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CONTENTS

Joint Statement

1179 Safeguarding America's health: the critical role of public health infrastructure in an era of erosion and uncertainty
Carol M. McLay and David J. Weber

Original Articles

1181 Associations between routine oral care and in-hospital mobility with non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia
Sheryl A. Kluberg, Tom Chen, Rui Wang, Robert Jin, Laura DelloStritto, Dian Baker, Karen Giuliano, Edward J. Septimus, Jeffrey S. Guy, Russell E. Poland, E. Jackie Blanchard, Kenneth E. Sands and Michael Klompas

1190 Evaluating the impact of an oral care initiative on the risk of non-ventilator-associated hospital-acquired pneumonia using electronic clinical data and diagnostic coding surveillance criteria
Barbara E. Jones, Alec B. Chapman, Jian Ying, McKenna R. Nevers, Shannon Munro, Michael Klompas, Amy L. Valderrama and Daniel O. Scharfstein

1199 Assessment of hospital costs associated with incisional surgical site infection in patients undergoing colorectal surgery
Beatriz Costeira, Laura Silvério, Rui Araújo, André Caiado, Daniela Cavadas, Tiago Cunha, Nuno Abecasis, Rosário Sepúlveda, Manuel Limbert and João Maciel

1206 Mortality impact of carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) colonization and infection: a retrospective cohort study
Regev Cohen, Shelly Lipman-Arens, Orna Ben-Natan, Aliza Vaknin, Mohammed Ganayem, Yael Galnoor Tene, Linor Ishay, Lamis Mahamid, Olga Feld Simon, Milena Pitashny, Alvira Zbiger, Rena Abilevitch, Said Younis and Elias Tannous

1215 Investigation of a *Mycobacterium fortuitum* prosthetic joint infection outbreak at two ambulatory surgery centers in Tennessee
Simone Godwin, Ashley Gambrell, Becky A. Meyer, Christopher Wilson, Melphine M. Harriott, Morgan Duckett, Kendall Ferrell, Morgan McMahan, Tracey Rhodes, Kelley M. Tobey, Megan Edwards and Corinne Tandy

1222 Assessing blood culture appropriateness in solid organ transplant recipients: a diagnostic stewardship approach
Julie M. Steinbrink, Nitin Mehdiratta, Heather Pena, Ian Welsby, Amanda Seidenfeld, Adam DeVore, Matthew Ellis, Lindsay King, John Reynolds, Matthew Hartwig, Jacob Schroder, Debra Sudan, Barbara Alexander, Manuela Carugati and Jessica Seidelman

1228 Implementation of conditional reflex urine culturing decreases unnecessary antimicrobial use
Aoi Yogo, Elie A. Saade, Eric M. Ransom, Brigid M. Wilson, Timothy C. Jenkins, Abhishek Deshpande, Curtis J. Donskey, Zainab Albar, Lauren H. Epstein and Leila S. Hojat

1234 Decreasing differences in first-line therapy for respiratory infections in urgent cares, results of a multi-institutional quality improvement collaborative
Rana E. El Feghaly, Brian R. Lee, Matthew P Kronman, Adam L. Hersh, Victoria Parente, Rana F. Hamdy, Luis E. Sainz, Amanda Nedved, and on behalf of the Reducing Differences in Urgent Care Encounters for Antibiotic Choice (ReDUCE: Antibiotic Choice) Quality Improvement Collaborative

Cover image: ***The Dynamics of Bacterial Evolution, 2020***

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1243 Transfer of microorganisms to and from textiles in healthcare settings: a systematic review
Natalie Gassmann, Visar Vela, Walter Zingg and Aline Wolfensberger

Review

1253 Quantitative summarization of high-touch surfaces and epidemiological parameters of *Clostridioides difficile* acquisition and transmission for mathematical modeling: a systematic review
Isaac Olufadewa, Harrison Latimer, Haleigh N. West-Page and Shi Chen

Concise Communications

1262 Association of pandemic precautions and *Staphylococcus* aureus in the NICU
Nora Elhaissouni, Abigail Arthur, Erica C. Prochaska, Elizabeth Colantuoni, B. Mark Landrum, Julia Johnson, Eili Klein and Aaron Milstone

1265 Impact of silencing automated penicillin cross-reactivity alerts on perioperative antibiotic prescribing and surgical site infection rates
Michael J. Durkin, Joshua Nordman, Alice Bewley, Andrew Atkinson, Jonas Marschall, Helen Newland and Kimberly G. Blumenthal

1268 Penicillin allergy delabeling practices and barriers across SHEA research network US institutions: a cross-sectional survey
Kap Sum Foong, Rachel Erdil, Maureen Campion, Shira Doron and Majd Alsoubani

1272 Direct cost savings associated with reduction in plasma metagenomic sequencing
Caitlin Naureckas Li, Neil Jordan, Shannon Haymond, David Koscinski and Ravi Jhaveri

1275 Results of a local modified Delphi consensus on use of plasma metagenomic next-generation sequencing
Caitlin Naureckas Li, Ravi Jhaveri and Sara Huston

1278 Diagnostic yield of blood cultures in febrile neutropenia—a real-world observational study from an academic medical center during blood culture bottle shortage
Yuanli Lei, Maria Alkozah, Rita Wilson Dib, Bibi Maryam, Brandon Mohler, Emily A. Siegrist and Joseph Sassine

1282 Assessing the impact of an electronic health record intervention on testing and treatment for asymptomatic bacteriuria in older adults
Eleanor E.A. Smith, Sabra Shay, Kady Phe, Andrei Zidaru, Barbara W. Trautner and Mayar Al Mohajer

Letter to the Editors

1285 Caution against using plasma mNGS for NHSN CLABSI surveillance
Zoe F. Weiss, Eliezer Zachary Nussbaum, Bhavarth Shukla, Shira Doron and Kap Sum Foong

1286 Implementation of a pilot program of interprofessional education in infection prevention
Sabra Custer, Jasper Lim, Majdi Al-Hasan, Caroline Derrick, Sangita Dash, Shanetta Williams and Pamela Bailey

Corrigendums

1289 Multisociety guidance for sterilization and high-level disinfection – CORRIGENDUM
Erica S. Shenoy, David J. Weber, Kathleen McMullen, Zachary Rubin, Priya Sampathkumar, Joshua K. Schaffzin, Emily Sickbert-Bennett, Laraine Washer, Deborah S. Yokoe, Audrey H. Calderwood, Raymond Chinn, Michelle Day, Sylvia Garcia-Houchins, Waleed Javaid, Susan Klacik, Erin Kyle, Rekha K. Murthy, Amber Wood and William A. Rutala

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1290 Epidemiologic validation of the National Healthcare Safety Network's updated *Clostridioides difficile* test method definition – CORRIGENDUM
Nicholas A. Turner, Barry Shelton, Becky A. Smith, Linda Crane, Polly Padgette, Linda Roach, Brittain Wood, Diana Alame and Deverick J. Anderson

Addendum

1291 Two concurrent nationwide healthcare-associated outbreaks of Burkholderia cepacia complex linked to product contamination, UK and Ireland, 2010–2023 – ADDENDUM
Jason Doran, Clare Foster, Mike Saunders, Nastassya L Chandra, Jane F Turton, Dervla TD Kenna, Caroline Willis, Alex Orlek, Lesley L. Smith, Peter Hoffman, Hannah Choi, Geraldine Leong, Mariyam Mirfenderesky, Mark H. Wilcox, Neville Q Verlander, Susanna Frost, David Elliott, Amy Weaver, Yu Wan, Susan Hopkins, Isabel Oliver, Colin S Brown and J.W.T. Elston

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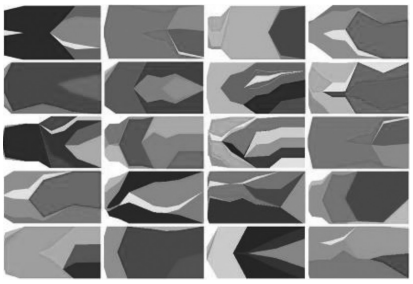
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About the cover:

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

2025



Title: *The Dynamics of Bacterial Evolution*, 2020
Artist: Angharad Ellen Green, PhD
Medium: The artwork is made up of individual Muller plots representing *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria lineages that were evolved separately within nasopharynx and lung environments. The command line program muller (v0.6.0 - https://pypi.org/project/muller/), with default parameters applied, was used to produce genotypes and trajectories tables for each of the evolved lineages. These tables were then used as inputs for ggplot2 (v3.3.2) and ggmuller (v0.5.4) in R-Studio (v4.0.2), to produce Muller plots. The individual plots were then assembled to produce the resulting artwork.

Dr. Green spoke to ICHE about her artwork.

What was the inspiration for this artwork? My postdoctoral research used an *in vivo* experimental evolution model to understand how *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (the pneumococcus) adapts to the lung and nasopharynx environments. The pneumococcus was experimentally evolved through a lung infection model and a nasopharynx infection model, producing independently evolved lung and nasopharynx lineages. We sequenced the evolved lineages and compared them to the ancestor to understand how their genomes had changed. This work also enabled us to determine how environmental differences between the upper and lower airways might shape pneumococcal adaptation and evolution. The resulting sequencing dataset was very large and complex with lots of interesting results. I wanted to use an effective method of visualising the data and Muller plots were chosen to display the evolutionary dynamics of mutations found in each evolved lineage over time. In these plots, each mutation is grouped as a genotype, which is represented by a different colour, and the blocks of colour expand when the genetic changes make the bacteria better able to survive in their local conditions. After completing the data analysis and publishing this work, I created this artwork as a memento of my postdoctoral research and I have a canvas of this work hanging in my apartment. Additionally, I wanted to demonstrate how scientific artwork can help visualise the complexities of evolution dynamics and help us to better understand bacterial processes.

What is your personnel connection to the content of ICHE? Throughout my career as a microbiologist, I have carried out research to investigate bacterial pathogenesis and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) of WHO-defined bacterial priority pathogens, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. I have actively promoted the importance of microbial genomic research to confront current global challenges, such as AMR and healthcare-acquired infections. I have championed microbiology research through my various roles in academia, volunteering on the Microbiology Society's Policy Committee and as a Research Manager at the Healthcare Infection Society. It is an honour for my bacterial evolution artwork to be on the cover of ICHE.

Given the scope of the journal, why is this work appropriate for the cover of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*? This artwork is made up of a collection of graphs called Muller plots, which are used to visualize how bacteria evolve when grown in diverse environments. The colours represent genetic changes that have taken place in the presence of environmental factors, such

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Cover image: *The Dynamics of Bacterial Evolution, 2020*

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as antimicrobials and the host immune system. The dynamics of evolution are complex and being able to visualise this process enables scientists to better understand bacterial processes, including the development of AMR. This artwork is appropriate for the cover of ICHE as it was created as a direct result of scientific research into how bacteria can adapt and evolve in diverse host niches to cause disease. Additionally, this artwork makes it possible for scientists to visualise the complexities of the dynamics of evolution and comprehend how bacteria adapt to different host environments.

Dr. Green is a Senior Research Data Steward in the Advanced Research Computing Centre (ARC) at UCL in London. *Her postdoctoral research at the University of Liverpool was supported by a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, awarded by the Wellcome Trust and the Royal Society (grant number 204457/Z/16/Z) to Dr. Daniel R Neill. The research from which this artwork was derived was published in Molecular Biology and Evolution (Green AE, Howarth D, Chaguza C, et al. Pneumococcal colonization and virulence factors identified via experimental evolution in infection models. Mol Biol Evol 2023; 38: 2209-2226).*

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