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FACULTY OF COMMUNITY
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Child and Youth Care
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PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS



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Global Pandemic of Fake Medicines Poses Urgent Risk



See: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150420122937.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2Ftop_science+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Science+News%29

Poor quality medicines are a real and urgent threat that could undermine decades of successful efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Discovery of falsified and substandard malaria drugs that caused an estimated 122,350 deaths in African children in 2013. Poor quality antibiotics harms health and increases antimicrobial resistance!

Meena's Story: Triumph to Tragedy - A Call to Action to Support Healthy Timing and Spacing of Births

Today an estimated 222 million women around the world in low and middle income countries know enough about family planning to say they want to practice it, but for a variety of reasons cannot gain access and use contraceptives. Imagine the tragedies, like Meena's, that are behind these numbers!



See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-gary-l-darmstadt/meenas-story-triumph-to-t_b_6924392.html

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Gender in Universal Health Coverage

To make universal health coverage (UHC) truly universal we need an approach that places gender and power at the center of our analysis. This means we need a discussion about who is included, how health is defined, what coverage entails and whether equity is ensured. To celebrate Universal Health Coverage Day RinGs has put together a list of ten arguments for why gender should be a central focus within UHC. If you agree, spread the word. Mail this list to a colleague or put it up on your website

See: <http://www.kractivist.org/why-gender-should-be-a-central-focus-for-universal-health-coverage/>



Only Three Countries Left With Polio



Polio is a life-changing disease that mostly affects young children. It's been around for thousands of years. In fact, ancient Egyptian carvings show young men with withered legs, but it wasn't until the 1900s that the number of cases began to increase in the U.S.

Oddly enough, it had to do with improved sanitation. Until then, children were repeatedly exposed to the polio virus, and that exposure gave them immunity. With better hygiene, children had less contact with the virus as infants, and polio began to spread.

See: <http://www.voanews.com/content/only-three-countries-left-with-polio/2713642.html>

\$300 Million Top-up from AfDB to Support Post-Ebola Recovery

African Development Bank President Donald Kaberuka announced \$300 million to support the national Post-Ebola Recovery program of Ebola-affected countries during the World Bank-IMF Spring Meetings in Washington. AfDB's funding will provide support to Governments of Ebola-affected countries by investing in health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and financial sectors. "Now is not the time to relax. We need to strengthen primary health care in Africa; give countries debt relief, and get ready to beat back the next epidemic".

See: http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/300-million-top-up-from-afdb-to-support-countries-post-ebola-recovery-programs-14174/?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokvaXNe%2B%2FhmjTEU5z16OorXae0iokz2EFye%2BLIHETpodcMTcVrM7vYDBceEJhgyQJxPr3DJNUN0ddxRhbkDQ%3D%3D17/04



Riches in World's Oceans Estimated at Staggering \$24 Trillion



"The ocean feeds us, employs us, and supports our health and well-being, yet we are allowing it to collapse before our eyes. If everyday stories of the ocean's failing health don't inspire our leaders, perhaps a hard economic analysis will...The ocean rivals the wealth of the world's richest countries, but it is being allowed to sink to the depths of a failed economy," said Marco Lambertini, director general of WWF International. "As responsible shareholders, we cannot seriously expect to keep recklessly extracting the ocean's valuable assets without investing in its future."

See: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/04/riches-in-worlds-oceans-estimated-at-staggering-24-trillion-dollars/>

Harper and Modi — the Nuclear Prime Ministers

On the first day of his state visit to Canada last week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi signed a deal with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa to confirm the export of 3,220 tonnes of uranium from northern Saskatchewan to India, a country that has never signed the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). That very day in Quebec City, Indigenous activists from all over the world working to end uranium mining were meeting with allies at the World Uranium Symposium. The symposium brought together 200 activists and organizers, physicians, environmentalists, and researchers from the natural and social sciences, all working with the intent to dismantle the nuclear industry and the huge costs associated with it.



See: <http://briarpatchmagazine.com/blog/view/harper-and-modi-nuclear-prime-ministers>

Groups Seek EPA Glyphosate Review After WHO 'Carcinogenic' Link



Food safety and environmental groups are asking EPA to "strongly weigh" a recent analysis by a World Health Organization (WHO) agency that labeled the widely used herbicide glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic" to humans in its upcoming review of the product. "As a result of WHO's rigorous and independent review, the link between glyphosate and cancer has now been greatly strengthened."

See: <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Groups-seek-EPA-glyphosate-review-after-WHO-carcinogenic-link-03272015.asp>

Harvard Researchers Debunk NRA's Favourite Talking Points

Anyone familiar with the gun debate has heard the talking points of the National Rifle Association and other gun rights advocates: "Carrying a gun for self-defense makes you safer." Or: "If only more ordinary citizens were armed, they could stop mass shootings." As we've shown in our reporting, these arguments don't stand up to scrutiny. After the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, commented on another long-running assertion from the gun lobby: "There is no evidence that having more guns reduces crime!"



See: <http://m.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/gun-research-harvard-nra>

Prevention from Violence Against Women and Girls



Many forms of violence exist, ie, intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual assault, female genital mutilation and child marriage.

Across different forms of violence, effective programs are commonly participatory, engage multiple stakeholders, support critical discussion about gender relationships and the acceptability of violence, and support greater communication and shared decision making among family members, as well as non-violent behaviour.

See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)61703-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0140-6736_20150418_385_9977_&elsca4=Public%20Health%7CInfectious%20Diseases%7CHealth%20Policy%7CInternal%2FFamily%20Medicine%7CGeneral%20Surgery%7CLancet](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61703-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc&elsca2=email&elsca3=0140-6736_20150418_385_9977_&elsca4=Public%20Health%7CInfectious%20Diseases%7CHealth%20Policy%7CInternal%2FFamily%20Medicine%7CGeneral%20Surgery%7CLancet)

The Right Health Investments

West Africa's Ebola epidemic has dominated headlines for much of the last year. But, as devastating as that outbreak has been, its death toll of less than 20,000 people is dwarfed by that of preventable diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which together caused more than three million deaths in 2013, hitting the world's poorest people the hardest. This need not be the case; indeed, addressing these diseases would be an extraordinarily good investment.

Health-related initiatives have the potential not only to save people's lives, but also to transform them, and thus should feature in the new global development agenda. The challenge lies in identifying the specific initiatives that will make the most of limited resources.



See: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/global-health-investments-by-bj-rn-lomborg-2015-04>

CONFERENCES &



SYMPOSIUMS

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Jeffrey Koplan and colleagues **define GLOBAL HEALTH** as:

“an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.”

See: <http://www.ianphi.org/documents/articlesArchives/2009Koplan%20Lancet.pdf>

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/ccqh2015/



NEPAL: Patan Durbar Square near Kathmandu, April 26, 2015
Front Page: Same Durbar Square in October, 2012

Planetary Health Weekly

This newsletter is **FREE**
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Production: Anna Oda



Conférence canadienne sur la santé mondiale 2015

22nd Canadian Conference on Global Health

L'Hôtel Bonaventure Montréal - Hotel Bonaventure Montreal
le 5 au 7 novembre 2015 - November 5 - 7, 2015



photo credit

Isabelle Bourgeois
Sophie Cabot

Call for Abstracts Now Open!

22nd Canadian Conference on Global Health November 5-7, 2015 – Montreal, Canada

Capacity Building for Global Health: Research & Practice

Deadline: Friday, May 29, 2015 by 17:00 hrs EST

New this year, if you wish to have your abstract "pre-evaluated" by volunteer mentors, please submit before April 22, 2015. Feedback from this pre-evaluation will be shared and you will have the option to edit your submission before the official deadline of May 29th.

Abstracts can be for oral and poster presentations, for workshops and symposia, and for documentaries and video capsules. Submissions on any global health topic are welcome but those related to the conference theme or sub-themes are preferred.

For more information and submission instructions: <https://www.ccgh-csih.ca/ccgh2015/abstracts/>