanzania



A one-year-old albino boy, abducted from his home in northwestern Tanzania over the weekend, was found murdered on Tuesday with his "arms and legs hacked off," according to the local police chief. This gruesome discovery shows that despite new laws banning the witch doctors who prey upon them, people with albinism are still vulnerable in the East African nation.

See: [https://news.vice.com/article/another-albino-child-is-murdered-and-mutilated-in-tanzania?utm\\_source=vicenewsemail&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=News\\_EN&utm\\_campaign=VICE%20News](https://news.vice.com/article/another-albino-child-is-murdered-and-mutilated-in-tanzania?utm_source=vicenewsemail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=News_EN&utm_campaign=VICE%20News)

## Ebola's Hidden Risk: Measles

Ebola has killed nearly 10,000 people in West Africa since the middle of last year, according to WHO with the heaviest impact in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. The outbreak has overburdened the medical systems in these countries, according to a study published today in the journal Science. According to the study, routine health care, like making sure kids get their shots on time, has been swept to the side as resources are funneled into fighting the epidemic.

See: [http://motherboard.vice.com/read/ebolas-hidden-risk-measles?utm\\_source=mbtwitter](http://motherboard.vice.com/read/ebolas-hidden-risk-measles?utm_source=mbtwitter)



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### CONFERENCES &

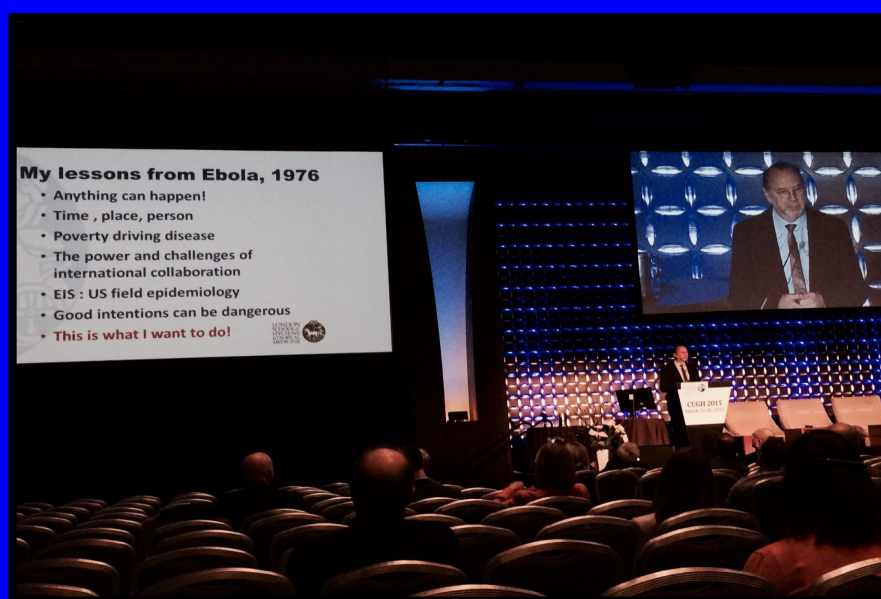


### SYMPOSIUMS

Date	Conference	Location	Registration Site
June 29-30, 2015	4th Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2015)	Singapore	<a href="http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/4th-annual-global-healthcare-conference-ghc-2015">http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/4th-annual-global-healthcare-conference-ghc-2015</a>
Aug. 25-27, 2015	The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015	Manila, Philippines	<a href="http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health">http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health</a>
November 5-7, 2015	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Montreal, Quebec	<a href="http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/">http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/</a>

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If we cannot live sustainably with 7.2 billion people, how are we going to support billions more by the end of this century? Fertility rates in many parts of the world are not falling as fast as previously anticipated. In some countries, both developed and developing, fertility rates are actually on the rise again. In 2014 the global average number of children born to each woman...was 2.5. If this rate were to remain unchanged, demographers suggest that we could have 27 billion...by the end of the century. Given our limited inheritance...a global population of that size is not even remotely possible. Bill Ryerson (<https://populationspeakout.org/the-book/ryerson-introduction/>)



Dr. Peter Piot, now Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, telling of his discovery of Ebola Disease Virus in 1976 and subsequent career during the Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference, Boston, March 27, 2015 ([www.cugh.org](http://www.cugh.org))

## Planetary Health Weekly

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