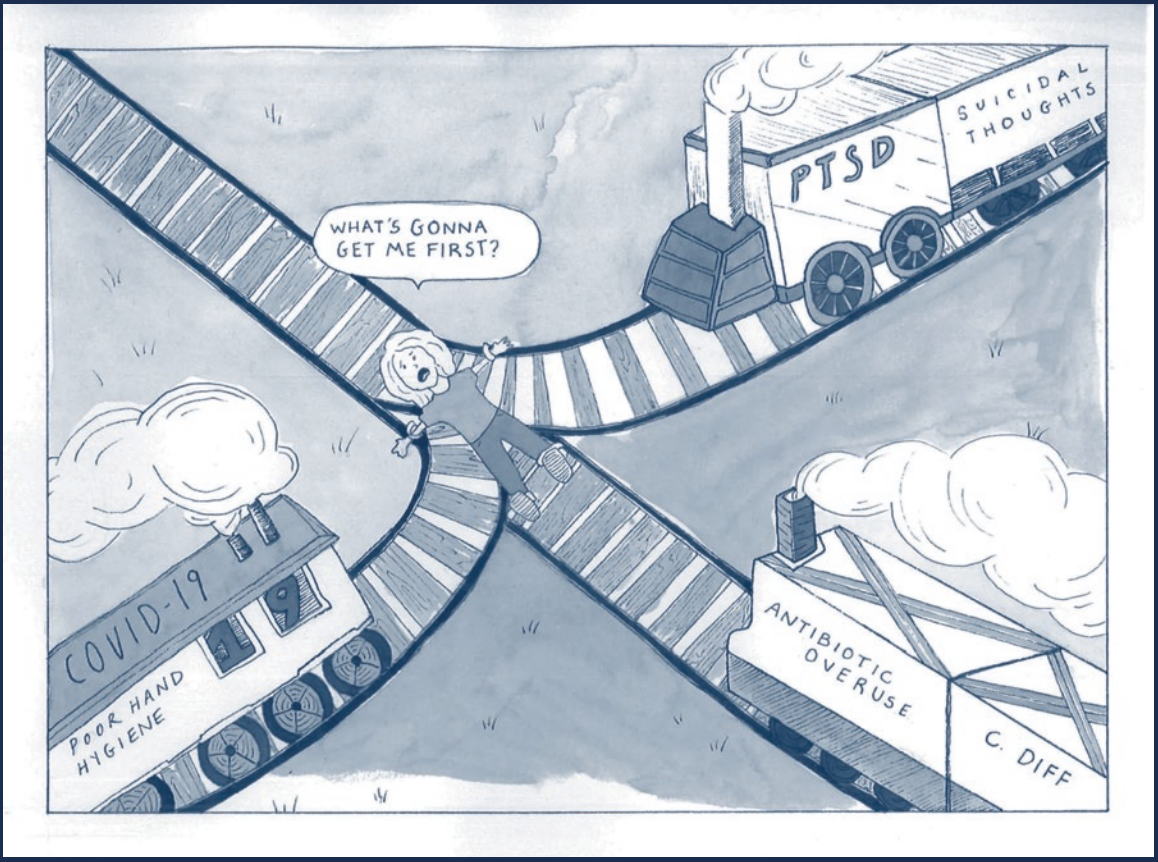
Volume 47, No 4
Apr 2026

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology

ICHE



SHEA
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.10274 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology

Volume 47 2026 Number 4

CONTENTS

SHEA Position Paper

331 Vaccines for healthcare personnel: a core safety measure. A position statement from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
David J. Weber, Grace M. Lee, Erica S. Shenoy, Deborah S. Yokoe, Rajalakshmi Ananthanarayanan, Carolee Estelle, Jesse T. Jacob, Jennie H. Kwon, Lisa L. Maragakis, Rekha Murthy, Priya Nori, Ann-Christine Nyquist, Catherine Passaretti, Lisa Saiman, Julia E. Szymczak and Thomas R. Talbot

Original Articles

334 Optimization of vancomycin use in hospitalized patients with pneumonia through implementation of informatics based antimicrobial stewardship program (ASP) intervention
Ashlesha Kaushik, Brittany Esty, Corey Thieman, Susannah Kisvarday, Bijay Acharya, Dionne Graham, Michael Padomek, Chakri Pureti and Sandeep Gupta

342 Antibiotic guideline concordance and area deprivation in the US emergency departments, 2015–2024
Mayar Al Mohajer, David Slusky, David Nix, Kasim Allel, Sabra Shay and Catia Nicodemo

351 Leveraging a large language model to support expansion of surveillance activities to include cardiovascular implantable device infections in a large, integrated national healthcare system
Dipandita Basnet, Hillary J. Mull, Daniel J. Morgan, Samuel W. Golenbock, Rebecca P. Lamkin, Judith M. Strymish, Kimberly Harvey, Kaeli Yuen, Marin L. Schweizer, Dimitri Drekonja, Maria C. Rodriguez-Barradas and Westyn Branch-Elliman

357 Bridging borders: adapting the Orange County methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* decolonization protocol for an infirmary unit in Hong Kong
Shuk-Ching Wong, Germaine Kit-Ming Lam, Raveena D. Singh, Edwin Kwan-Yeung Chiu, Kelvin Hei-Yeung Chiu, Pui-Hing Chau, Jonathan Daniel Ip, Bingpeng Yan, Simon Yung-Chun So, Wai-On Tam, Patrick Ka-Chun Chiu, Kong-Hung Sze, Edmond Siu-Keung Ma, Kwok-Yung Yuen, Susan S. Huang and Vincent Chi-Chung Cheng

365 Frequency of intravenous-to-oral antibiotic switch in VA hospitalized patients with community-acquired pneumonia
Logan Daniels, Brett Heintz, Brian Lund, Bruce Alexander and Daniel Livorsi

373 *Candidozyma auris* prevention practices in the United States: insights from the SHEA Research Network
Hannakate Lichota, McKenzi King, Rachel Medernach, Lahari Thotapalli, Ronda Cochran, Mary K. Hayden and Sarah E. Sansom

379 Clinical and operational impact of a four-year-long bronchoscopy-associated pseudo-outbreak of *Mycobacterium mucogenicum*
Kavitha Prabaker, Ran Zhuo, Sanchi Malhotra, Shangxin Yang, Colette Match, Sebora Turay, Eve Bluntson, Shaunte Walton, Tiffany Dogan and Daniel Uslan

Cover image: ***A Victim of Outside Forces,*** **2021**

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.10274 Published online by Cambridge University Press

386 Current infection control practices for multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO): a survey of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) research network and affiliated US-based hospitals
K.C. Coffey, Trudy Grossman, David B. Banach, Anthony D. Harris, David C. Hooper, Susan S. Huang, and Erica S. Shenoy

394 Decrease in healthcare-associated infection rates in preterm infants—longitudinal data from 15 years of nationwide surveillance in Germany
Ferenc Darius Ruether, Frank Schwab, Gizem Karadağ, Christine Geffers and Brar Piening

402 Digital misinformation and antimicrobial stewardship: cross-platform epidemiologic signals from a decade of online discourse (2015–2025)
Ahmad Sabbah and Ahmad Abadleh

Concise Communications

409 Inpatient direct oral challenge for sulfa antibiotic allergy: improving care in immunocompromised hosts
Elise A. Mitri, Sara Vogrin, Rebecca Hall, Ronald Ma, Gemma K. Reynolds and Jason A. Trubiano

414 Exploring AI-assisted cameras to assess use of contact precautions
Robert J. McLuckey, Zaki Chowdhury, Katherine E. Goodman, Lisa Pineles, Michelle Newman, Gregory M. Schrank, Daniel J. Morgan, Giuliano Scarcelli and Anthony D. Harris

417 Not everyone is special: evaluation of indication in a urinalysis-driven reflex urine culture protocol at an academic medical center
Mackenzie Rae Keintz, Jasmine R. Marcelin, Mark E. Rupp and Trevor C. Van Schooneveld

421 A pilot study to compare swab versus fluid culture obtained from infected sites in the operating room
Monica Lou, Avvi Shabat, Priya Amin, Raymond Lopez, Kenneth Muldrew and Daniel Musher

Research Brief

424 Azithromycin use for common acute respiratory infections during a *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* national surge: results from the SHARPS-OP benchmarking collaborative
Rana E. El Feghaly, Matthew P. Kronman, Michael J. Smith, Sameer J. Patel, Rosemary Olivero, Joshua Herigon, Ann Wirtz, Brian R. Lee and For the Sharing Antimicrobial Reports for Pediatric Stewardship Outpatient (SHARPS-OP) Collaborative

Letters to the Editor

427 Antimicrobial stewardship without borders: a case study in sustainable collaboration between the University of Florida, University of Rwanda and the University Teaching Hospital of Kigali
Fabian Quiroga, Sophia Garcia, Vy Dinh, Innocent Hahirwa, Leopold Bitunguhari, Kartik Cherabuddi, Kathryn E. DeSear, Barbara A. Santevecchi, Veena Venugopalan, Lisa Vuong and Kayihura Manigaba

428 Re-evaluate the downgrade of subglottic secretion drainage in VAP prevention guidelines: a call for evidence-based transparency
Hamid Khosrowshahi

430 Reply to Khosrowshahi
Michael Klompas

Corrigendum

431 Vaccines for healthcare personnel: a core safety measure. A position statement from the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) – CORRIGENDUM
David J. Weber, Grace M. Lee, Erica S. Shenoy, Deborah S. Yokoe, Rajalakshmi Ananthanarayanan, Carolee Estelle, Jesse T. Jacob, Jennie H. Kwon, Lisa L. Maragakis, Rekha Murthy, Priya Nori, Ann-Christine Nyquist, Catherine Passaretti, Lisa Saiman, Julia E. Szymczak and Thomas R. Talbot

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.10274 Published online by Cambridge University Press

INFECTION CONTROL & HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

cambridge.org/ICHE

An Official Publication of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
David P. Calfee, MD, MS • New York, NY, USA

DEPUTY EDITOR
Tara N. Palmore, M.D., Washington, D.C.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Westyn Branch-Elliman, MD, MMSc • Los Angeles, CA, USA
Joshua K. Schaffzin, MD, PhD • Ottawa, ON, Canada
Trevor C. Van Schooneveld, MD • Omaha, NE, USA
David Weber, MD, MPH • Chapel Hill, NC, USA

STATISTICS CONSULTANT
Jessina C. McGregor, PhD • Portland, OR, USA
Eric T. Lofgren, MS, PhD • Pullman, WA, USA

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATION
Lindsay MacMurray, Brooklyn, NY, USA

MANAGING EDITOR
Julia Russo, Washington, D.C., USA

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Alexander J. Sundermann, DrPH, CIC, FAPIC, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

PAST EDITORS, INFECTION CONTROL
Richard P. Wenzel, MD, Infection Control 1980-1987 (vols. 1-8)

PAST EDITORS, INFECTION CONTROL & HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY
Richard P. Wenzel, MD, 1988-1992 (vols. 9-13)
Michael D. Decker, MD, 1993-2001 (vols. 14-22)
Barry M. Farr, MD, 2000-2004 (vols. 23-25)
William R. Jarvis, MD, 2005-2006 (vols. 26 and 27)
Suzanne F. Bradley, MD, 2007-2021 (vols. 28-42)

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
Deverick Anderson, MD, MPH • Durham, NC, USA
Anucha Apisarnthanarak, MD • Pratumthani, Thailand
Lennox Archibald, MD, FRCP • Alachua, FL, USA
Jo Anne Bennett, RN, PhD • New York, NY, USA
David Birnbaum, PhD, MPH • Sidney, BC, Canada
Yehuda Carmeli, MD, MPH • Tel Aviv, Israel
Vincent C.C. Cheng, MBBS, MD. • Hong Kong, China
Christopher Crnich, MD, MS • Madison, WI, USA
Erika D' Agata, MD, MPH • Providence, RI, USA
Daniel Diekema, MD • Portland, ME, USA
Elizabeth Dodds Ashley, PharmD • Durham City, NC, USA
Curtis J. Donskey, MD • Cleveland, OH, USA
Charles E. Edmiston, Jr., PhD • Milwaukee, WI, USA
Katherine Ellingson, PhD • Tucson, AZ, USA
Charlesnika T. Evans, PhD • Chicago, IL, USA
Mohamad Fakih, MD, MPH • Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, USA
Jeffery Gerber, MD, PhD • Philadelphia, PA, USA
Dale N. Gerding, MD • Hines, IL, USA
Donald A. Goldmann, MD • Boston, MA, USA
Nicholas Graves, PhD • Singapore, Singapore
Donna Haiduven, PhD, RN, CIC, CPH, FAPIC • Tampa, FL, USA
Anthony D. Harris, MD, MPH • Baltimore, MD, USA
David K. Henderson, MD • Bethesda, MD, USA
Elizabeth Henderson, PhD • Calgary, AB, Canada
Loreen A. Herwaldt, MD • Iowa City, IA, USA
John A. Jernigan, MD, MS • Atlanta, GA, USA
Robin L.P. Jump, MD, PhD • Cleveland, OH, USA
Mini Kamboj, MD • New York, NY, USA
Carol A. Kauffman, MD • Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Michael Klompas, MD • MPH, Boston, MA, USA
Sarah Krein, RN, PhD • Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Karl Madaras-Kelly, PharmD • MPH, Boise, ID, USA
Jasmine R. Marcelin, MD • Omaha, NE, USA
Allison McGeer, MD • Toronto, ON, Canada
Leonard A. Mermel, DO, ScM • Providence, RI, USA
Linda Mundy, MD • Collegeville, PA, USA
Ann-Christine Nyquist, MD, MSPH • Aurora, CO, USA
Pierre Parneix, MD • Bordeaux, France
Jan Evans Patterson, MD • San Antonio, TX, USA
David A. Pegues, MD • Philadelphia, PA, USA
Didier Pittet, MD, MS • Geneva, Switzerland
Anusha Rohit, MD, PhD • Dip RCPath, Chennai, India
William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH • Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Sanjay Saint, MD, MPH • Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Felicia A. Scaggs Huang, MD, MSc, Cincinnati, OH, USA
Marin Schweizer, PhD • Madison, WI, USA
Lynne M. Sehulster, PhD • Atlanta, GA, USA
John A. Sellick, DO • Amherst, NY, USA
Erica S. Shenoy, MD, PhD • Boston, MA, USA
Anna C. Sick-Samuels, MD, MPH • Baltimore, MD, USA
Rachel B. Slayton, PhD, MPH • Atlanta, GA, USA
Xiaoyan Song, PhD, MBBS, CIC • Washington, DC, USA
Arjun Srinivasan, MD • Atlanta, GA, USA
Kurt Stevenson, MD • MPH, Boise, ID, USA.
Nimalie Stone, MD • Atlanta, GA, USA
Thomas Talbot, MD MPH, • Nashville, TN, USA
Paul Tambyah, MBBS • Singapore
William Trick, MD • Chicago, IL, USA
Antoni Trilla, MD, PhD • Barcelona, Spain
Kavita Trivedi, MD • Alameda Country Public Health Department, San Leandro, CA, USA
Robert A. Weinstein, MD • Chicago, IL, USA
Marcus Zervos, MD • Detroit, MI, USA

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology **(ISSN 0899-823X)** is published monthly by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA. Printed by Sheridan, a CJK Group Company.

Editorial Office
Communications should be addressed to the Editor, *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 (email: iche.managingeditor@cambridge.org. Contributors should consult the Instructions for Contributors, which is available at the journal's Web site.

Advertising
Please direct advertising inquiries to M. J. Mrvica Associates, 2 West Taunton Avenue, Berlin, NJ 08009 (e-mail: mjmrvica@mrvica.com; telephone: 856-768-9360, fax: 856-753-0064). Publication of an advertisement in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* does not imply endorsement of its claims by the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America, by the Editor, or by Cambridge University Press.

Permissions
Articles may be copied or otherwise reused without permission only to the extent permitted by Sections 107 and 108 of the US Copyright Law. Permission to copy articles for personal, internal, classroom, or library use may be obtained from the Copyright Clearance Center (http://www.copyright.com, email: info@copyright.com). For all other uses, such as copying for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for creating new collective works, or for resale, please contact Cambridge University Press. Full details may be found at: www.cambridge.org/about-us/rights-permissions.

Subscriptions
The individual subscription prices for 2026 are: Print & Online: $411; Online Only: $288. Individuals have the option to order directly from Cambridge University Press. Institutional print + electronic and e-only subscriptions are available from Cambridge University Press and include unlimited online access; rates are tiered according to an institution's type and research output and may be reviewed at the journal's homepage on Cambridge Core: cambridge.org/ICHE.

Please direct subscription inquiries and requests for back issues to Customer Services at Cambridge University Press, e-mail: subscriptions_newyork@cambridge.org (USA, Canada, and Mexico) or journals@cambridge.org (outside of USA, Canada, and Mexico).

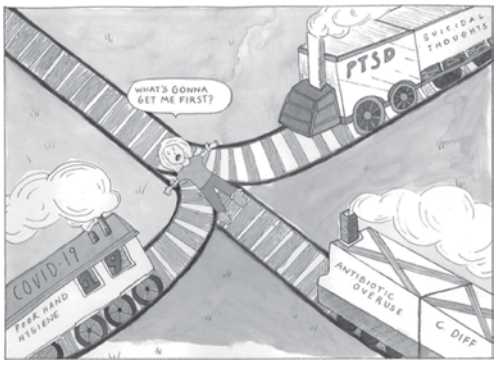
Postmaster: Send address changes to *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006 USA.

About the cover:

Beginning with volume 43 (January 2022), the cover of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* (ICHE) will feature art inspired by or reflective of topics within the scope of the journal and their impact on patients, healthcare personnel and our society. These topics include healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, and healthcare epidemiology. The intent is to feature original artwork that has been created by individuals who have a personal connection to one or more of these topics through their clinical work, research, or experience as a patient or an affected patient's family member, friend or advocate. The goal is to provide readers with a visual reminder of the human impact of the topics addressed in the journal and the importance of the work being done by those who read or contribute to ICHE and by all who are trying to make healthcare safer through the elimination of healthcare-associated infections.

For more information about the ICHE cover and how to submit artwork for consideration for a future cover, please visit the ICHE website: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospital-epidemiology/front-covers

2026



Title: *A Victim of Outside Forces,* 2021
Artist: Lois Bence-Ehlke, RN, BS
Medium: pen and ink sketch

Mrs. Bence-Ehlke spoke to ICHE about her artwork.
What was the inspiration for this artwork?
I am a member of the Patients Engaged in Education and Research (PEER) Group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At a meeting in 2021, the group leader encouraged us to think of ways we could use art to highlight the importance of infection prevention in healthcare settings. Not too long after that, I was admitted to a hospital with sepsis. This was relatively early in the COVID-19 pandemic. I saw that the staff were tired and that they had more to do than time to do it. I wondered if I would get the help I needed and worried about getting another infection before I was well enough to go home.

I thought of the idea for this cartoon and sketched it out while I was in my hospital bed. I wanted to make people think about what patients experience while they are in the hospital or receiving medical care in other settings. They are dealing not only with the physical and mental health conditions that initially brought them in but also with many outside forces that may worsen their existing problems or create new ones. These threats include poor hand hygiene by healthcare personnel, overuse of antibiotics, and infections like *C. difficile* and respiratory viruses that can be spread by other patients, healthcare personnel, and the healthcare environment. Patients have little to no control over these forces and may not even be aware of these threats. Even if they are aware of them, many patients are not comfortable raising their concerns to their doctors, nurses, or other care providers. They are simply left to wonder "which of these things is going to get me first?"

What is your personal connection to the content of *ICHE*?
I had a long career as a registered nurse. I began my career as a psychiatry nurse. I was then hired to be the very first infection prevention nurse in a small community hospital after an outbreak of *Staphylococcus aureus* infections occurred in the hospital's newborn nursery. I spent 20 years in infection prevention. During that time, I saw firsthand the many challenges one encounters when trying to implement changes that will make healthcare safer. I also witnessed increasing recognition that healthcare-associated infections are preventable and tremendous growth in our ability to prevent many of these infections. Unfortunately, we still have a long way to go.

Cover image: *A Victim of Outside Forces,* 2021

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.10274 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In addition to my professional connections to ICHE, I also have personal connections. My first husband developed pneumonia as a complication of leukemia and its treatment. I currently have friends who are unable to live their lives in the way that they want due to recurrent *C. difficile* infections they developed because of antibiotic therapy that may have been unnecessary.

Given the scope of the journal, why is this work appropriate for the cover of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*?
This sketch shows, from the patient's perspective, the importance of identifying and eliminating the infection-related threats we all currently experience when we receive health care.

Lois Bence-Ehlke lives in Wisconsin with her two miniature schnauzers. She is a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council and the Patients Engaged in Education and Research (PEER) Group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She developed the concept and initial sketch for this comic. It was later enhanced by the PEER coordinator, Sydney Hoel. *The project was supported by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), grant UL1TR002373. The content is solely the responsibility of the artist and does not represent the opinion of the NIH or the University of Wisconsin.*

https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2025.10274 Published online by Cambridge University Press