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CONTENTS

Joint Statement

- 1333** Mission critical partnership for infection prevention success
Karen Hoffmann and Hilary Babcock

SHEA White Paper

- 1334** Research needs in antibiotic stewardship
Andrew M. Morris, Michael S. Calderwood, Scott K. Fridkin, Daniel J. Livorsi, Jessina C. McGregor, Lona Mody, Rebekah W. Moehring, Amy L. Pakyz, Edward Stenehjem, Julia E. Szymczak and Pranita D. Tamma

Original Articles

- 1344** High versus low intensity: What is the optimal approach to prospective audit and feedback in an antimicrobial stewardship program?
Bradley J. Langford, Kevin A. Brown, April J. Chan and Mark Downing
- 1348** Impact of an electronic best-practice advisory in combination with prescriber education on antibiotic prescribing for ambulatory adults with acute, uncomplicated bronchitis within a large integrated health system
Courtney M. Pagels, Thomas J. Dilworth, Lynne Fehrenbacher, Maharaj Singh and Charles F. Brummitt
- 1356** Respiratory viruses on personal protective equipment and bodies of healthcare workers
Linh T. Phan, Dagmar Sweeney, Dayana Maita, Donna C. Moritz, Susan C. Bleasdale and Rachael M. Jones for the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program
- 1361** Adoption of infection prevention and control practices by healthcare workers in Québec: A qualitative study
Eve Dubé, Armelle Lorcy, Nathalie Audy, Nadia Desmarais, Patrice Savard, Chantal Soucy, Samuel Bassetto, Mathilde Rajon, Fabrice Brunet, Caroline Barbir and Caroline Quach
- 1367** A comprehensive unit-based safety program for the reduction of surgical site infections in plastic surgery and hand surgery
Laura Lenherr Ramos, Rainer Weber, Hugo Sax, Pietro Giovanoli and Stefan P. Kuster
- 1374** The impact of surgical site infections on hospital contribution margin—a European prospective observational cohort study
Marco von Strauss, Walter R. Marti, Edin Mujagic, Michael Coslovsky, Katharina Diernberger, Peter Hall, Jasmin Zeindler, Lilian A. Salm, Savas D. Soysal, Robert Mechera, Urs von Holzen and Walter P. Weber
- 1380** Predicting hospital-onset *Clostridium difficile* using patient mobility data: A network approach
Kristen Bush, Hugo Barbosa, Samir Farooq, Samuel J. Weisenthal, Melissa Trayhan, Robert J. White, Ekaterina I. Noyes, Gourab Ghoshal and Martin S. Zand

- 1387** Multiple importations and transmission of colistin-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a hospital in northern India
Purva Mathur, Surbhi Khurana, Tom J.B. de Man, Neha Rastogi, Omika Katoch, Balaji Veeraraghavan, Ayyan Raj Neeravi, Manigandan Venkatesan, Subodh Kumar, Sushma Sagar, Amit Gupta, Richa Aggarwal, Kapil Dev Soni, Rajesh Malhotra, Anoop Velayudhan, Valan Siromany, Paul Malpiedi, Joseph Lutgring, Kayla Laserson, Neil Gupta, Padmini Srikantiah and Aditya Sharma
- 1394** The devil is in the details: Factors influencing hand hygiene adherence and contamination with antibiotic-resistant organisms among healthcare providers in nursing facilities
John P. Mills, Ziwei Zhu, Julia Mantey, Savannah Hatt, Payal Patel, Keith S. Kaye, Kristen Gibson, Marco Cassone, Bonnie Lansing and Lona Mody
- 1400** Nudging In MicroBiology Laboratory Evaluation (NIMBLE): A scoping review
Bradley J. Langford, Elizabeth Leung, Reem Haj, Mark McIntyre, Linda R. Taggart, Kevin A. Brown, Mark Downing and Larissa M. Matukas
- 1407** Measles outbreak from Hong Kong International Airport to the hospital due to secondary vaccine failure in healthcare workers
Vincent C.C. Cheng, Shuk-Ching Wong, Sally C.Y. Wong, Siddharth Sridhar, Jonathan H.K. Chen, Cyril C.Y. Yip, Derek L.L. Hung, Xin Li, Vivien W.M. Chuang, Owen T.Y. Tsang, Gibson K.S. Woo, Shuk-Kwan Chuang and Kwok-Yung Yuen

Concise Communications

- 1416** Errors in antibiotic transitions between hospital and nursing home: How often do they occur?
Drew T. Dickinson, Syma Rashid, Anastasiia Weiland, Thomas Tjoa, Diane S. Kim and Susan S. Huang
- 1420** Optimizing utilization of beta-lactam surgical prophylaxis through implementation of a structured allergy assessment tool in a presurgical clinic
John-Ericson P. Margallo, Ethan A. Smith, Gregory Marks, Michael Ben-Aderet, Haoshu Yang, Meghan Madhusudhan, Sneha Krishna, Ann Duran, Arnold Friedman, Suzanne L. Cassel, Hai Tran, Rita Shane, Rekha K. Murthy and Jonathan D. Grein
- 1423** Impact of an electronic hard-stop clinical decision support tool to limit repeat *Clostridioides difficile* toxin enzyme immunoassay testing on test utilization
Jennie H. Kwon, Kimberly A. Reske, Tiffany Hink, Ronald Jackups, Carey-Ann D. Burnham and Erik R. Dubberke
- 1427** Impacts of silver-coated antimicrobial screen covers on the cell-phone microbiome of resident physicians
Alexander W. McCumber, Savannah J. Volkoff, Deverick J. Anderson and Claudia K. Gunsch
- 1430** Association between chlorhexidine gluconate concentrations and resistant bacterial bioburden on skin
Gita Nadimpalli, Lyndsay M. O'Hara, Surbhi Leekha, David P. Calfee, Loren G. Miller, Lisa Pineles, Natalia Blanco, J. Kristie Johnson and Anthony D. Harris for the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program
- 1433** Pseudo-outbreak of *Mycobacterium chimaera* through aerators of hand-washing machines at a hematopoietic stem cell transplantation center
Shingen Nakamura, Momoyo Azuma, Masami Sato, Noriko Fujiwara, Saori Nishino, Takayuki Wada and Shiomi Yoshida

Research Briefs

- 1436** Evaluation of an alcohol-based antiseptic for nasal decolonization of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in colonized patients
Anubhav Kanwar, Jessica A. Kumar, Yilen K. Ng-Wong, Manish Thakur, Jennifer L. Cadnum, Heba Alhmidi, Thriveen S. C. Mana, Annette L. Jencson and Curtis J. Donskey
- 1438** Evaluation of dilute hydrogen peroxide technology for continuous room decontamination of multidrug-resistant organisms
William A. Rutala, Hajime Kanamori, Maria F. Gergen, Emily E. Sickbert-Bennett, Deverick J. Anderson, Daniel J. Sexton, David J. Weber for the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program
- 1440** *Clostridium difficile* infection following outpatient cancer surgery
Bevin Cohen, Marcia Levine and Mini Kamboj

Letter to the Editor

- 1442** Clinical significance of nosocomial *Cryptococcus laurentii* in urine: A case series
Jazmín Itzayana Salazar-Leal, Sandra María Ramírez-Montelongo and Bruno Ali López Luis
- 1444** Age: A variable whose definition we should not ignore
Anne F. Voor in 't holt

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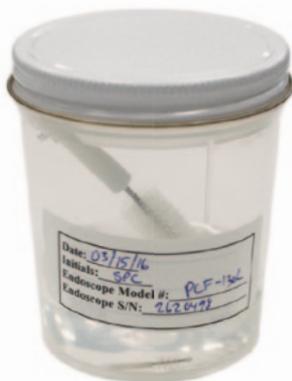
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About the cover:



Since 2015, the cover format of each volume of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* has been changed to honor one of the many professionals throughout history who recognized not only how disease might be spread but also how those principles could be applied to reduce health care associated infections.

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon or Moses Maimonides (son of Maimon) was born in Cordoba, Spain, a center of intellectual and religious freedom, on March 30, circa 1135. Maimon ben Joseph, his father, was a prominent scholar, writer, and judge for Jewish religious courts. Maimonides studied with Averroes, a prominent physician-philosopher. In 1148, his family left Cordoba after a repressive dynasty, the Almohades Caliphate that ruled in Spain and North Africa during the 12th and 13th centuries, required that they either convert to Islam, emigrate, or be put to death. They wandered first to Fez, Morocco, and to Acco, Palestine, before finally settling in Old Cairo (Fostat), Egypt, circa 1165. His father and brother established a business selling precious stones, but soon after, his father died and his brother David perished in a shipwreck. Maimonides turned to medicine as a means to support both families. While only in his thirties, Maimonides was appointed as physician to the Court of the Sultan, and he served as head of the Jewish community in Cairo. During the Crusades, Maimonides' reputation as a healer was so great that King Richard the Lion hearted offered him a position as his personal physician.

Maimonides wrote many scholarly works on a variety of subjects ranging from biblical and Talmudic law to logic, science, and medicine. He embraced the use of careful scientific reasoning and eschewed mysticism. In his 10 books on medicine, Maimonides was an early advocate for the importance of hygiene, bathing, and the need for fresh air, clean water, a healthy diet, as well as proper disposal of refuse and placement of toilets far away from living quarters. Maimonides was an early "steward" who recommended nonpharmacological interventions first. He also noted where evidence was lacking and further investigation was needed before recommendations could be made. Many of the concerns and observations that Maimonides made more than 800 years ago remain highly relevant to the field of infection prevention and control today.

Maimonides died in Cairo on December 13, 1204 at the age of 69. Several legends are ascribed to Maimonides. It is unlikely that he wrote the Oath of Maimonides. He is buried in Tiberias, Palestine, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in present-day Israel. However, this site was not chosen at random by a donkey that roamed free while bearing his body; Maimonides was interred at Tiberias at his request. Even today, Maimonides remains a highly regarded physician, philosopher, and scholar among Jewish, Arabic, and Christian circles.

Cover image: Statue of the Jewish scholar Moses Maimonides, Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon, Cordoba, Andalusia, Spain - courtesy of Shutterstock.