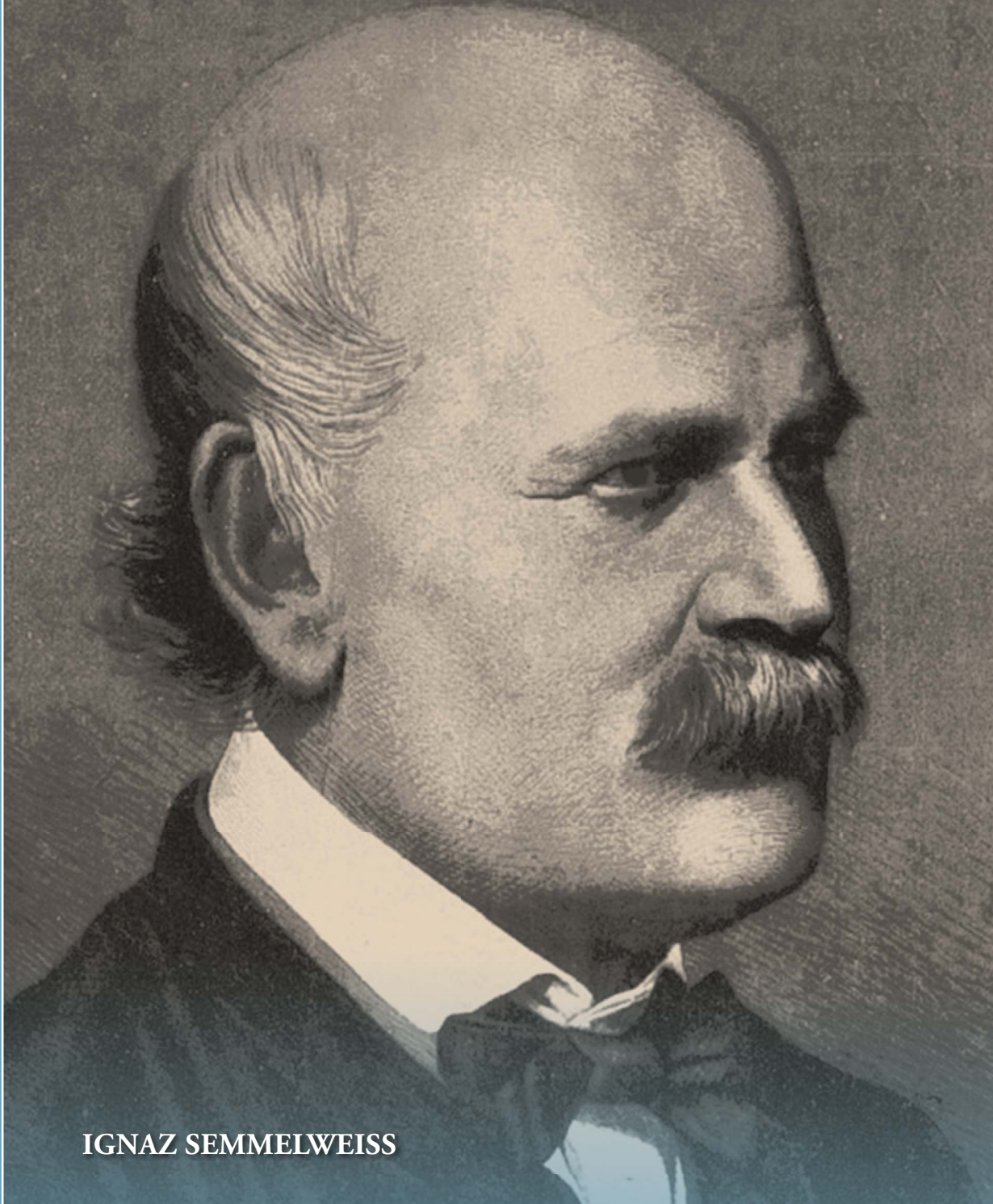


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CONTENTS

SHEA Expert Guidance

- 495** Animals in Healthcare Facilities: Recommendations to Minimize Potential Risks
Rekha Murthy, Gonzalo Bearman, Sherrill Brown, Kristina Bryant, Raymond Chinn, Angela Hewlett, B. Glenn George, Ellie J.C. Goldstein, Galit Holzmann-Pazgal, Mark E. Rupp, Timothy Wiemken, J. Scott Weese and David J. Weber

Original Articles

- 517** Behavior-Based Interventions to Improve Hand Hygiene Adherence Among Intensive Care Unit Healthcare Workers in Thailand
Anucha Apisarnthanarak, Thanee Eiamsitrakoon and Linda M. Mundy
- 522** Determinants of Tuberculosis Infection Control-Related Behaviors Among Healthcare Workers in the Country of Georgia
Veriko Mirtskhulava, Jennifer A. Whitaker, Maia Kipiani, Drew A. Harris, Nino Tabagari, Ashli A. Owen-Smith, Russell R. Kempker and Henry M. Blumberg
- 529** Response to Challenge Dose Among Young Adults Vaccinated for Hepatitis B as Infants: Importance of Detectable Residual Antibody to Hepatitis B Surface Antigen
Philip R. Spradling, Saleem Kamili, Jian Xing, Jan Drobeniuc, Dale J. Hu and Amy B. Middleman
- 534** The Impact of Healthcare-Associated Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* Infections on Post-Discharge Healthcare Costs and Utilization
Richard E. Nelson, Makoto Jones, Chuan-Fen Liu, Matthew H. Samore, Martin E. Evans, Nicholas Graves, Bruce Lee and Michael A. Rubin
- 543** Determination of Risk Factors for Recurrent Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia in a Veterans Affairs Healthcare System Population
Justin Albertson, Jennifer S. McDanel, Ryan Carnahan, Elizabeth Chrischilles, Eli N. Perencevich, Michihiko Goto, Lan Jiang, Bruce Alexander and Marin L. Schweizer
- 550** An Economic Analysis of Adherence Engineering to Improve Use of Best Practices During Central Line Maintenance Procedures
Richard E. Nelson, Aaron W. Angelovic, Scott D. Nelson, Jeremy R. Gleed and Frank A. Drews
- 557** Preventing Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections: A Qualitative Study of Management Practices
Ann Scheck McAlearney, Jennifer L. Hefner, Julie Robbins, Michael I. Harrison and Andrew Garman
- 564** Environmental Transmission of *Clostridium difficile*: Association Between Hospital Room Size and *C. difficile* Infection
Justine Jou, John Ebrahim, Frances S. Shofer, Keith W. Hamilton, John Stern and Jennifer H. Han, for the CDC Prevention Epicenters Program
- 569** Interferon- γ Release Assay vs. Tuberculin Skin Test for Tuberculosis Screening in Exposed Healthcare Workers: A Longitudinal Multicenter Comparative Study
Jean-Christophe Lucet, Dominique Abiteboul, Candice Estellat, Carine Roy, Sylvie Chollet-Martin, Florence Tubach, Guislaine Carcelain and the QUANTIPS Study Group

Concise Communications

- 575** Risk Factors for Infection with *Escherichia coli* in Nursing Home Residents Colonized with Fluoroquinolone-Resistant *E. coli*
Sara Manning, Ebbing Lautenbach, Pam Tolomeo and Jennifer H. Han
- 578** “Bringing Down the Flag”: Removing the Contact Precautions Label for Non-hospitalized Patients with Prior Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Infection or Colonization
Paul J. Carson, Mallory Danford, Grace Carson, Christine Hanish, Jody Thompson, Megan Orr, Michael Traynor, Felix Roth and Dubert Guerrero
- 581** Reducing Transmission Risk Through High-Level Disinfection of Transvaginal Ultrasound Transducer Handles
Andrew Ngu, Glenn McNally, Dipika Patel, Vivian Gorgis, Sandrine Leroy and Jon Burdach
- 585** *Commentary:* Intra-cavitary Ultrasound Probes: Cleaning and High-Level Disinfection Are Necessary for Both the Probe Head and Handle to Reduce the Risk of Infection Transmission
Michelle J. Alfa
- 587** Longitudinal Evaluation of Clinical and Colonization Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Isolates Among Veterans
Edward Stenehjem, Emily K. Crispell, David Rimland, Monica M. Farley and Sarah W. Satola
- 590** Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae*: Frequency of Hospital Room Contamination and Survival on Various Inoculated Surfaces
David J. Weber, William A. Rutala, Hajime Kanamori, Maria F. Gergen and Emily E. Sickbert-Bennett
- 594** Impact of Surveillance Technique on Reported Rates of Surgical Site Infection
Heather Young, Sara M. Reese, Bryan Knepper and Connie S. Price
- 597** Infection Prevention and Control Practices in Children’s Hospitals
Jeffrey M. Bender, Mary Virgallito, Jason G. Newland, Julia S. Sammons, Emily A. Thorell, Susan E. Coffin, Andrew T. Pavia, Thomas J. Sandora and Adam L. Hersh

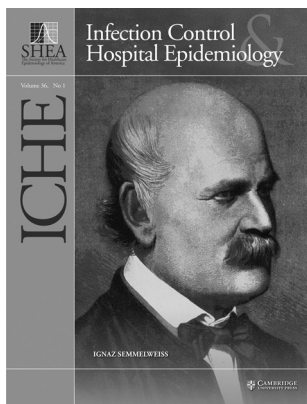
Research Brief

- 601** Rates of Hospital-Associated Respiratory Infections and Associated Pathogens in a Regional Burn Center, 2008–2012
Anne M. Lachiewicz, David van Duin, Lauren M. DiBiase, Samuel W. Jones, Shannon Carson, William A. Rutala, Bruce A. Cairns and David J. Weber
- 603** *Staphylococcus aureus* Bacteremia in Hospitalized Children: Incidence and Outcomes
Sarah B. Klieger, Neika D. Vendetti, Brian T. Fisher and Jeffrey S. Gerber
- 605** The Expanding Role of the Hospital Epidemiologist in 2014: A Survey of the Society for Hospital Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Research Network
Daniel J. Morgan, Valerie M. Deloney, Allison Bartlett, Susan E. Boruchoff, Renato Camargos Couto, Michael Oji, Aruna Poojary, Gwen Rogers, Carol Sulis and Aaron M. Milstone
- 608** Adverse Events Following Influenza Immunization Reported by Healthcare Personnel Using Active Surveillance Based on Text Messages
Lauren E. Tracey, Annette K. Regan, Donna B. Mak and Paul V. Effler
- 610** The Impact of Role Models on Hand Hygiene Compliance
Carolyn Dombecki, Muazzum M. Shah, Angela Eke-Usim, Sarah Akkina, Melissa Ahrens, Lisa Sturm, Laraine Washer and Betsy Foxman

Letters to the Editor

- 613** Infection Prevention in Transfusion Practice
Sabita Basu, Gaurav Goel and Sanjay Bhattacharya
- 614** Infectious Complications Following Transrectal Ultrasound-guided Prostate Biopsy: A Canadian Tertiary Cancer Center Experience
Ibrahim Al-Busaidi, Jerome A. Leis, Wayne L. Gold, Allison McGeer and Ants Toi
- 616** Characteristics of Primary Literature in the Field of Antimicrobial Stewardship, 2000–2013
Melissa Santibañez, Melissa V. Veulens, Tatiana Jenistova, Laura Aragon and Timothy P. Gauthier
- 618** Detection of *Mycobacterium abscessus* from Deep Pharyngeal Swabs in Cystic Fibrosis
Charles R. Esther Jr, Alan Kerr and Peter H. Gilligan
- 619** High Counts of Carbapenemase-Producing *Enterobacteriaceae* in Hospital Sewage
Tse Hsien Koh, Karrie Ko, Roland Jureen, Rama Narayana Deepak, Nancy Wen Sim Tee, Thean Yen Tan, Matthew Rong Jie Tay, Vernon Jian Ming Lee and Timothy Mark Sebastian Barkham

About the cover:



Starting in 2015, the cover format of each volume of Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology will highlight one of the many professionals throughout history who not only recognized how disease might be spread, but also how epidemiological principles could be applied to reduce healthcare associated infections.

Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865) was a Hungarian physician who was appointed an assistant in obstetrics at the Allgemeines Krankenhaus in Vienna. He recognized that women delivered by midwife trainees were significantly less likely to die of puerperal fever than those delivered by physicians or medical students. He hypothesized that puerperal fever could be spread to mothers at the time of delivery by the hands of obstetricians that became contaminated while performing autopsies on women who had died in the maternity ward. Controlled trials of hand washing with chloride of lime solution and disinfection of instruments showed that he could reduce infections among the women cared for by physicians by almost 20-fold. Unfortunately, he did not publish his findings which contributed to the lack of acceptance of antisepsis among senior staff;

Semmelweis' academic appointment was not renewed. He left for Budapest, but his beliefs failed to gain traction among colleagues in Hungary. Semmelweis' increasingly erratic and angry behavior led to commitment to an asylum; he died there within a few short weeks at the age of 47 years. Contrary to legend, Semmelweis' autopsy suggests that he did not die of streptococcal gangrene, but rather of trauma related to beatings inflicted by the guards at the asylum and an early Alzheimer-type dementia.

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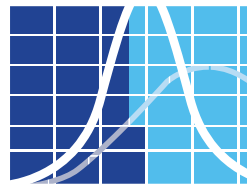
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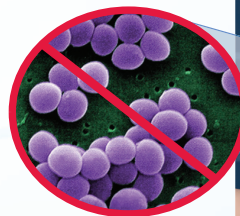
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