



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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A New Global Agenda for Nutrition and Health: The Importance of Agriculture and Food Systems

A productive, diverse, ecologically and socially sustainable agricultural sector has long been recognized as crucial for shaping healthy diets and improving human nutrition. New investments in agricultural research, and perhaps more aptly, food systems research, are needed to develop technologies for production of pulses, fruits and vegetables at lower costs.

[Read More on WHO](#)



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UK Government Confirms Zero-Emission Paris Goal to Be Enshrined in Law

The announcement means the UK's legal target to reduce emissions will be tightened from its current goal of an 80 per cent reduction against 1990 levels by 2050 under the Climate Change Act to a net-zero target by the second half of the century, bringing it in line with international pledges made in Paris in December. Green groups are likely to welcome the commitment to deliver a net zero emission target in law.

[Read More on businessGreen](#)





Crop Prospects and Food Situation

Crop Prospects and Food Situation is published by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO under the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). It is published four times a year and focuses on developments affecting the food situation of developing countries and the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in particular. The report provides a review of the food situation by geographic region, a section dedicated to the LIFDCs and a list of countries requiring external assistance for food. The latest 2016 report estimates that, globally, 34 countries, including 27 in Africa, are in need of external assistance for food.

[Read The Report on fao.org](http://fao.org)

Minimizing Out-of-Pocket Health Expenditure for India's Poor

India's economy grew at an average rate of 7.5% in 2015, faster than the 6.9% growth in China. So why is India home to the largest proportion of stunted children and anaemic women in the world? And why is substantial incongruity between funding and disease burden a trend in the country?

Well, if we look at the resources available for health programs, India allocates a mere 0.1 percent of gross domestic product on publicly funded drugs and medicines. This means that people have to incur two-thirds of the total out-of-pocket expenditure for drugs.

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



Ebola Survivors Left With Brain Problems

Most Ebola survivors continue to suffer from brain impairments months after their initial infection, a study in Liberia revealed.

The study showed that the Ebola virus penetrates into the brain and causes lasting symptoms. Nearly all Ebola survivors have some neurological disability. Symptoms range from headache, abnormal eye movement, tremors, reflex problems and muscle pain to memory loss and depression. These symptoms were striking to physicians involved in patient care and certainly surprising in young patients.

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



Zimbabwe Looks to The Sun As Drought Hits Hydropower

Zimbabwe is pushing forward with plans to build four new solar power plants, amid a drought that has battered its ability to generate hydroelectricity. Severe dry conditions - linked to the El Niño weather phenomenon bringing extreme weather around the world - are affecting big and small producers of hydropower alike.

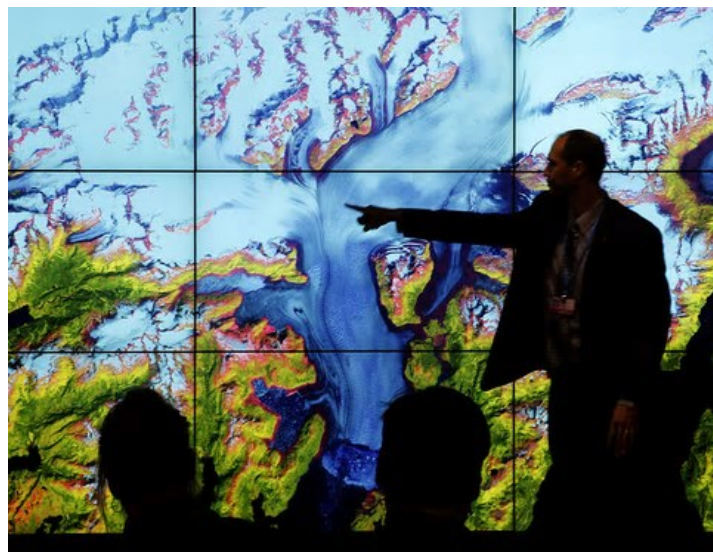
Phillip Muwungani of Chipendeke village, 70 km southeast of Mutare city, said his community's vision of producing its own clean electricity using water is fading.

[Read More on Reuters](#)

Climate Change is a Potent Element in the Deadly Brew of Disaster Risk

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and major insurance companies agree that, in 2015, figures for deaths, numbers of people affected and economic losses from disasters were below the 10-year average. Climate change is an increasingly potent element in the deadly brew of disaster risk. Already, at least 90% of disasters linked to natural hazards are climate related. Last year, thousands of people died from heatwaves in Europe and Asia, and droughts and floods –and those exacerbated by normal climate variability, such as the El Niño phenomenon – are increasing.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



Alterations to Our Diets as a Result of Climate Change Will Cause More Than Half a Million Extra Deaths by 2050

While the number of people dying from malnutrition around the world is expected to fall in coming decades, the benefits will be partly counteracted by the impacts of climate change on the availability of fruit, vegetables and staple crops, such as wheat and sorghum.

Climate change could have damaging consequences for food production and health worldwide.

[Read More on CarbonBrief](#)



Life After Aid Work: Heading for the Exit

A decade of hard scrabble field work can be leveraged in any number of ways. Ultimately, however, field work is a single person's game. Families, existing or emerging, tend not to survive places such as Tajikistan, Congo and Iraq. In observing the careers of aid workers, those fabled crossroads appear exactly at the point when field work is no longer a viable option. Critical decisions have to be made for or against love, for or against health, for or against excitement, for or against stability. A few smart ones see the future for what it is and exit without too much angst. Most people, however, opt to stay in and try their hand at management, or fancy they have what it takes to be "advisers" of one sort or another.

[Read More on Devex](#)

WHO Ups Battle Against Deadly Mosquitoes

The WHO plans to integrate mosquito eradication efforts into its contributions to six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goal #6 on water to ensure people have access to larvae-free water sources and goal 11 on making urban environments safe. In addition, the organization will focus more on other Aedes-borne diseases, particularly dengue fever. Dengue causes 390 million infections in 128 countries annually, while only 128 million people in 97 countries catch malaria every year.

[Read More on SciDevNet](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH For Wab Kinew, The Personal is Political: An Encounter With Cancer and Sacred Ceremonies

The more that Winnipeg broadcaster and musician (and recently declared political candidate) Wab Kinew reconnected with his cancer-stricken father, Tobasonakwut, in 2012, during the last year of his life, the more Kinew saw echoes of wider themes in Canadian history. Tobasonakwut, a prominent traditional chief, had been severely harmed by the residential school system, and was at times harsh to his children, before courageously dedicating himself to reconciliation and healing.

[Read More on macleans.ca](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When The Ship Comes In"

Bob Dylan (1964)

**Oh the time will come up
When the winds will stop
And the breeze will cease to be breathin'
Like the stillness in the wind
'Fore the hurricane begins
The hours when the ship comes in.**

[Read More on vimeo](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Apr. 8-9	Planetary Health Conference: Global Health and Ecological Wellness	Toronto Canada	http://ryerson.ca/fcs/conferences/
Apr. 9-11	7th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference	San Francisco USA	http://cugh.org/
Apr. 16-17	Global Health and Innovation Conference	New Haven USA	https://maestro
May 13	Integrative Health Institute (IHI) Inaugural Conference	Edmonton Canada	https://uofa.ualberta.ca/
May 13-15	Peace, Global Health and Sustainability (PEGASUS)	Toronto Canada	http://www.pegasusconference.ca/
May 17-20	International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health (ICIMH)	Las Vegas USA	https://www.cvent.com/
May 26-27	Indigenous Health Conference	Toronto Canada	http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/
Jul. 8-9	2016 Summer Global Nursing Symposium	Los Angeles USA	http://www.uofriverside.com/
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	http://www.who.int/healthpromotion



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Journal of FMCH Special Edition on Global Health

Family Medicine and Community Health (FMCH) is an open-access, peer-reviewed international journal focusing on subjects that are common and relevant to family medicine/general practice and community health. The journal publishes on a quarterly basis relevant content across disciplines such as epidemiology, public health, social and preventive medicine, research and evidence based medicine, community health service, patient education and health promotion and health ethics. The Special Edition on Global Health includes a great variety of research articles across the globe such as:

PHW Editor David Zakus also has the guest editorial on global health in the first issue of this year (<http://dx.doi.org/10.15212/FMCH.2016.0108>)

“Performing arts as a social technology for community health promotion in northern Ghana.” By: Frishkopf, Michael; Hamze, Hasan; Alhassan, Mubarak; Zukpeni, Ibrahim Abukari; Abu, Sulemana; Zakus, David
And

“Traditional knowledge in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention program in northern Uganda.”
By: Akena, Francis Adyanga

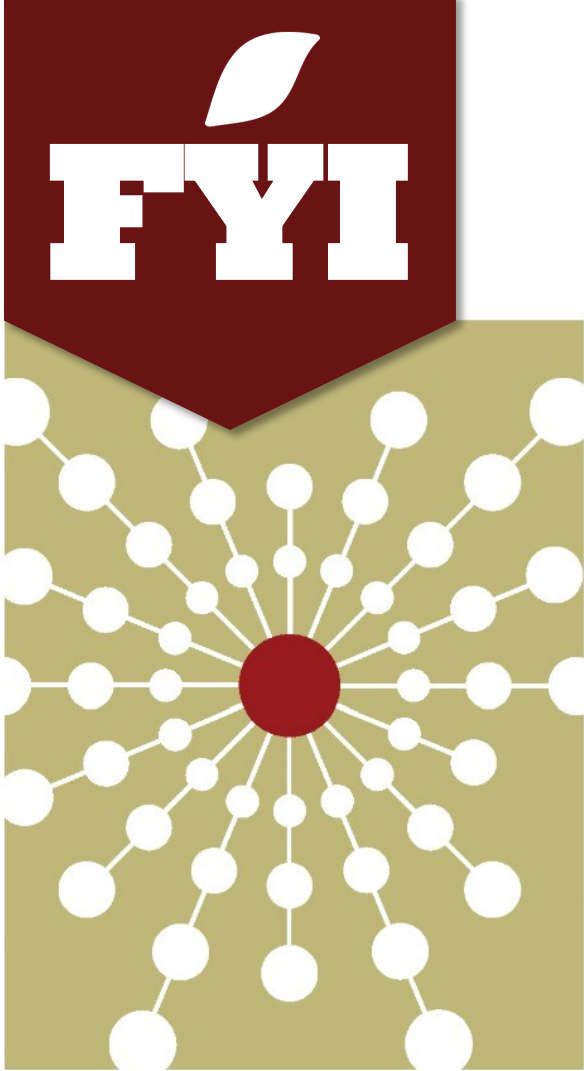
[Read More on the FMCH](#)



A New Article by Professor Ioannidis: Evidence-Based Medicine Has Been Hijacked: A Report to David Sackett

Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) has become far more recognized and adopted in many places, but not everywhere, for example, it never acquired much influence in the USA. As EBM became more influential, it was also hijacked to serve agendas different from what it originally aimed for. Influential randomized trials are largely done by and for the benefit of industry. Meta-analyses and guidelines have become a factory, mostly also serving vested interests. National and federal research funds are funneled almost exclusively to research with little relevance to health outcomes. We have supported the growth of principal investigators who excel primarily as managers absorbing more money. Diagnosis and prognosis research and efforts to individualize treatment have fueled recurrent spurious promises. Risk factor epidemiology has excelled in salami-sliced data-dredged articles with gift authorship and has become adept to dictating policy from spurious evidence. Under market pressure, clinical medicine has been transformed to finance-based medicine. In many places, medicine and health care are wasting societal resources and becoming a threat to human well-being. Science denialism and quacks are also flourishing and leading more people astray in their life choices, including health. EBM still remains an unmet goal, worthy to be attained.

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



CENTRE FOR RACE AND CULTURE

Centre for Race and Culture

Center for Race and Culture Consulting provides solutions to businesses, organizations and communities who are looking to address the challenges and opportunities that diversity and inclusion present. Their experienced consultants can increase workforce productivity, access currently untapped labour pools, create inclusive work environments and contribute to healthier communities.

CRC Consulting Services arose out of an increasing demand in Canada for specific knowledge and guidance addressing the complex issues of diversity and inclusion in organizations, businesses, government institutions and communities.

Applying creative and critical perspectives and following a social enterprise model, solutions are developed to meet the demand for quality services while continuing community programming continues. CRC Consulting contributes to the success of organizations and to the health of its communities. All proceeds generated benefit community programming, supporting another dimension to its work towards inclusion.

[Visit Centre for Race and Culture Website to Learn More](#)



Tracking the Zika Virus at Ryerson University

Imagine a fourth-year work placement with global impact. At BlueDot, students and alumni from Ryerson's Department of Geography are helping to spearhead the next generation of infectious disease research.

Based at St. Michael's Hospital's Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, BlueDot uses big data to predict the outbreak and spread of diseases. Launched in 2013 by Dr. Kamran Khan after a long gestation period, the company gathers experts in geographic information systems (GIS), spatial analysis, data visualization and computer science to create mathematical predictive models. BlueDot has already made headlines for predicting the spread of the Zika virus from Brazil.

[Read More on ryerson.ca](http://ryerson.ca)



Recognizing Inequities for First Nation Children

In late January, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled that the federal government's funding model discriminates against First Nation children on reserves. The ruling came about as a result of a complaint filed by Cindy Blackstock and the Assembly of First Nations. Speaking in response to the ruling, Cindy Blackstock said, "I pray we can finally use this as a nation to end racial discrimination that is happening in this country. This is our Mississippi."

[Read More on CBC](#)

Planetary Health Conference

Global Health and Ecological Wellness

**Start Local - Think Global - Make the Connections
Meet the Players - Become a Global Citizen**



April 8, 2016

5:30 - 9:00 P.M.

The Stephen Lewis Conversations Series with **Maude Barlow**, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians.

April 8 & 9, 2016

**Ryerson University
Tecumseh Auditorium
Oakham House
63 Gould Street**

April 9, 2016

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Presentations showcasing global health and ecological wellness initiatives led by Ryerson's professors, students and staff with keynote speaker, **Bill Ryerson**, Founder and President of Population Media Center, and Chair and CEO of the Population Institute.

Explore engagement and ideas from across Ryerson's campus dealing with important and urgent Planetary Health issues.

RSVP: <http://ryerson.ca/fcs/conferences/planetary-health/>

Ryerson University

Faculty of Community Services



planetary health commission



While reflecting more on social transformation and trying to understand the implications of the horrible events in Brussels this week: it may become increasingly more difficult to enjoy scenes like this (from 120km north of Toronto) and be one with nature at times.

This Newsletter is FREE.

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published in collaboration with the **Planetary Health Commission** at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada
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**Faculty of
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disciplinary boundaries to find lasting
solutions to social issues.*

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