

Live broadcast from the 2018 conference of  
Infection Prevention and Control Canada – Banff, Alberta



# Trekking Safely Through the Storm – Managing Complex IPAC Issues

Mark Joffe

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Alberta Health Services

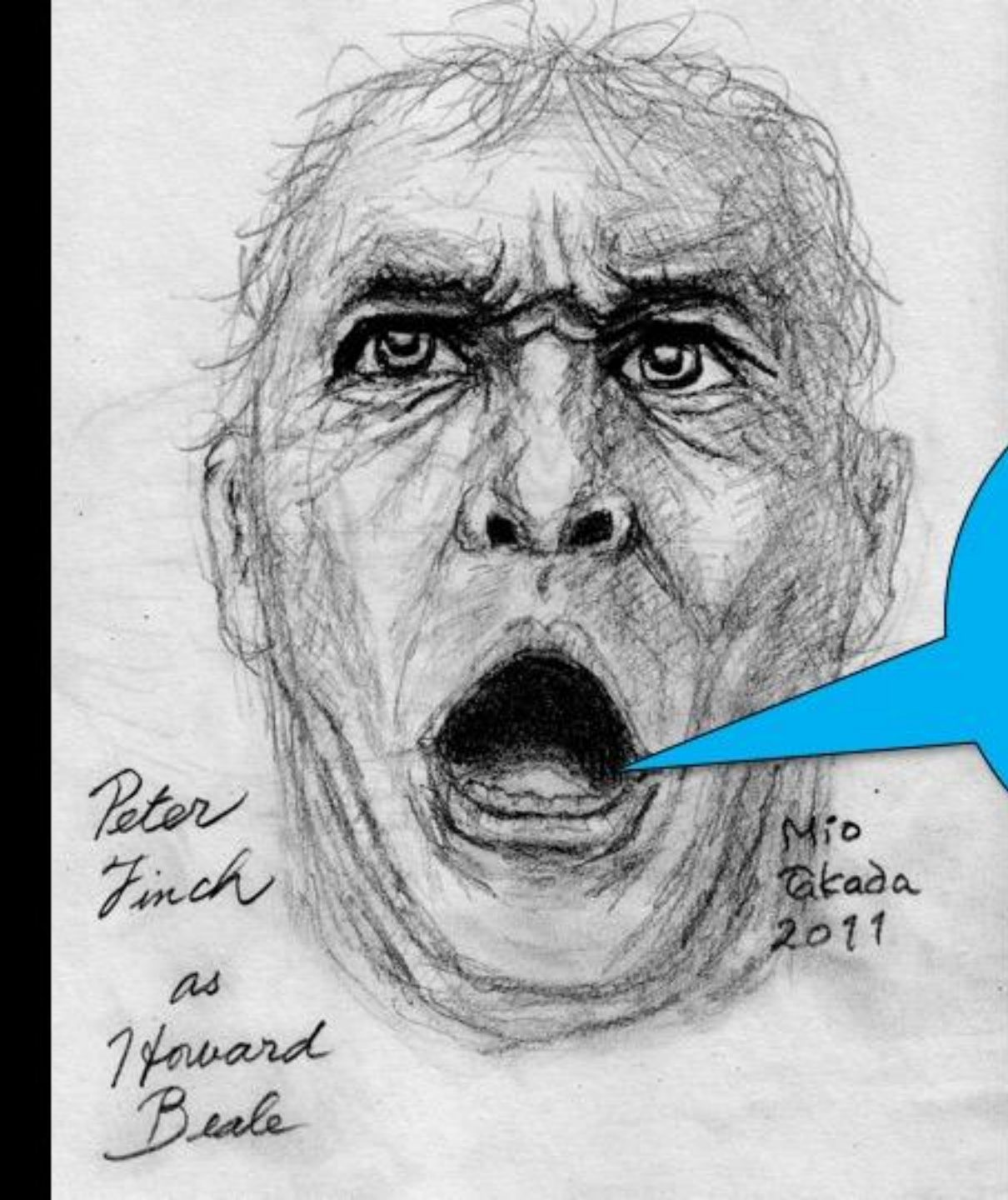


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[www.webbertraining.com](http://www.webbertraining.com)

May 29, 2018



Peter  
Finch  
as  
Howard  
Beale

Mio  
Takada  
2011

No  
Disclosures

# Objectives

## 3 Stories:

- ARO Outbreak (MDR GNB)
- *M. chimaera* in CV Surgery
- Reprocessing Failure

**Complex issues  
in IPC**

**Framework  
for response**

We're used to crises...

# Global Outbreaks



CANADIAN EDITION / MAY 5, 2003

www.timecanada.com

# TIME

THE  
TRUTH  
ABOUT

# SARS

**WHY**  
the virus  
spreads  
What went  
wrong in  
**TORONTO**  
China's  
**COVER-UP**

# Newsweek

May 5, 2003

www.newsweek.com

# SARS

What You Need to Know  
The New Age of Epidemics



## **HOSPITALS CLAMP DOWN**

# 30 new cases of SARS in Ontario

Five young children among latest stricken

CanWest News Service  
TORONTO

With five young children now suspected of suffering from a virulent new respiratory disease, the Ontario government slapped strict restrictions Monday on every hospital in the province to try to slow the relentless spread of the illness.

At least three of the children believed to have the potentially deadly ailment are younger than two, provincial authorities say.

Hong Kong apartment  
quarantined / A5  
Alberta patients are  
improving / A11

Ontario reported 30 more cases of SARS or severe acute respiratory syndrome Monday, bringing the total in Canada to 129.

British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick are also reporting probable or suspected cases.  
*See SARS / A11*



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reporters, wearing masks, gather outside of Hong Kong's Amoy Gardens, an apartment complex which was sealed off on Monday after being badly hit by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Edmonton Journal April 1, 2003

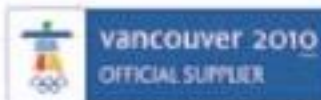


# CALGARY HERALD

PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883

A DIVISION OF CANWEST PUBLISHING INC.

BREAKING NEWS AT CALGARYHERALD.COM



REGIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER

•THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

Alberta  
hostage  
freed in  
Nigeria

RICHARD WARNICA,  
LAURA DRAKE  
AND ELISE STOLTE  
EDMONTON JOURNAL

After nearly two weeks  
and captive in Nigeria, Julie  
Mulligan called her family  
Wednesday afternoon to tell  
them she was free.  
"She sounded great," said  
her husband John Mulligan  
from his Drayton Valley home  
when the call came. "She was  
exactly the same."  
Mulligan was abducted  
April 16 while leading a

## Imminent pandemic spurs global warning



Nations urged  
to 'ramp up'  
preparations

MEAGAN FITZPATRICK  
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

As Canada's swine  
flu infection total  
reached 19 Wednes-  
day, the World Health Organi-  
zation said the world is on the  
brink of a pandemic, raising  
its threat level as the swine  
virus spread.

Calgary Herald April 30, 2009



# BREAKING NEWS

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# EBOLA OUTBREAK

## CITIZENS IN A PANIC AS DISEASE SPREADS

Ebola has arrived in the United States and people are frightened. The government took measures this past week to ensure hospitals are

## GOVERNMENT TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Doctors and hospitals are isolating individuals they believe could be at risk. The government took measures this past week to ensure hospitals are ready. Ebola has arrived in the United States and people

## FINANCIAL MARKETS HIT HARD AS DISEASE SPREADS

The disease is dealing a severe economic blow to families and governments.

Closed borders and abandoned farms are driving up food costs leaving many people in rural communities. The government health

Local IPC

Disasters

# 861 men given unsterilized biopsy probes

Ont. reports second hygiene breach in 3 weeks

# **Winnipeg Free Press**

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

## **City hospitals should improve cleanliness, safety: report**

**By: Staff Writer**

**Posted: May 13, 2011**



# OTTAWA



# CITIZEN

ESTABLISHED IN 1845

## CLARKSON'S CANADA

Former governor general is  
back with Room for All of Us

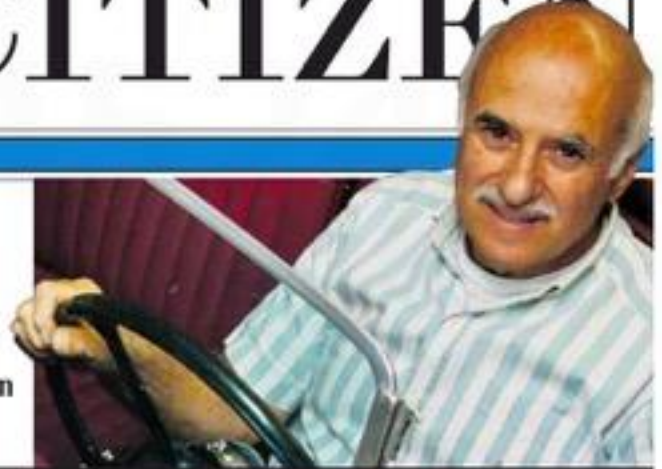
[BOOKS, A7](#)



## A TRUE FIXER-UPPER

Ottawa car restorer  
Phillip Karam is One in a Million

[CITY, C3](#)



# Thousands exposed to infection risk

Ottawa public health officials identified 'lapse' in infection control at clinic

months to get a list of the  
6,800 patients because the  
investigation was "a particu-

Ottawa Citizen October 16, 2011

# C. difficile victims settle suit with Quebec hospital

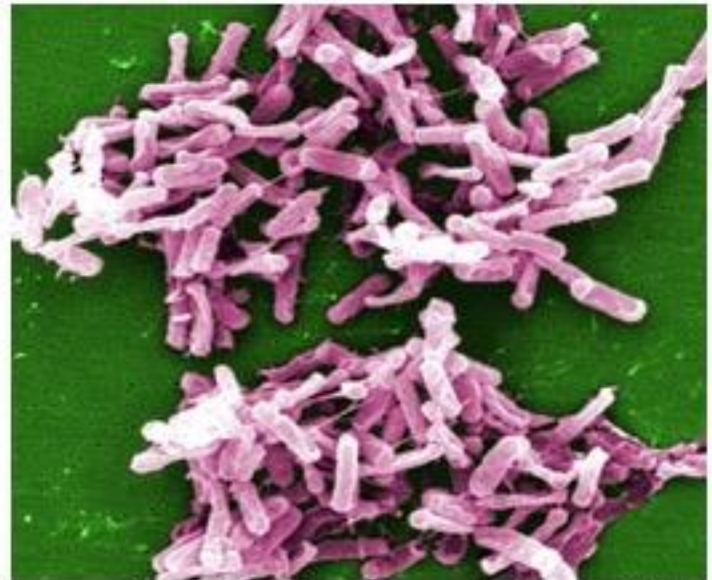
The families of patients who died after contracting C. difficile at a Quebec hospital in 2006 will each receive about \$25,000 in compensation.

Jean-Pierre Menard, the lawyer representing the families announced details of a settlement with Honoré-Mercier hospital in St-Hyacinthe at a press conference Friday.

Seventy patients were infected and 16 died during the outbreak of C. difficile, or Clostridium difficile, infection.

The patients who survived the infection are also included in the settlement, but will receive a lesser amount.

CBC News Posted: Oct 7, 2011



Seventy patients were infected by a virulent strain of the C. difficile bacteria in 2006.

In 2007, the Quebec coroner faulted hospital administrators for failing to spend enough money on measures known to contain the spread of the superbug.





# Negligence to blame for C. difficile outbreaks, B.C. doctors allege



B.C. Health Minister Mike de Jong cautioned against linking deaths to C. difficile, noting that it is medically difficult to pinpoint mortality rates from the bug.

Eighty-four patients died and hundreds more suffered serious complications following outbreaks of a highly infectious superbug at a Metro Vancouver hospital over the past two years. Now physician whistleblowers are saying the lack of infection control borders on medical negligence.

The infection rates of the bacteria *Clostridium difficile* at Burnaby Hospital have been two or three times the national average over the past two years and on par with the deadly outbreak in hospitals in the Niagara region that led to government reviews and reporting changes in Ontario.

## Surgeries cancelled after filth found on tools Hundreds must wait after audit finds glue, tissue on instruments

THE PROVINCE FEBRUARY 18, 2010



# EDMONTON JOURNAL



**Flames win makes it final:  
Oilers miss the playoffs**  
SPORTS / C1



**Macbeth on playbill  
for new Citadel season**  
CULTURE / D1



**Planet Organic  
swallows U.S. chain**  
BUSINESS / E1



**Favourite meats?  
Canadians cry fowl**  
BISTRO / F1

[www.edmontonjournal.com](http://www.edmontonjournal.com)

EDMONTON'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1903

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

## FLESH ON HOSPITAL TOOLS

**VEGREVILLE  
FACILITY CLOSES;  
PAST PATIENTS  
FACE 'LOW' HIV,  
HEP RISK / A3**

Edmonton Journal March 21, 2007

# Hospital reused syringes

Up to 2,700 patients will be  
tested for hepatitis, HIV  
after 18 years of errors  
in routine at High Prairie clinic



KEVIN VAN PAAS

Edmonton Journal October 28, 2008



# THE GLOBE AND MAIL

CANADA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1844

## Hepatitis prompts warning at Scarborough Hospital

Colin Freeze May 20, 2006

Toronto Public Health authorities have warned **400** Scarborough Hospital **dialysis patients** that they may be at risk of hepatitis infection and urged them not to share their toothbrushes or razors with family members, and to use condoms during sex.

"There are eight patients we are investigating with new infections," said Dr. Michael Finkelstein, an associate medical officer with Toronto Public Health.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/hepatitis-prompts-warning-at-scarborough-hospital/article966143/>

## Birth gear unsterilized at Halifax hospital

**HALIFAX** / A children's hospital in Halifax is warning women who gave birth this month that equipment used during their delivery had not been properly sterilized.

However, the IWK Health Centre says it's likely only seven mothers-to-be were treated with the equipment and the chances of anyone getting sick are "near zero."

The hospital issued a statement saying that "birth-related equipment (was) cleaned, decontaminated but not sterilized prior to being sent to the birth unit."

"As a result, 64 women who gave birth during a six-day period in March are being notified and provided with necessary information," the hospital said.

The seven sets of equipment were cleaned by hand and with a decontamination washer, but the sterilization machine wasn't used, the hospital said.

64 Women  
Equipment Cleaned  
But not Sterilized  
  
Risk is "Near Zero"

Edmonton Journal  
March 17, 2012



# Hip-surgery patients undergo tests

**MONTREAL** / About 175 patients who underwent hip surgery at the Montreal General Hospital will be asked to take blood tests after equipment was improperly sterilized, the hospital said Sunday.

Brian Ward, a microbiologist at the hospital, told reporters the patients will be tested for blood-borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, adding the chances of infection were minimal.

175 Patients

Equipment

Improperly

Sterilized

Edmonton Journal  
April 12, 2004



# Sterilization error sparks testing for HIV and hepatitis in Peter Lougheed Centre endoscopy patients

Bryan Passifiume  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2014



Problems with sterilization equipment have resulted in **35 endoscopy patients** at Peter Lougheed hospital being screened for HIV & hepatitis.

With chances of infection for the 35 patients extremely remote, Finstad said AHS's policy in cases like these is that it's better to be safe than sorry.

## **IPC Emergencies and Storms – Managing Complex IPAC Issues**



Near Hanna, Alberta June 2017. Courtesy of Darren Sandbeck

# The Basics

- Confirm the Diagnosis
- Mitigate
- Who Can help us?    Who's the Boss?
  - Experts/IPC/Clinical Teams/Lab/Public Health/etc.
  - Legal/Comms/Risk Management
- Standing meetings – daily, twice daily, weekly, etc.
- Who Needs to Know? Communicate!
  - Senior Management; Public Health; Government
- What can we learn? Prevention!



# Story #1

ARO Outbreak

# New superbug renders antibiotics powerless

NDM-1 goes global, with confirmed cases in Alberta and B.C.

CARMEN CHAI  
*Postmedia News*

An antibiotic-resistant superbug that emerged in India has been identified in British Columbia, Alberta and several other provinces worldwide.

British researchers say the bacteria, present in India, Bangladesh, says a report published Wednesday in the medical journal, *The Lancet*.

tional spread is clearing," their report states.

Added Toleman, "In the past few years, we've seen a number of different resistant genes, but this is a new one."

Dr. Perry Kendall, a senior medical officer at the British Columbia Health Services, said the superbug was isolated and appears to have only recently emerged.

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Kendall said the superbug was isolated and appears to have only recently emerged.

NDM/CPO/CRE/CRO

Edmonton Journal Aug. 12, 2010



CODIE McLACHLAN, THE JOURNAL  
Dr. Gerry Predy, Alberta Health Services senior medical officer of health, left, and Dr. Mark Joffe, senior medical director for infection, prevention and control, speak to the media at Royal Alexandra Hospital on Thursday.

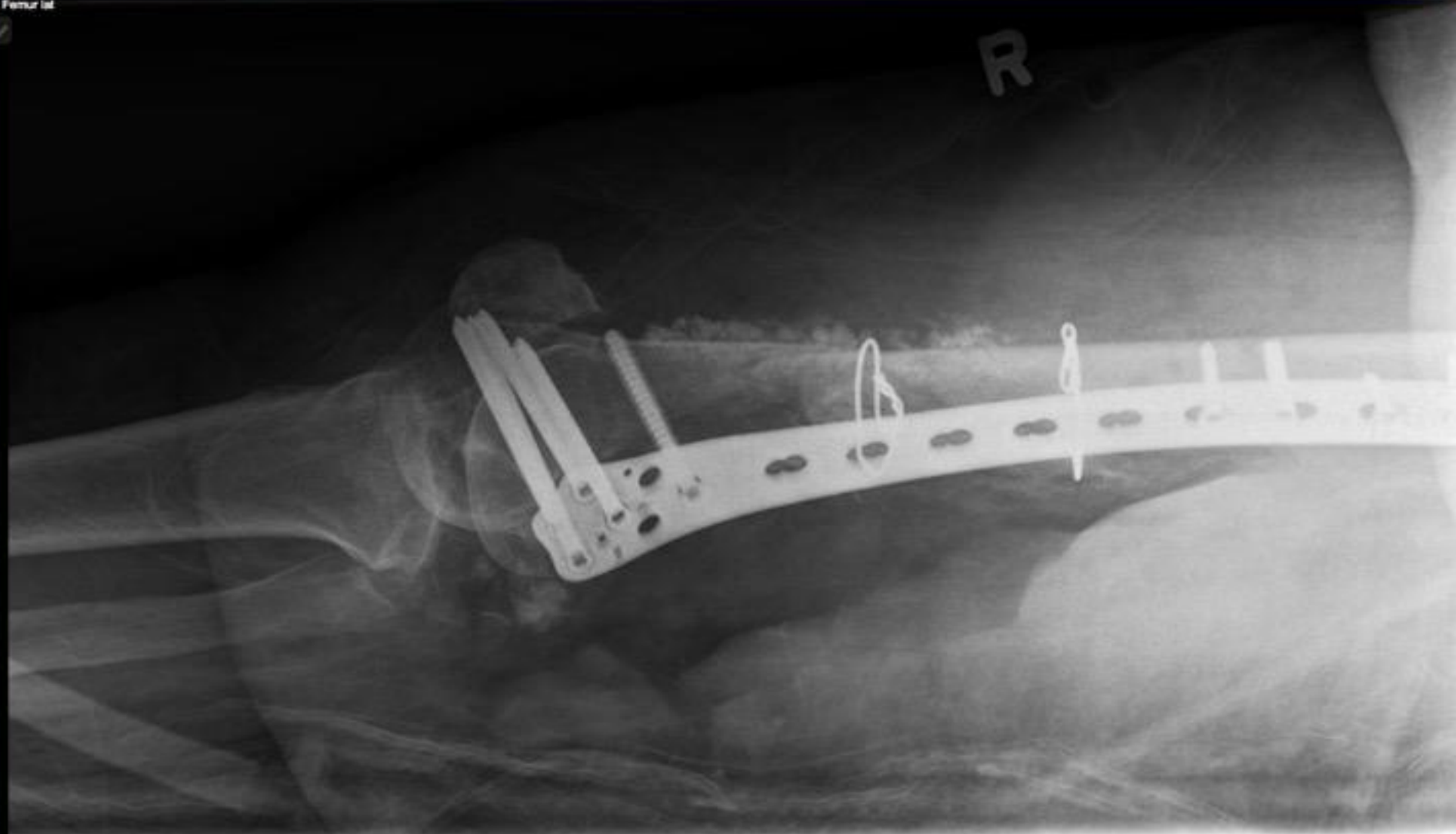
emergencies.

And Then It Happened...

62 year old woman

Traveller from Edmonton





# ED Note:

Huge wound dehiscence

Foul Smelling, +++ slimy

exudate

**GRAM STAIN**

2+ RBC seen

1+ Epithelial cells seen

NO bacteria seen

**RESULTS**

1+ Escherichia coli ... Further testing is being done to determine the mechanism of carbapenem resistance (CRE).

1+ Acinetobacter baumannii complex ... Further susceptibility results to follow

Copy of report sent to medical officer of health.  
NO anaerobes isolated in 72 hours

**ORGANISM**

Acinetobacter baumannii complex

**METHOD**

MIC

**Ciprofloxacin** $\geq 4$ 

RESISTANT

**Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole** $\geq 320$ 

RESISTANT

**ORGANISM**

Escherichia coli

**METHOD**

MIC

**Amikacin** $\geq 64$ 

RESISTANT

**Ampicillin** $\geq 32$ 

RESISTANT

**Cefazolin** $\geq 64$ 

RESISTANT

**Ceftriaxone** $\geq 64$ 

RESISTANT

**Ciprofloxacin** $\geq 4$ 

RESISTANT

**Ertapenem** $\geq 8$ 

RESISTANT

**Gentamicin** $\geq 16$ 

RESISTANT

**Meropenem** $\geq 16$ 

RESISTANT

**Tobramycin** $\geq 16$ 

RESISTANT

**ORGANISM**

Klebsiella pneumoniae

**METHOD**

MIC

**Ampicillin** $\geq 32$ 

RESISTANT

**Cefazolin** $\geq 64$ 

RESISTANT

**Ceftriaxone** $\geq 64$ 

RESISTANT

**Ciprofloxacin** $\geq 4$ 

RESISTANT

**Ertapenem** $\geq 8$ 

RESISTANT

**Gentamicin** $\leq 1$ 

SUSCEPTIBLE

**Meropenem** $\geq 16$ 

RESISTANT

**Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole** $\geq 320$ 

RESISTANT

**Tobramycin** $\geq 16$ 

RESISTANT

**SPECIMEN DESCRIPTION**

FEMUR

RIGHT

**INFORMATION/REQUESTS**

DEEP, SURGICAL

RAH

**GRAM STAIN**

3+ WBC seen

1+ RBC seen

NO bacteria seen

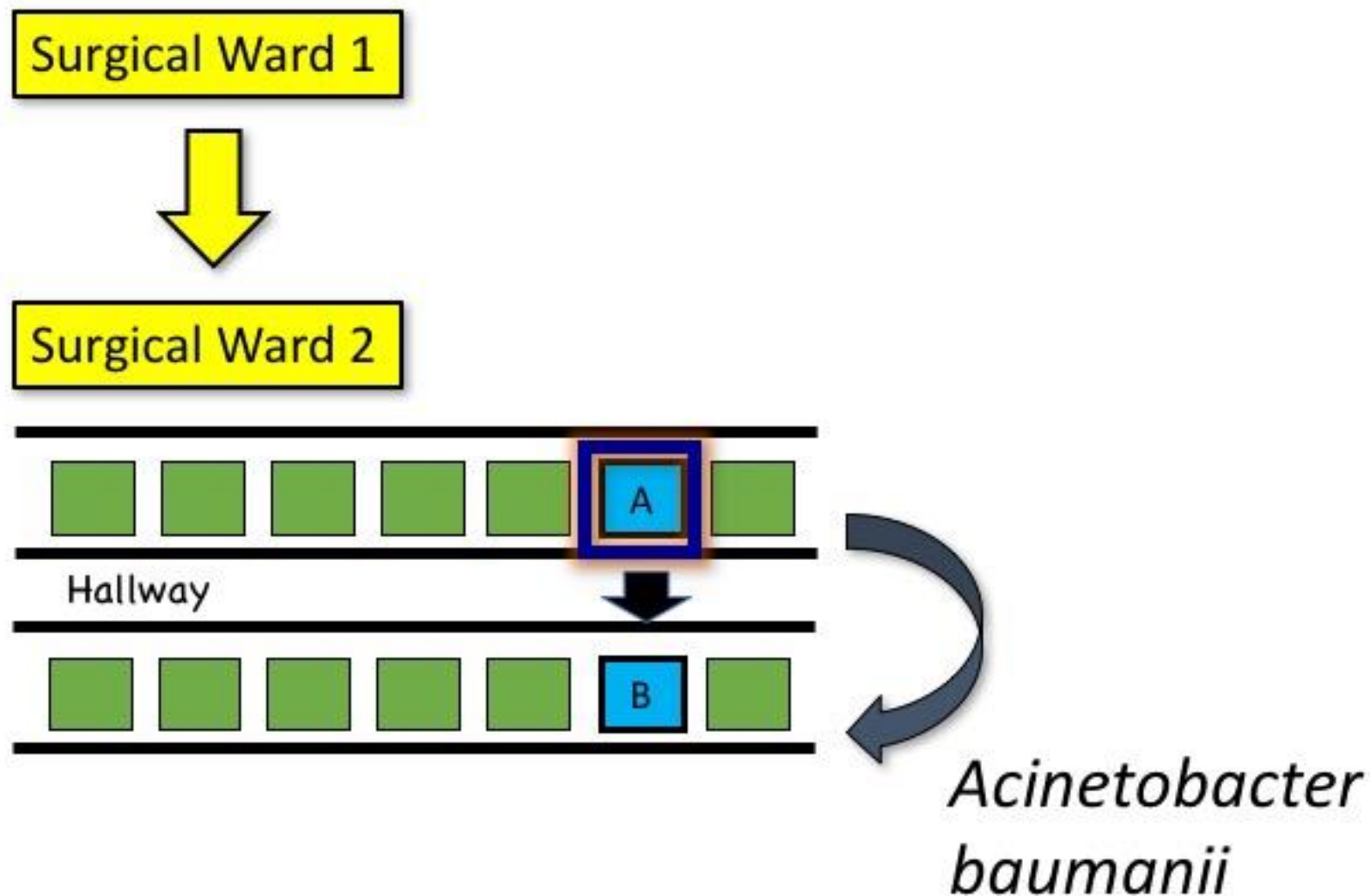
# Multiple - Multiply Resistant Gram Negative Bacilli

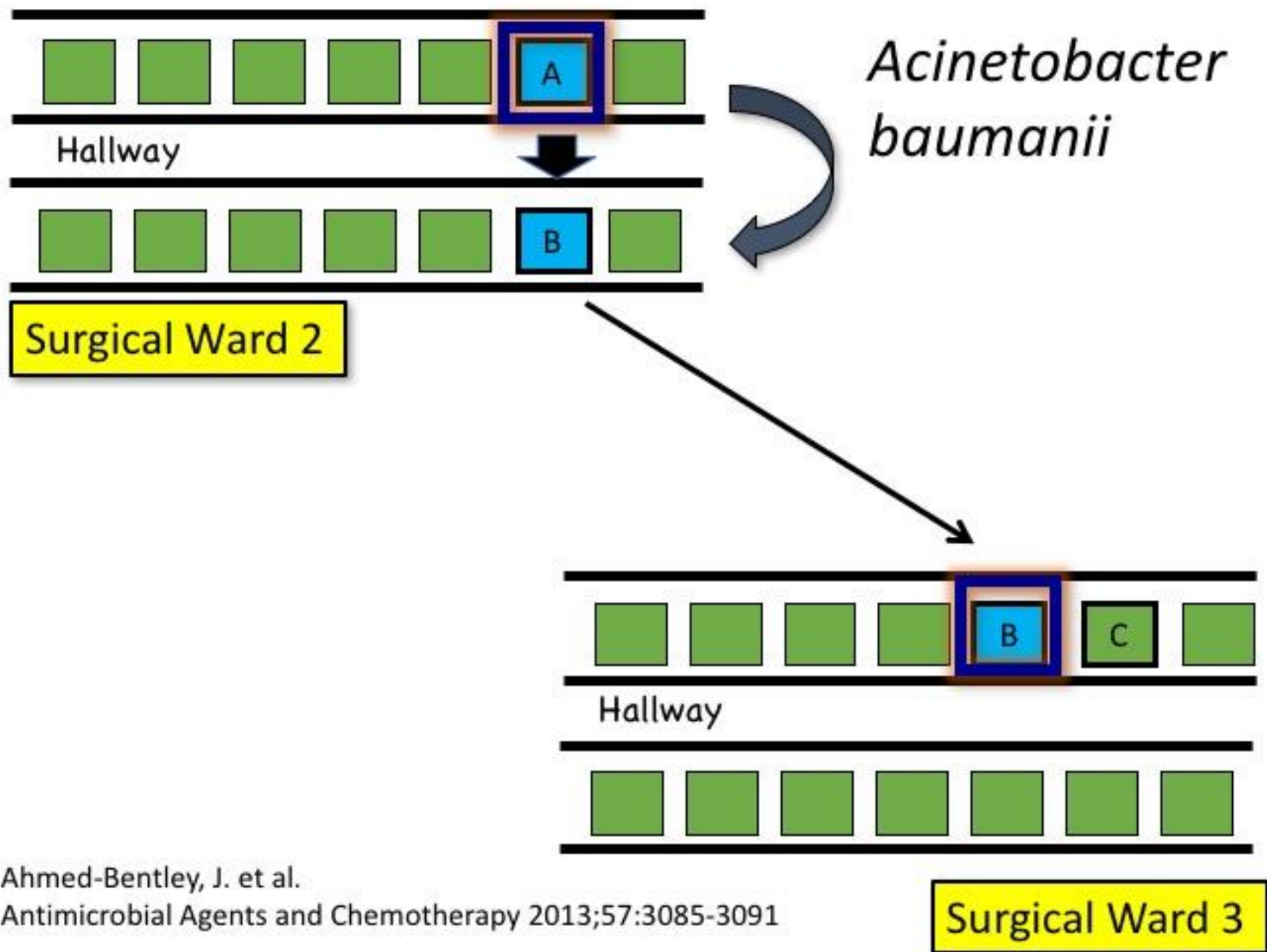
*NDM-1 K. pneumoniae*

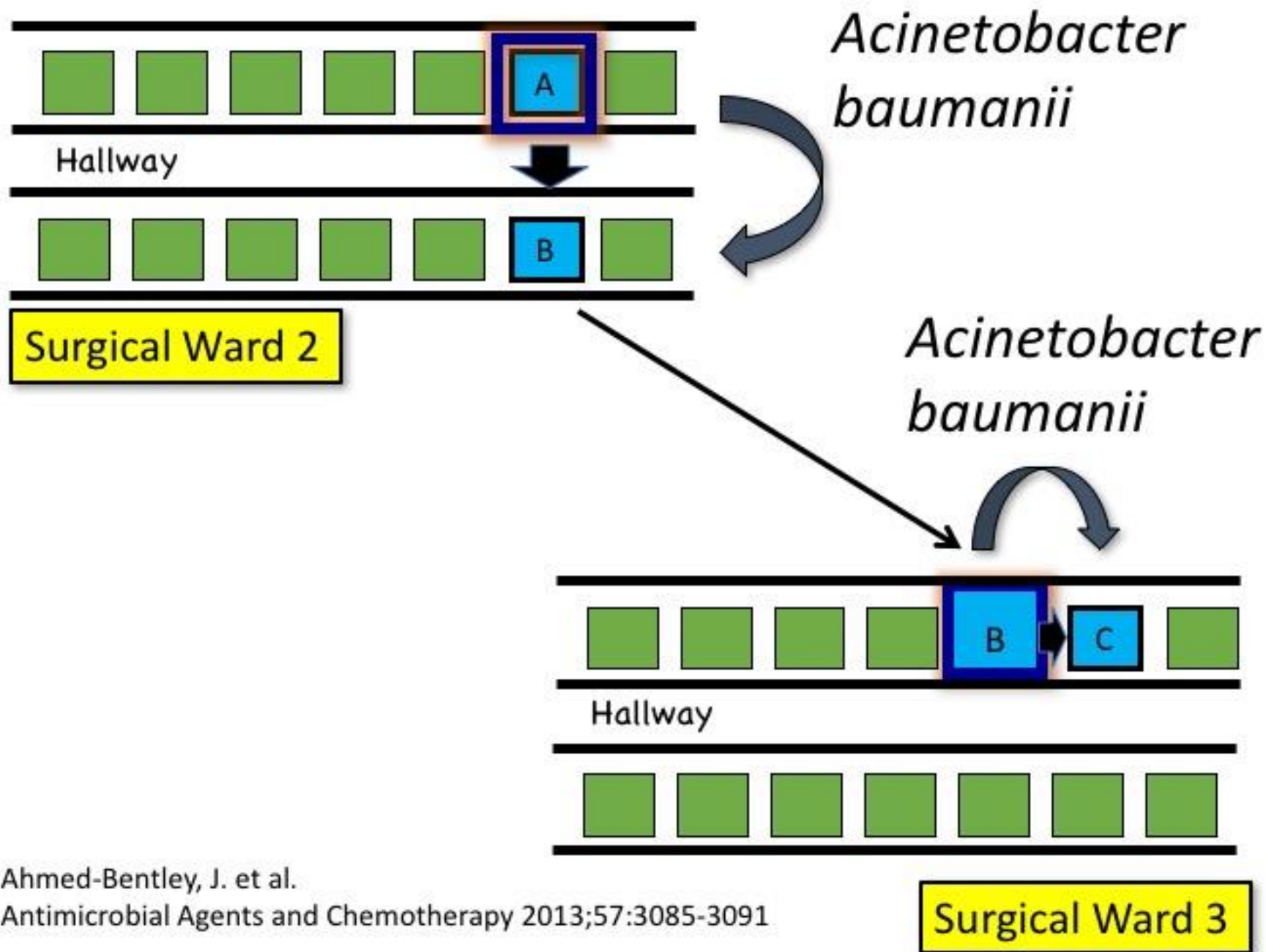
*NDM-1 E. coli*

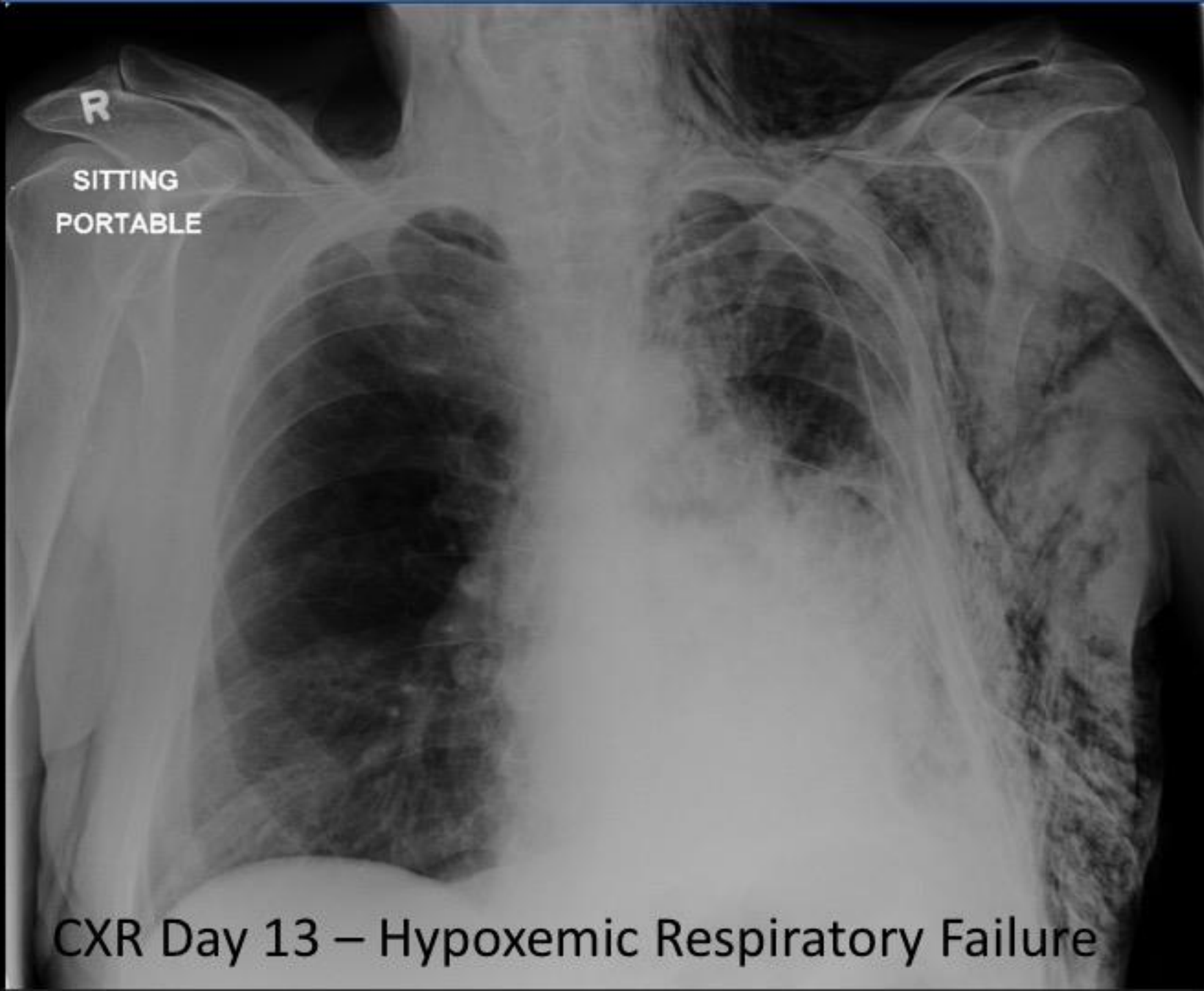
*Acinetobacter baumannii*





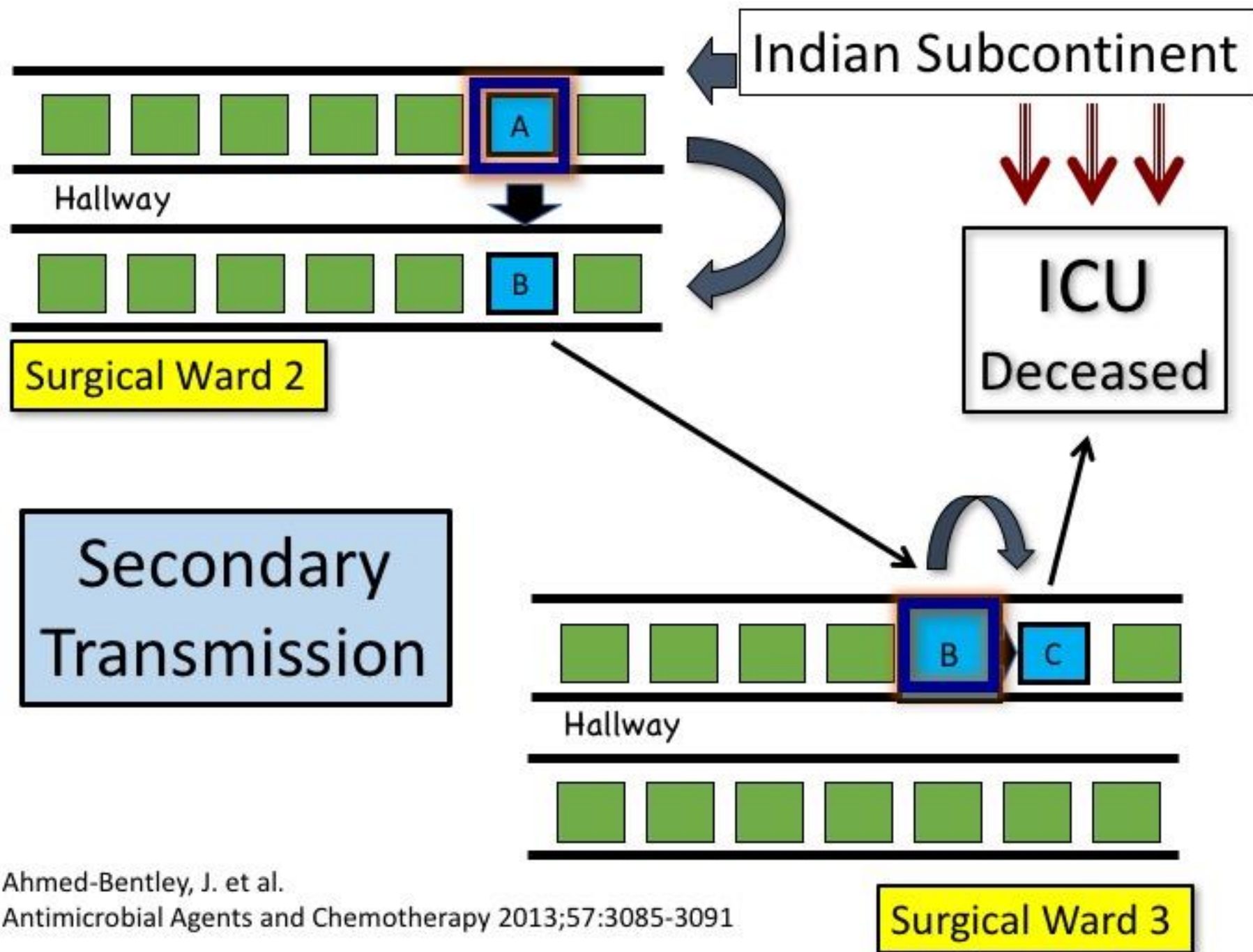






CXR Day 13 – Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure





Edmonton Sun  
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012

# Patient dead as AHS probes suspected outbreak



# **Fatality blamed on bacteria**

Edmonton Journal May 19, 2012 - Front Page

# Hospital hygiene failed

---

*Poor hand-washing linked  
to bacteria death of patient*

Jodie Sinema  
Edmonton Journal  
Thursday June 7, 2012  
Front Page  
Above the Fold



# Poor hand-washing likely led to spread of rare infection at Royal Alex

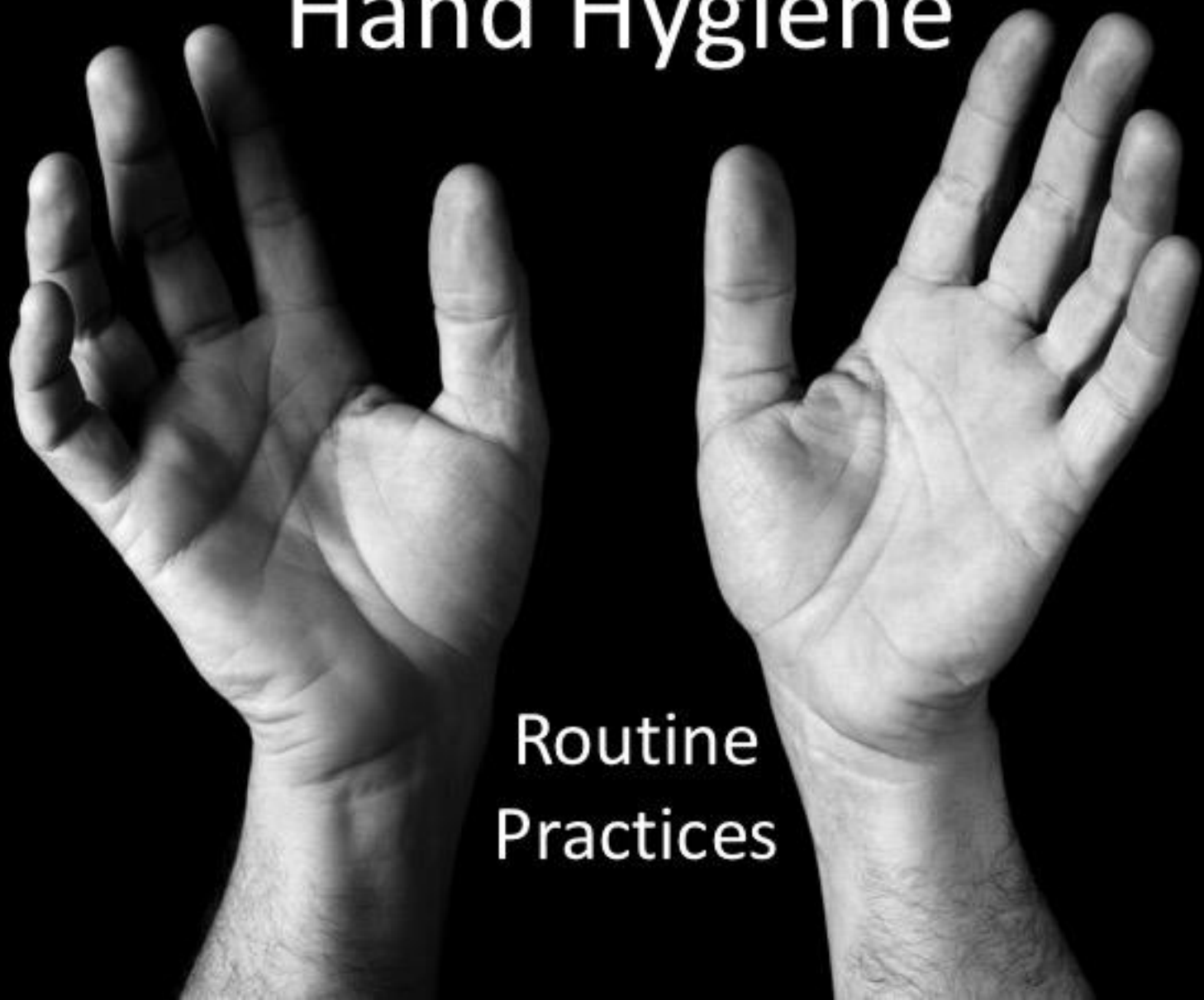


EDMONTON - Poor hand-washing rates in Edmonton and Alberta hospitals contributed to the spread of multi-drug-resistant bacteria that infected several people and likely played a part in the death of a Royal Alexandra Hospital patient.

June 6, 2012



# Hand Hygiene



Routine  
Practices

# Impact

- 4 units + ICU involved
- total of 64 days of ward closure
- 410 patients
- 452 CRE screens
- 6 patients
- 1 death
  
- Reputational Impact

# The Basics

- Confirm the Diagnosis
- Mitigate
- Who Can help us? Who's the Boss?
  - Experts/IPC/Clinical Teams/Lab/Public Health/etc.
  - Legal/Comms/Risk Management
- Standing meetings – twice daily...daily...weekly, etc.
- Who Needs to Know? Communicate!
  - Senior Management; Public Health; Government
- What can we learn? Prevention!





Leanne Dekker, vice president, infection prevention and control, and Dr Mark Joffe speak to media about hand washing to battle bacteria at the Royal Alexandra Hospital

Edmonton Journal June 6, 2012

# Media Training

Controversy

Confusion

Calamity

Crisis

Chaos

Adapted from Ralph Klein

# Media Training

## **Key Messages (+/- 3)**

Concise

Conversational

Catchy

**Control**

# Story #2

*Global Outbreak of*

*M. chimera*

(IPC at its Best)



# An Outbreak in Slow Motion\*



\* Dr. Dan Diekema

<http://haicontroversies.blogspot.ca/2016/10/an-outbreak-in-slow-motion.html>

# Global Outbreak of *M. chimera*



# Some Basic Background

Operating Room Air Flow

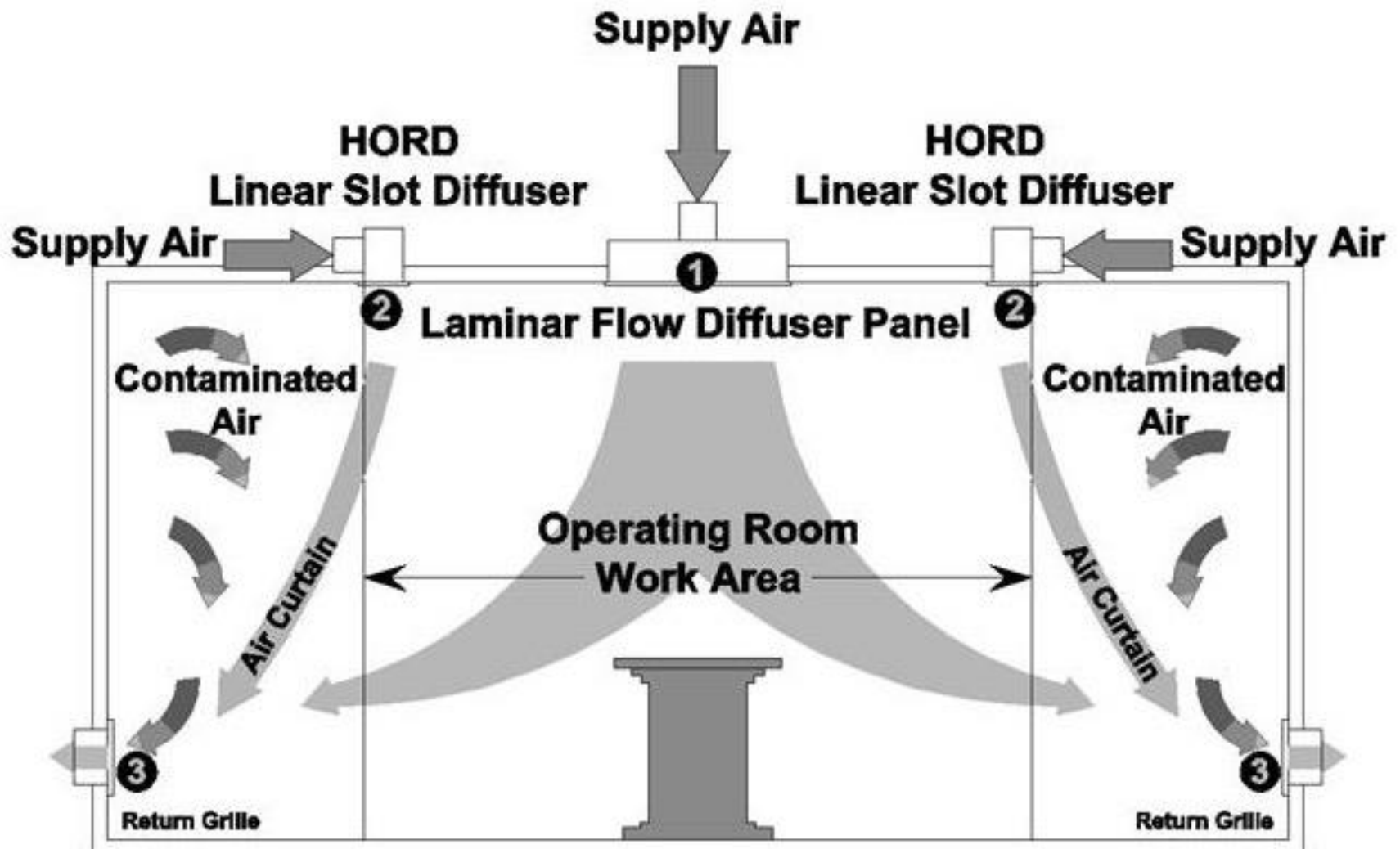
Heater Coolers

Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria

# Operating Room Air Flow

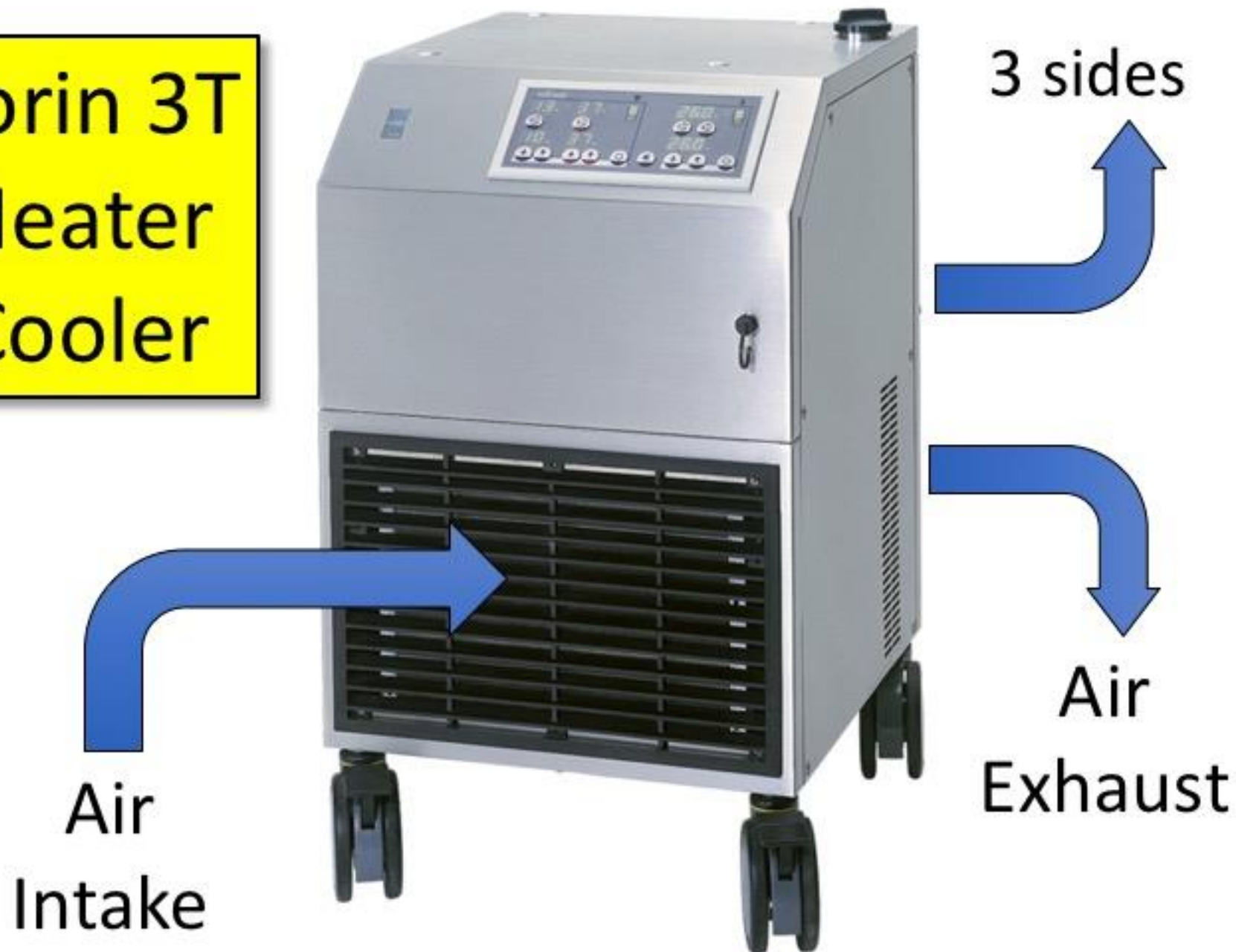




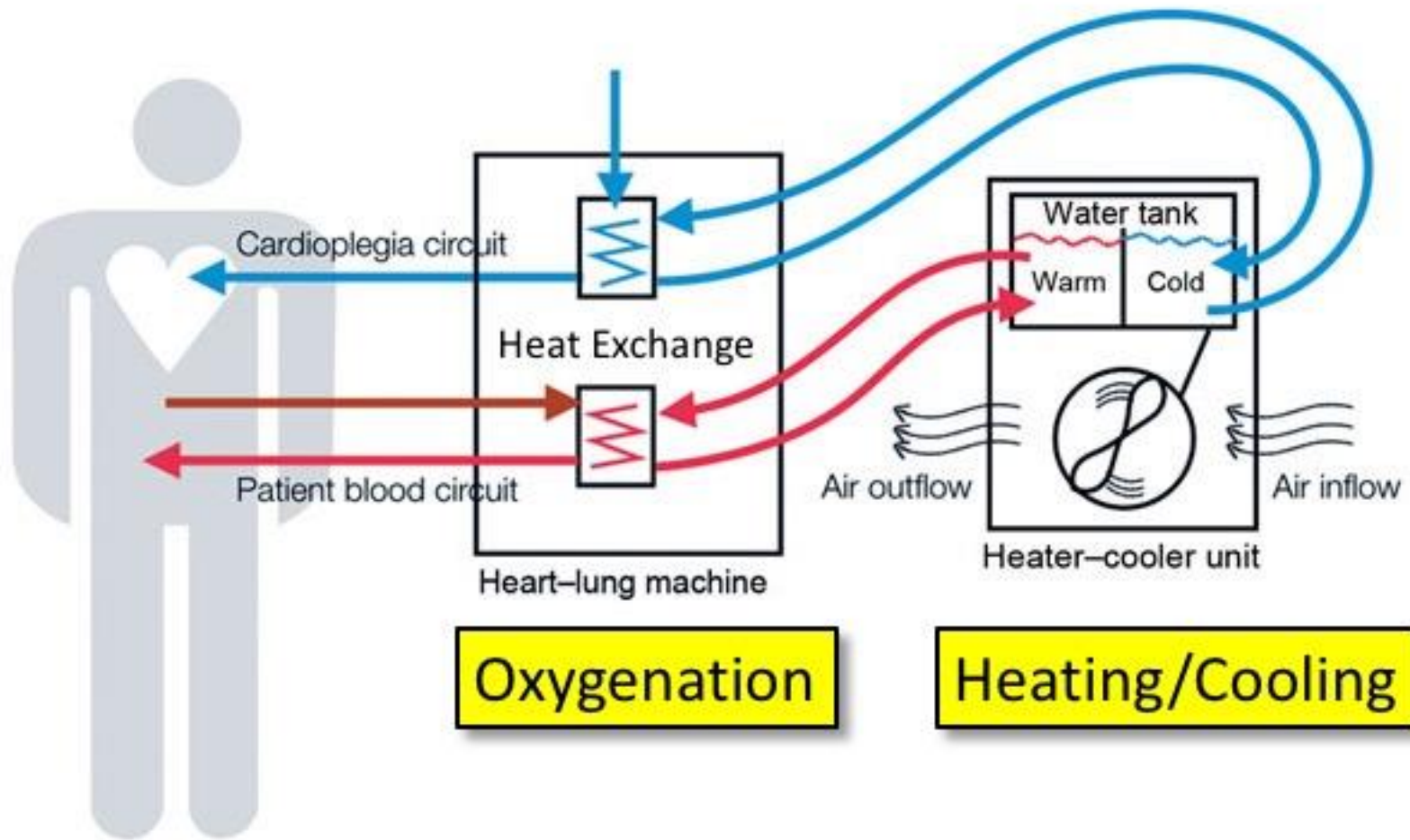


Heater - Coolers

# Sorin 3T Heater Cooler



# Heater Coolers in CV Surgery



Sommerstein, R. et al. Emerg Infect Dis June 2016;22:1008-1013.

# Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria



# TB or Non-TB

## Mycobacteria

```
graph TD; A[Mycobacteria] --> B[TB Complex]; A --> C[Non-TB];
```

### **TB Complex**

*M. tuberculosis*  
*M. bovis (BCG)*  
*M. africanum*  
*M. microti*  
*etc.*

### **Non-TB**

~170  
Low virulence  
Environmental  
(soil and water)  
Opportunistic  
Chronic Lung Disease

# Mycobacterium avium Complex

= 10 - 11 species. (reported out as MAC)

- *M. avium*

- *M. intracellulare*

- *M. chimaera*



1 bp difference  
in 16s rRNA sequence

# ***Mycobacterium avium* Complex Pulmonary Disease Presenting as an Isolated Lingular or Middle Lobe Pattern\***

## **The Lady Windermere Syndrome**

*Jerome M. Reich, M.D.; Richard E. Johnson, Ph.D.†*

*Chest 1992;  
101:1605-09.*



Middle age to elderly women, thin and often with scoliosis with progressive bronchiectasis, centrilobular nodules and eventual fibrosis and volume loss usually starting in the RML/Lingula



# Soft Tissue Infections

*M. fortuitum*

Following piercing of Tragus

Horii, K.A. and Jackson, M.A.  
N Engl J Med 2010;362;2012.







## Postsurgical wound infections due to rapidly growing mycobacteria in Swiss medical tourists following cosmetic surgery in Latin America between 2012 and 2014

F P Maurer (florian.maurer@imm.uzh.ch)<sup>1,2</sup>, C Castelberg<sup>1</sup>, A von Braun<sup>3</sup>, A Wolfensberger<sup>3</sup>, G V Bloemberg<sup>1</sup>, E C Böttger<sup>1,2</sup>, A Somoskovj<sup>1,2</sup>



7 Swiss Women with Mycobacterial infections in 2012-14 following cosmetic surgery in Mexico, Ecuador, or Dominican Republic

# Some Basic Background

Operating Room Air Flow

Heater Coolers

Non-Tuberculous Mycobacteria

# The Outbreak Begins

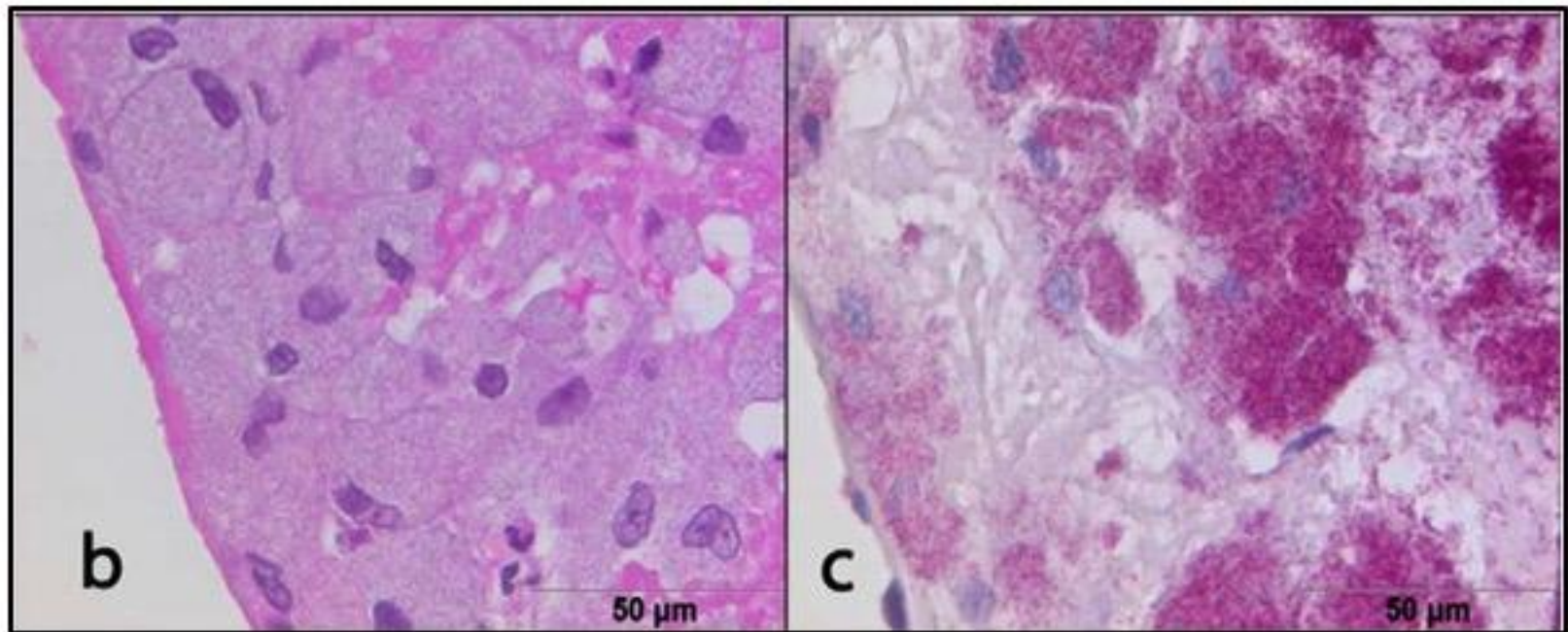
*M. chimaera* and Heater Coolers

# Prosthetic Valve Endocarditis and Bloodstream Infection Due to *Mycobacterium chimaera*

Yvonne Achermann,<sup>a</sup> Matthias Rössle,<sup>b</sup> Matthias Hoffmann,<sup>c</sup> Vanessa Deggim,<sup>d</sup> Stefan Kuster,<sup>a</sup> Dieter R. Zimmermann,<sup>b</sup> Guido Bloemberg,<sup>d</sup> Michael Hombach,<sup>d</sup> Barbara Hasse<sup>a</sup>

- **Patient 1** – 58 yo man
  - AVR & MVR – **2008**
  - Intermittent Fever, weight loss, SOB – Jun 2010
  - Dx. **Sarcoidosis** – BAL, liver/kidney biopsy
  - Repeat AVR/MVR **Jun 2011**
  - Frayed destroyed valves
  - **Cultures = *M. chimaera***

# Valve Histopathology – Patient 1



Swollen foamy macrophages

Acid Fast Bacilli on ZN Stain

Achermann, Y. et al. J Clin Microbiol 2013;51:1769-1773.



# Prosthetic Valve Endocarditis and Bloodstream Infection Due to *Mycobacterium chimaera*

Yvonne Achermann,<sup>a</sup> Matthias Rössle,<sup>b</sup> Matthias Hoffmann,<sup>c</sup> Vanessa Deggim,<sup>d</sup> Stefan Kuster,<sup>a</sup> Dieter R. Zimmermann,<sup>b</sup> Guido Bloemberg,<sup>d</sup> Michael Hombach,<sup>d</sup> Barbara Hasse<sup>a</sup>

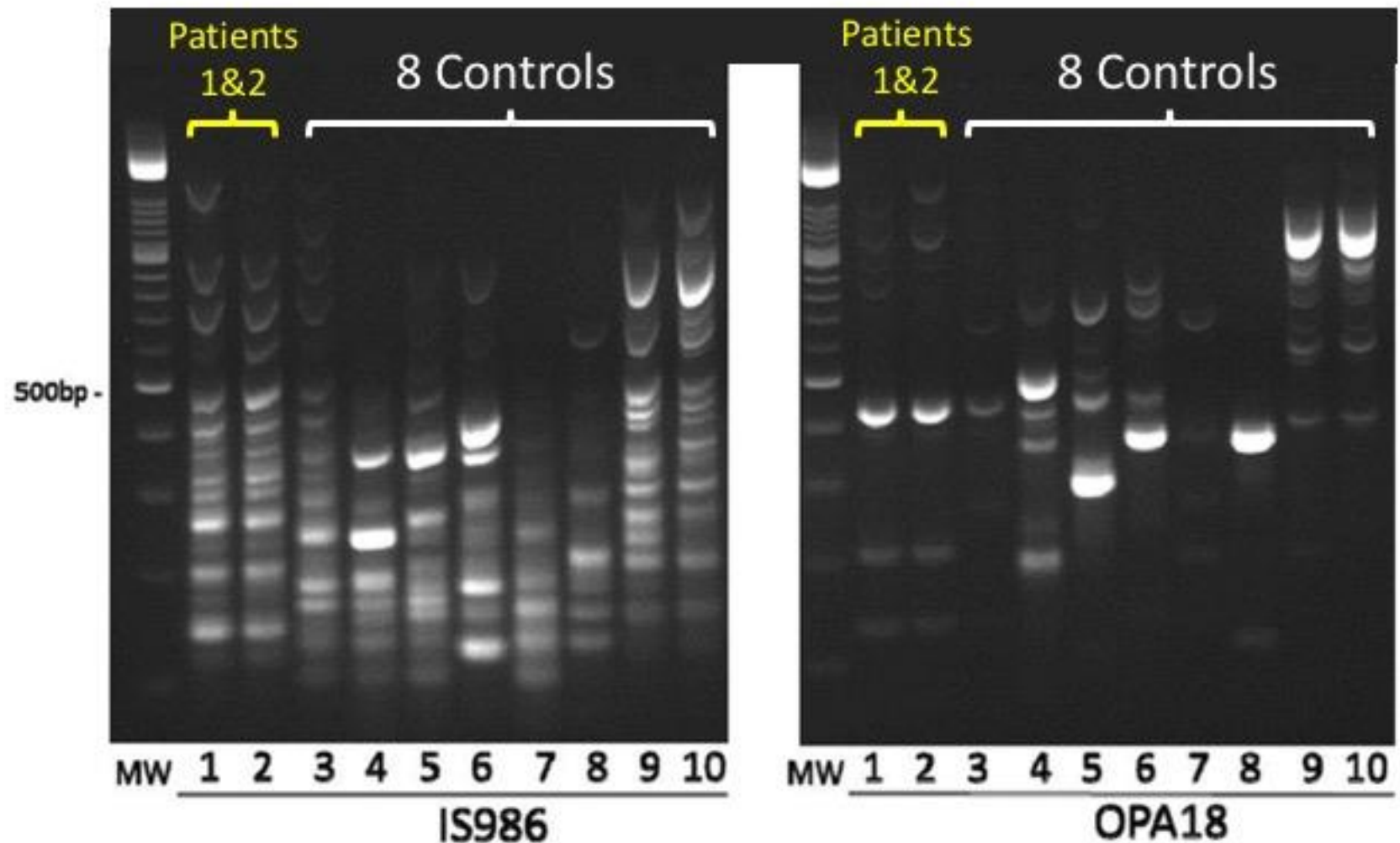
## • Patient 1 – 58 yo man

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- Dx. **Sarcoidosis** – BAL, liver/kidney biopsy
- Repeat AVR/MVR **Jun 2011**
- Frayed destroyed valves
- **Cultures = *M. chimaera***

## • Patient 2 – 51 yo man

- AVR and Aortic Root graft Jan. **2010**
- Presents **July 2011** with 4 mos. of FUO, renal and liver dysfunction, chorio-retinitis, splenomegaly, pancytopenia
- **Cultures = *M. chimaera*** in blood, marrow, urine

# *M. chimaera* from Patients 1 & 2 are Identical on RAPD - PCR



We present one case of **PVE** and one **disseminated infection** caused by **identical *M. chimaera* strains** in patients having heart **surgery 2 years apart**.  
**No nosocomial link was identified.**

Consider *M. chimaera* in the differential diagnosis of endocarditis or sepsis following valve surgery.

# Prolonged Outbreak of *Mycobacterium chimaera* Infection After Open-Chest Heart Surgery

Hugo Sax,<sup>1,a</sup> Guido Bloemberg,<sup>2,a</sup> Barbara Hasse,<sup>1,a</sup> Rami Sommerstein,<sup>1</sup> Philipp Kohler,<sup>1</sup> Yvonne Achermann,<sup>1</sup> Matthias Rössle,<sup>3</sup> Volkmär Falk,<sup>4</sup> Stefan P. Kuster,<sup>1</sup> Erik C. Böttger,<sup>2,b</sup> and Rainer Weber<sup>1,b</sup>

- 2 cases of invasive *M. chimaera* with identical RAPD-PCR patterns suggests **point-source** infection in the hospital
- **Outbreak Investigation launched:**
  - Identify additional patients
  - Focus on procedures involving water both inside and outside the OR's

Sax, H. et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2015;61:67-75.

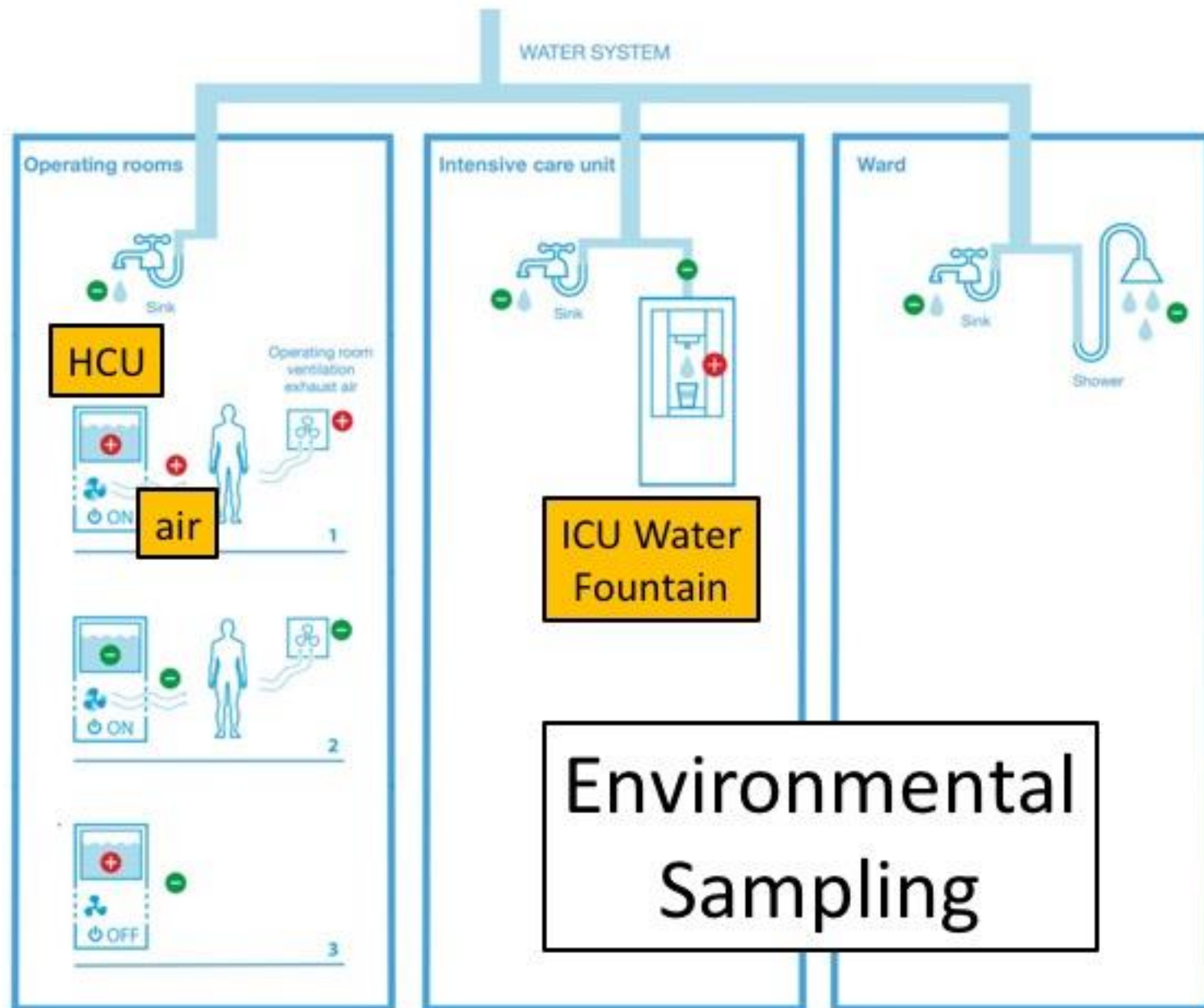
# Retrospective Case Review

- All Mycobacterial cultures and culture-negative endocarditis reviewed
- Case = proven invasive *M. chimaera* infection following open-chest heart surgery since August 2006



# Retrospective Case Review

- 2 known + 4 new cases of invasive *M. chimaera* infections – all had valve +/- aortic arch grafts
- Latency - **1.5 - 3.6y** from surgery
- Prosthetic Valve Endocarditis or Systemic Infections (fever, bacteremia, liver, renal, spleen and marrow)



It remains to be investigated how widespread this risk is for patient safety and what constitutes the most effective measures for its prevention.

Sax, H. et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2015;61:67-75.

Contamination during production of heater-cooler units by *Mycobacterium chimaera* potential cause for invasive cardiovascular infections: results of an outbreak investigation in Germany, April 2015 to February 2016

- **5** invasive *M. chimaera* infections post-CV surgery (5 mos – 5 years) in **Germany**
- All exposed to Sorin 3T Heater-Coolers
- **Environmental sampling** revealed identical *M. chimaera* isolates from **patients, used HCU's and new HCU's** at the manufacturer site

*M. chimaera* infections in patients,  
from HCU's used in **3 different  
countries** and from **environmental  
cultures** in the the manufacturing  
site are consistent with a  
**Point Source Outbreak.**

Manufacturing process added additional, terminal  
disinfection step in August 2014

Haller, S. et al. Euro Surveill. 2016;21(17):pii=30125.



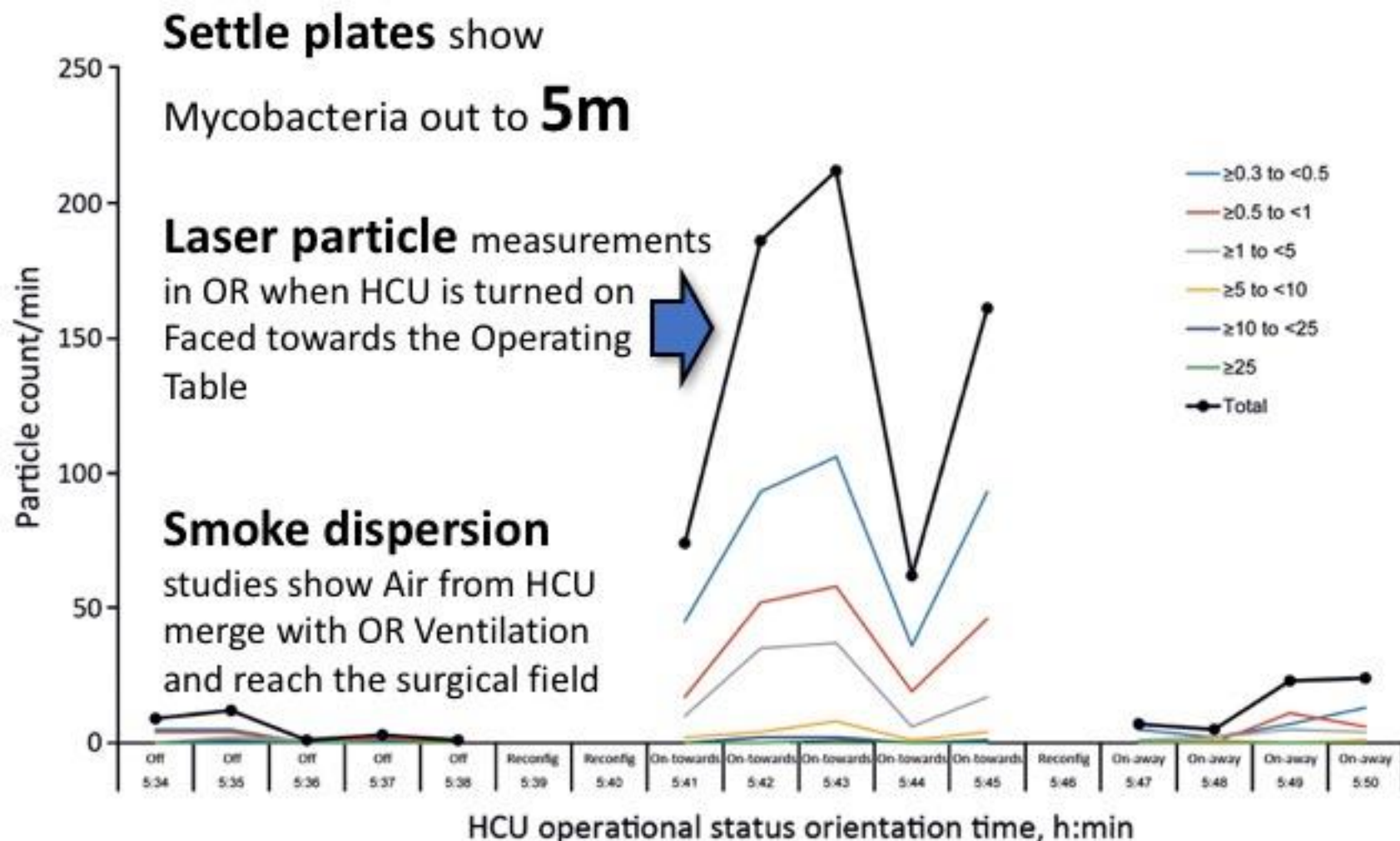
# **Transmission of *Mycobacterium chimaera* from Heater–Cooler Units during Cardiac Surgery despite an Ultraclean Air Ventilation System**

Rami Sommerstein, Christian Rüegg, Philipp Kohler, Guido Bloemberg, Stefan P. Kuster, Hugo Sax

- Transmission of *M. chimaera* from Heater Cooler units to the surgical field in OR with ultraclean laminar airflow:
  - Laser Particle Measurements
  - Smoke Dispersion Studies
  - Mycobacterial Settle Plates



# Smoke, Particle Diffusion & Settle Plates



Sommerstein, R. et al. Emerg Infect Dis June 2016;22:1008-1013.

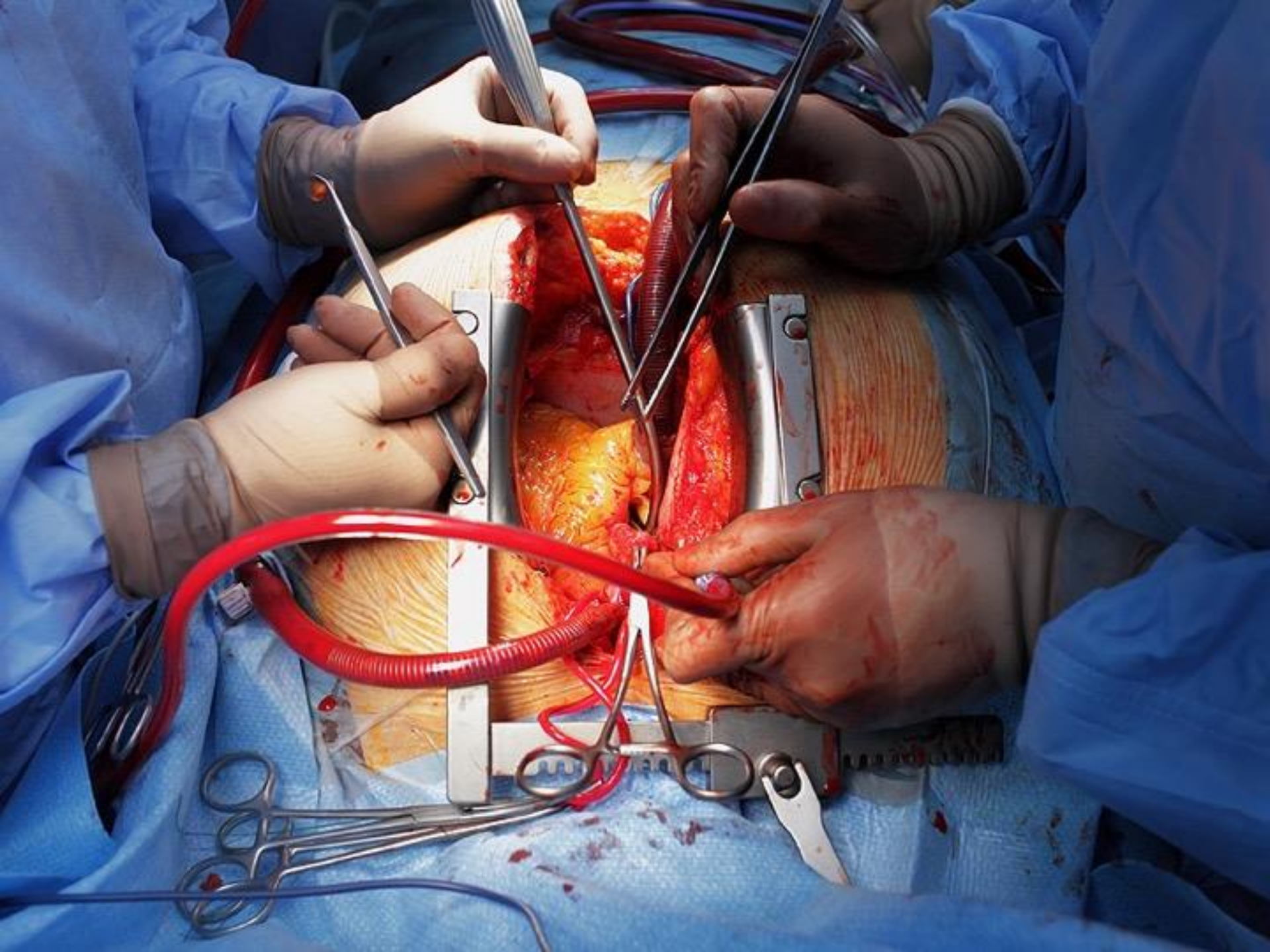


Sommerstein, R. et al. Emerg Infect Dis June 2016;22:1008-1013.

# Calgary Movie

Courtesy of Drs. John Conly,  
Tom Louie and others





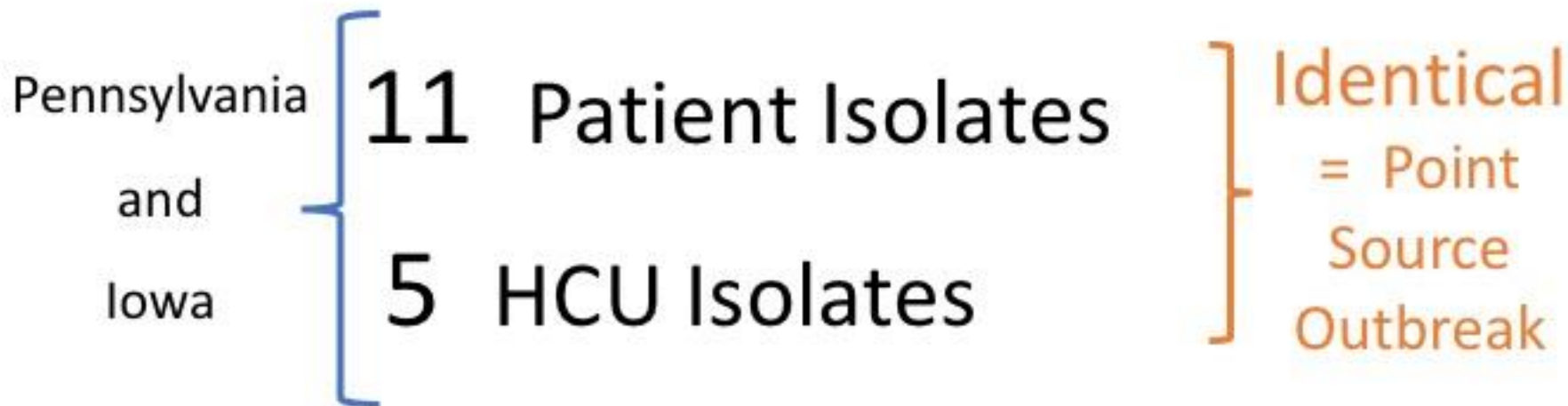




*Notes from the Field: Mycobacterium chimaera* Contamination of Heater-Cooler Devices Used in Cardiac Surgery — United States

Weekly / October 14, 2016 / 65(40):1117–1118

# Whole Genome Sequencing of *Mycobacterium chimaera*



# The New York Times

## Bacteria on Device Said to Infect at Least 12 Patients in Pennsylvania

By SABRINA TAVERNISE. OCT. 13, 2016

WASHINGTON — A device used during open-heart surgery [that infected at least 12 patients at a Pennsylvania hospital last year](#) was probably tainted at the plant in Germany where it was made, [a federal investigation has found](#).



# An Essential Heart-Surgery Device Poses a Rare but Deadly Risk

Hospitals and federal officials are scrambling to manage a newly discovered infection risk in open chest surgeries. What patients need to know to protect themselves.

By Jeneen Interlandi

Last updated: November 09, 2016

# What do we know?

Fall 2016

- Sorin 3T HCU manufactured prior to Sept 2014 may have been contaminated with *Mycobacterium chimaera* at source
- Manufacturer introduced an extra disinfection step in August 2014
- **BUT:**
  - Are post-Sept 2014 HCU's from this manufacturer O.K.?
  - What about other manufacturers of HCU?



# What do we know?

Fall 2016

- 250,000 open chest heart surgeries per year are done in the U.S. (3200/yr in Alberta)
- Sorin/LivaNova has 60-70% of market share
- In Alberta, we have 15 HCU's
  - 12 Sorin 3T (all pre-Sept 2014)
  - 3 Maquet (in Calgary)

**We cannot continue Cardiac Surgery without Heater Cooler Units**



# Recommendations

**... Coming From Multiple Sources**

**... some Conflicting**

**... and difficult or impossible to implement**



# Health Advisory

October 13, 2016

- The CDC is advising hospitals to **notify patients** who underwent open-heart (open-chest) surgery involving a Stöckert 3T heater-cooler that the device was potentially contaminated, possibly putting patients at risk for a life threatening infection.
- Consider **Informed Consent** with NTM Risk
- Conduct **retrospective surveillance** and consider **prospective surveillance**



**U.S. FOOD & DRUG**  
ADMINISTRATION

Oct. 14, 2016

- Strict adherence to manufacturer **disinfection** instructions; **direct exhaust** away from patient
- Consider **transitioning away from 3T** devices manufactured before Sept. 2014
- Culture of HCU's "presents technical challenges related to sample collection, the long culture time, and the high rate of false negative tests and is not recommended at this time"



**Health Canada**

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)

## Recalls and Alerts

### Heater-Cooler Devices - Risk of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Infections

October 21, 2016

- International reports of NTM infections associated with HCU's – few possible Canadian cases
- Consider **testing** for NTM in ill patients - even months to years after surgery
- Strictly follow **cleaning/disinfection** procedures
- Review **position and exhausting** of HCU's
- **Remove 3T units “suspected to be contaminated...from the OR or, if feasible, from service as soon as practical”**





**Health Canada**

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)

# F/P/T Teleconference

## Dec. 20, 2016

- Follow manufacturer recommendations: **Culture**

Sorin/LivaNova Heater-Coolers **monthly** for  
*Mycobacteria* (and others)

- Those “**suspected to be contaminated**” should be  
**removed from service** and returned to the  
manufacturer in Germany for a deep-cleaning  
process (loaners will be provided)



# Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network - **F/P/T Teleconference** December 20, 2016

In conjunction with the PHAC IPC Group:  
(statement to be published in 1.17)

## Do ***NOT*** Culture Heater-Cooler Units

- Methods are not standardized
- It is unclear what to do with the results
- Impact on labs will be huge

# What Did We Do?

## Risk Mitigation

(Should we suspend Cardiac Surgery?)

# Risk Mitigation Team

- Confirm the Diagnosis
- Who Can Help?
  - Cardiac Sciences Program - LEAD
  - Operations
  - IPC and Lab
  - Public Health
  - Contract and Procurement Team
  - Legal and Communications
- Who Needs to Know? (Senior Leadership/  
Government)

# Immediate Response

- Working closely with the manufacturer and Health Canada to minimize risk
- Adhering strictly with cleaning/disinfection protocols
- Placement of HCU's as far away from patient as possible
- HCU Exhaust is directed towards OR Exhaust
- We await an **Engineering Solution**

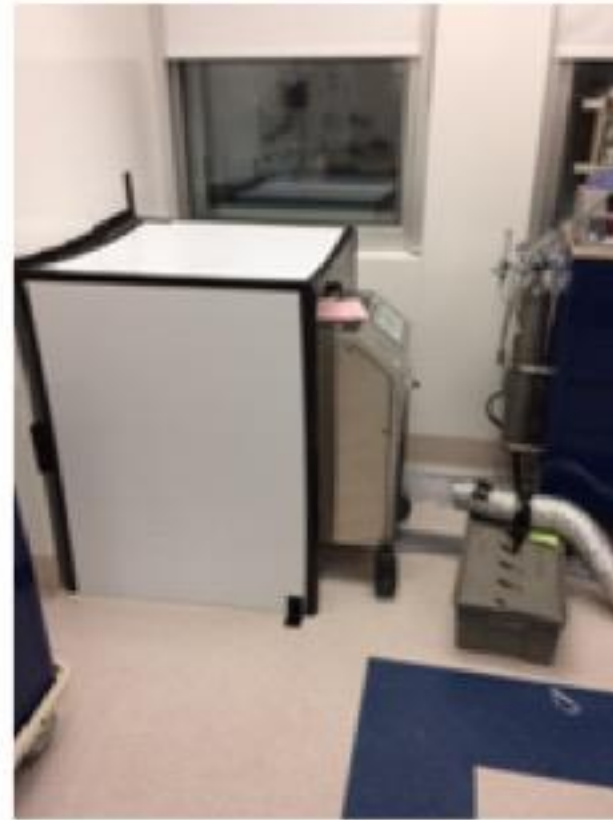
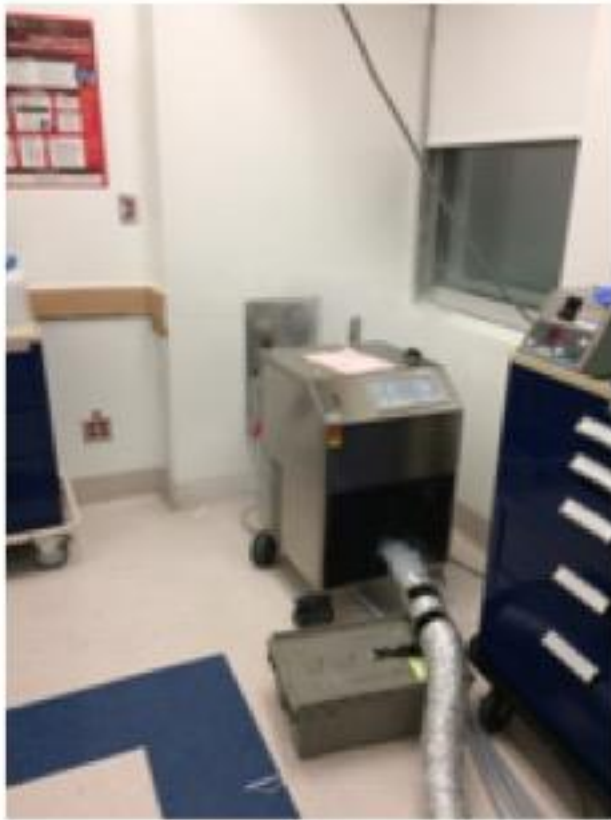
# Heater Cooler Unit Outside of OR





# Calgary Cabinet – “No Escape”

---



# Next Steps - 1

- Every Alberta physician notified
- (ID Physicians have received additional info)
- Letters distributed to all 11,500 patients/guardians who have had open chest CV surgery in Alberta since Jan 2012 (Calgary) or Jan 2011 (Edmonton)
- Health Link and Patient Concerns prepped and triage system arranged

# EDMONTON JOURNAL

**Heart  
patients  
warned  
on risk  
of infection**

*KEITH GEREIN*

Proactive Media

11,500  
Patients  
notified

December 2, 2016

# Alberta heart patients warned of exposure risk to bacteria during surgery

Risk of exposure to *Mycobacterium chimaera* 'extremely low,' AHS says

By Natasha Riebe CBC.ca on-line. December 1, 2016



# Clinical Picture

- Incubation Period – 3 mos – 5y (av. 18 mos)
- Highest Risk: valves, tissue, VAD
- Presentation:
  - Systemic Features (fever, sweats, weight loss, SOB)
  - Culture Negative Endocarditis with embolic phenomena (esp. eye involvement – 50%)
  - Surgical Site Infection (sternum/mediastinum)
  - Extra-cardiac – bone, liver, kidney
  - Labs – cytopenias; abnormal liver/renal; CRP



# Next Steps - 2

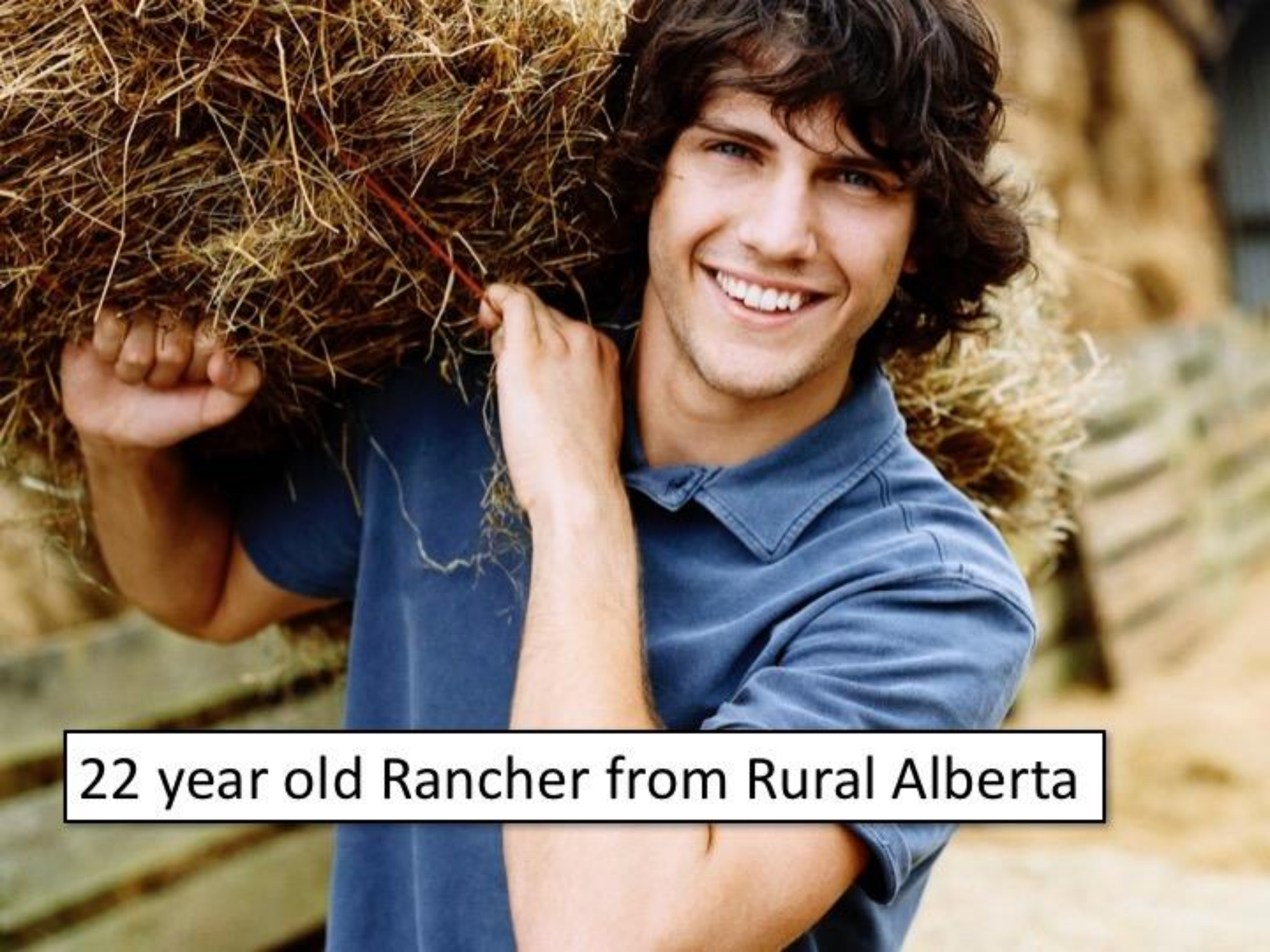
- Specific **Informed Consent** for those undergoing CV Surgery:
  - Risk approx. **1:100-1:1000** in centres that have had cases
  - Risk **less than 1:1000** with no cases
- **Retrospective Data Linkage**
- **Prospective Surveillance** for tracking (this will be an issue for at least the next 5 years)

# Retrospective Data Link

- Linkage of databases for all patients who have had open chest surgery (FMC, MAHI, Stollery) with Prov Lab Mycobacterial Lab Database
- Focus on those isolating NTM ***after*** CV Surgery

**20** Patients – Mostly Respiratory NTM

What's Next??



22 year old Rancher from Rural Alberta

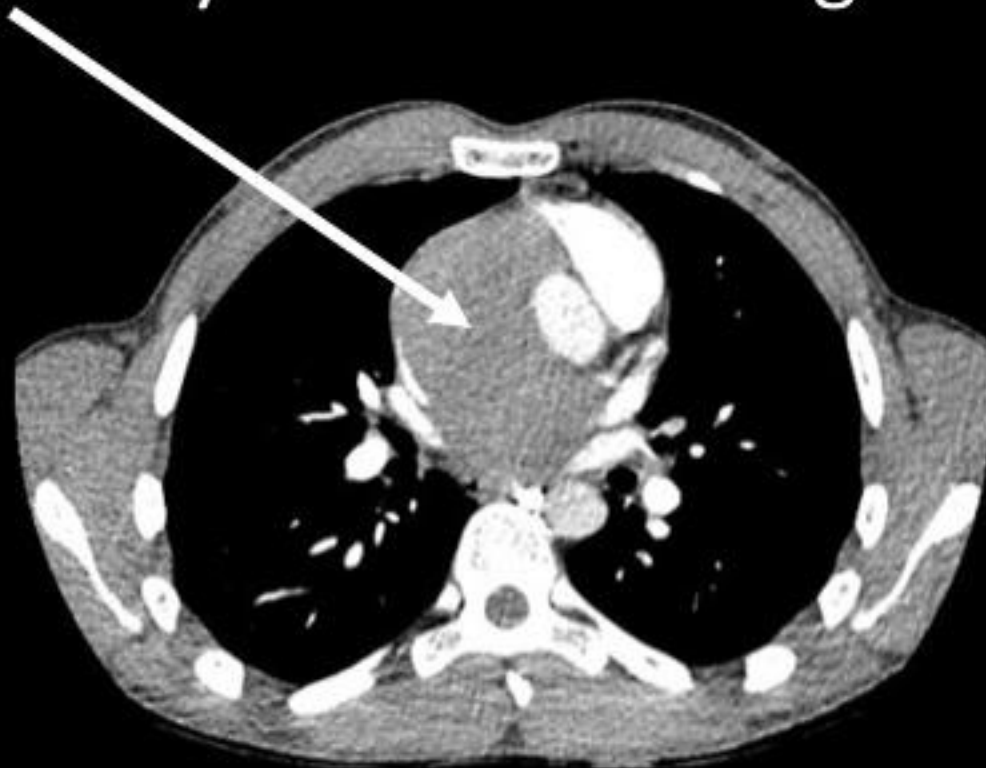
# 22 year old man

- Congenital Bicuspid Aortic Valve
- Mechanical AVR June 2015
- Presents 20 months later with Night Sweats
- 3 sets of blood cultures and one set for  
Mycobacterium - Negative
- One month later – Chest Pain



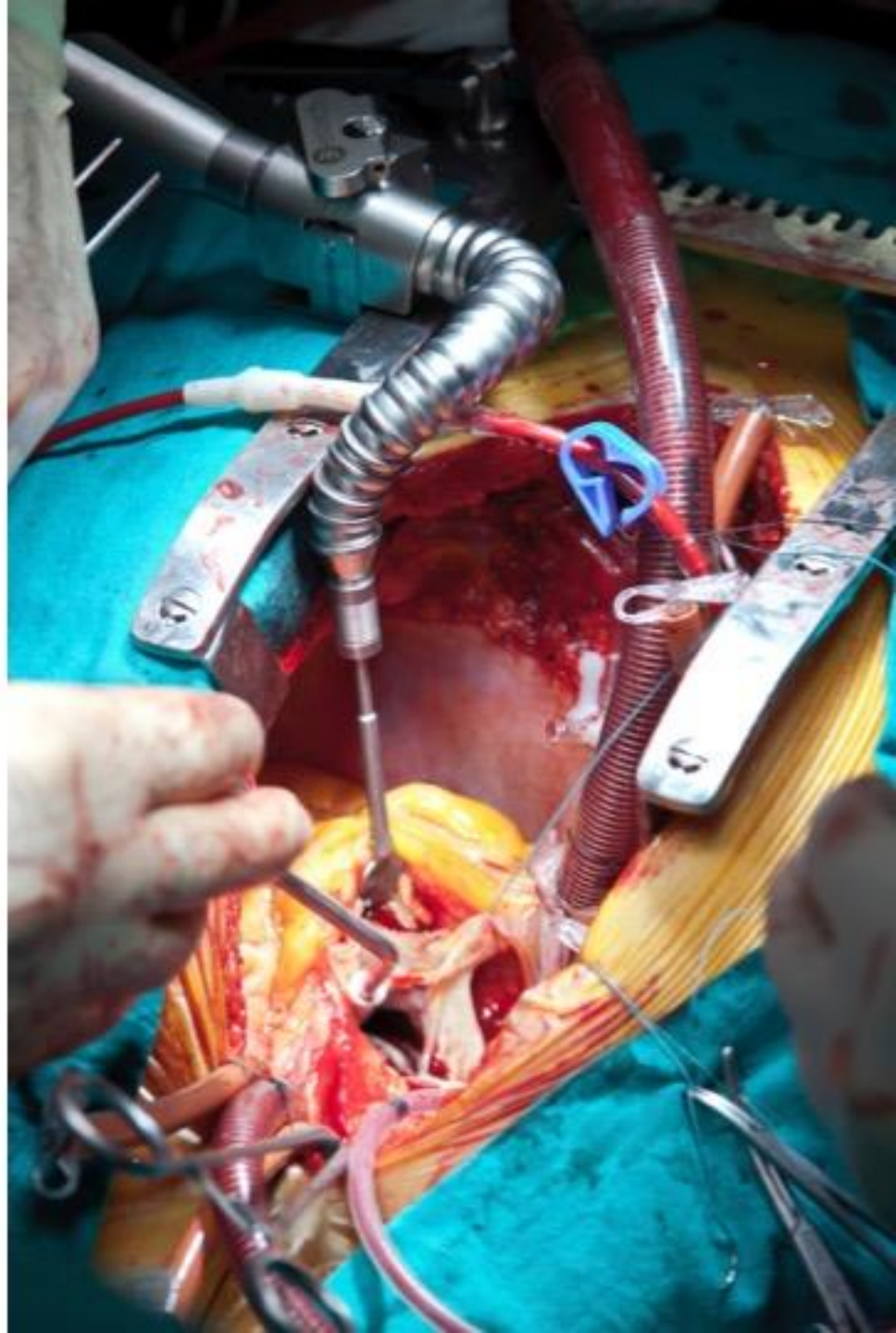
Mar 13, 2017 (21 months post-op):

- one week history of chest pain
- CT chest: aortic dissection with large aortic pseudoaneurysm of ascending aorta



## **Urgent OR** (Mar. 14, '17)

- Intraop appearance - no obvious gross infection.
- Procedure: Repair of aortic rupture with aortic prosthesis.
- Pseudoaneurysm tissue and mediastinal fluid sent for culture



# 21 days later...

CONCENTRATED SMEAR FOR ACID-FAST BACILLI

Verified:03/19/2017 08:32 MDT

No Acid-fast bacilli seen

FINAL REPORT

Verified:05/01/2017 13:51 MDT

Mycobacterium chimaera ISOLATED using the automated system BACTEC MGIT

Growth detected after 21 days of incubation

Identification by 16S ribosomal RNA gene sequencing

Identified at the National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

# Risk Team Regroup

- Now, we've had a case
- Who needs to know?
  - Surgeons/Clinicians/Government/Health Canada/Public
- Change Informed Consent:
  - Risk increased from  $<1:1000$  to  $1:100-1:1000$
- Is there anything further we can do to reduce risk?





Dr. Mark Joffe, AHS's senior medical director of infection prevention and control, said *Mycobacterium chimaera* is as a "very serious infection" that occasionally lead to death. An AHS patient contracted the infection during open-heart surgery two years ago. *RD KAISER*

## Patient develops infection linked to heart surgery

Bacteria traced to faulty exhaust system on equipment used during procedure

Edmonton Journal  
May 10, 2017





## Alberta man contracts rare infection from faulty device used in open-heart surgery

CARRIE TAIT

CALGARY — The Globe and Mail

Published Tuesday, May 09, 2017 8:10PM EDT

**THE GLOBE AND MAIL**

HEALTH

May 9, 2017 1:29 pm

Updated: May 9, 2017 8:13 pm

## Bacterial infection *M. chimaera* confirmed in Alberta open-heart surgery patient



By Caley Ramsay

Online Journalist Global News



## Bacterial infection confirmed in Alberta open-heart surgery patient

Medical director for northern Alberta to provide more details Tuesday afternoon

CBC News Posted: May 09, 2017 12:28 PM MT | Last Updated: May 09, 2017 5:03 PM MT

**CBC  
CBCnews**

## Dangerous bacterial infection found in Alberta heart surgery patient



KEITH GEREIN

[More from Keith Gerein](#)

Published on: May 9, 2017 | Last Updated: May 9, 2017 6:12 PM MDT

Edmonton Journal

One Year Later.....

Remains on Medical  
Therapy

Complications

Plan Uncertain

3 More Cases

**Global Health Estimate of Invasive  
*Mycobacterium chimaera* Infections Associated  
with Heater–Cooler Devices in Cardiac Surgery**

~ 120 invasive *M. chimaera* cases reported

Estimate: 156 – 282 cases per year

Sommerstein, R. et al. Emerg Infect Dis 2018;24:576-78.

6 Infections in Canada

2 in Quebec

4 in Alberta

Health Canada



# And We Wait.....

Will there be more cases over the 5 years following the definitive fix for the contaminated heater cooler problem?



# Sorin 3T Heater-Cooler Lawsuits Consolidated in Federal Court

Terry Turner. February 2, 2018.

The number of lawsuits claiming LivaNova's Sorin 3T heater-cooler systems caused injuries have more than doubled in the last year. Now, a federal panel has decided the cases should be transferred to a single federal court to move them more quickly through the legal process.

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation on Feb. 1, 2018, consolidated **39** lawsuits over the heater cooler devices into a multidistrict litigation in Pennsylvania. At least another **33** state cases from around the U.S. may be included in the MDL.

[www.drugwatch.com/news/2018/02/02/sorin-3t-heater-cooler-lawsuits-consolidated-federal-court/](http://www.drugwatch.com/news/2018/02/02/sorin-3t-heater-cooler-lawsuits-consolidated-federal-court/)

In any outbreak situation, public health's two biggest enemies are ignorance of the facts and fear.

Dr. James Talbot  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Province of Alberta



# Communicating Risk

## Proclaim Uncertainty

Be clear about what we know.

Be confident in identifying areas of  
uncertainty.

# Story #3

## Adventures in Reprocessing





Fertility Clinic IPC

Concern Dec. 2017

Vaginal Ultrasound Probes

# Background

- 41 U/S probes on a Sunday - 25 was the max
- 141 Women with Ultrasounds over 7 days
  - Records inconsistent for 4 days
  - Records completely missing for 2 days
- 3 Service Workers – most of the challenges related to a single service worker

Reprocessing

“Uncertainty”

or Failure

What would you do?

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY FEBRUARY 2007, VOL. 28, NO. 2

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**How to Assess Risk of Disease Transmission  
to Patients When There Is a Failure to Follow  
Recommended Disinfection and Sterilization Guidelines**

William A. Rutala, PhD, MPH; David J. Weber, MD, MPH

Rutala and Weber, Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2007;28:146-55.  
(ICHE February 2007)

# Risk of Infection (Bloodborne Virus)

- Prevalence of infection in population (A)
- Risk of transmission by route of exposure (B)
- Likelihood that contaminated device used (C)
- Efficacy of reprocessing steps (D)
- Effect of drying (E)

$$\text{Risk} = A \times B \times C \times D \times E$$



# Risk of Bloodborne Virus & STI's

- 141 Women with Ultrasounds over 7 days
  - inconsistent or missing reprocessing records
- Fertility Clinic - Population has been screened (STI/BBV) in the last year
- One known chronic bloodborne virus infection – controlled on medication

Risk –  $A \times B \times C \times D \times E$

Risk of Bloodborne Virus

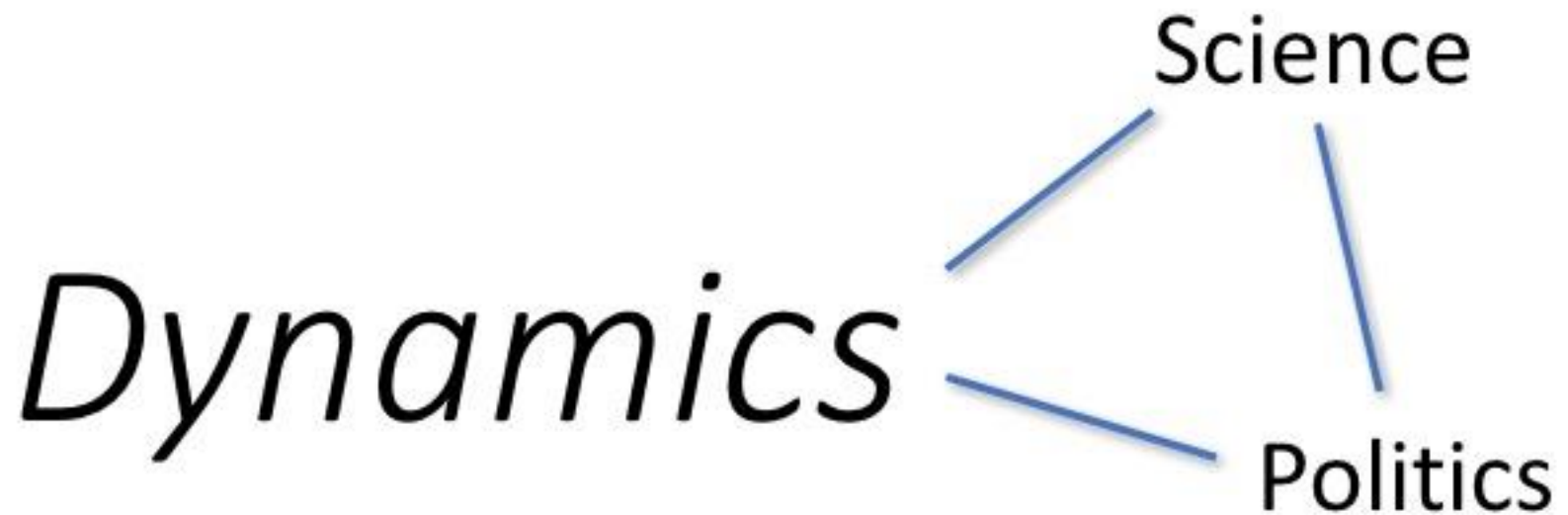
or STI

Near Zero

# Would You Disclose?

Risk thresholds should be established in advance

(1:1,000,000 in Alberta)



Decision made to notify 141 women:

Potential Exposure – Risk Extremely Low

Baseline and Follow-up BBV and STI Screening

# Disclosure

- Script 141 patients called – 2 people make the calls
- Q&A's prepared
- Follow-up for anybody with “tough” questions or expressed anger (some are pregnant; ++ questions)
- Requisitions for lab tests completed for anyone wanting follow-up (baseline and follow-up)
- Call-in centre for questions



# Proactive Media



We can't be sure  
reprocessing met our  
usual standards of  
excellence

Risk Near Zero

# Up to 141 fertility clinic patients exposed to sexually transmitted infections: Alberta Health Services



Women who received an endovaginal ultrasound at the Royal Alexandra Hospital's fertility clinic last month may be at risk of blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections due to a "possible lapse" ...

# **Fertility patients informed of possible sterilization lapses**

Royal Alex informs 141 women who had ultrasounds, though risk is 'close to zero'

Edmonton Journal December 15, 2017.

# Joffe was Vague...

-----  
Asked why documentation gaps occurred only during that one week, Joffe was vague but acknowledged staff were busy during much of that period.

Edmonton Journal December 15, 2017.

# Objectives

## 3 Stories:

- ARO Outbreak (MDR GNB)
- *M. chimaera* in CV Surgery
- Reprocessing Failure

**Complex issues  
in IPC**

**Framework  
for response**



Thank-you



**MAKE IPC  
GREAT AGAIN**

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**SIMULATION AS AN EDUCATION TOOL**

May 29, 2018

Speaker: **Dr. Ghazwan Altabbaa** and **Dione Kolodka**, Rockyview Hospital, Calgary, Alberta

*(South Pacific Teleclass)*

**INVOLVING PATIENTS IN UNDERSTANDING HOSPITAL INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL USING VIDEO-REFLEXIVE METHODS**

June 13, 2018

Speaker: **Dr. Mary Wyer**, University of Sydney, Australia

*(FREE Teleclass)*

**THE FUTURE OF INFECTION CONTROL – BRIGHT OR BLEAK?**

June 21, 2018

Speaker: **Martin Kiernan**, University of West London

*(FREE European Teleclass)*

**HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL FROM A DEVELOPING COUNTRY'S PERSPECTIVE**

July 17, 2018

Speaker: **Dr. Aamer Ikram**, Director, National Institute of Health, Islamabad, Pakistan

**FLOOD REMEDIATION IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES – INFECTION CONTROL IMPLICATIONS**

July 19, 2018

Speaker: **Andrew Streifel**, University of Minnesota

*(FREE Teleclass)*



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