

IHP news 424 annex : A few more essential reads for this week

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The weekly International Health Policies (IHP) newsletter is an initiative of the Health Policy unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Dear Colleagues,

Just a quick annex to the newsletter of this week. The Lancet played a few tricks with me last evening 😊. Or perhaps it was the heatwave in Belgium.

Enjoy your reading.

The editorial team

More Highlights

Lancet – Recognition matters: only one in ten awards given to women

Rosemary Morgan, Rhoopa Dhatt, Kent Buse et al;

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31592-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31592-1/fulltext)

*“Receiving an award is an accolade. Awards validate and bring visibility, help attract funding, hasten career advancement, and can consolidate career accomplishments. Yet, in the fields of public health and medicine, few women receive them. **Between seven public health and medicine awards from diverse countries, the chances of a woman receiving a prize was nine out of 100 since their inception...**” Shocking.*

Lancet – Offline: A unique opportunity for WHO

Richard Horton; [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31712-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31712-9/fulltext)

Horton, who visited IHME (for its tenth anniversary), argues **the time is right for a partnership between IHME & WHO**, a ‘reset’ of their relationship so to speak. “...With a new Director-General of WHO—Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus—to take office on July 1, 2017, and with an entirely new leadership team to be appointed across the agency in the coming months, now is a good moment to reassess the relationship between WHO and IHME. ...”

UNODC (World Drug Report 2017): 29.5 million people globally suffer from drug use disorders, opioids the most harmful

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2017/June/world-drug-report-2017_-29-5-million-people-globally-suffer-from-drug-use-disorders--opioids-the-most-harmful.html

“In 2015 about a quarter of a billion people used drugs. Of these, around 29.5 million people - or 0.6 per cent of the global adult population - were engaged in problematic use and suffered from drug use disorders, including dependence. Opioids were the most harmful drug type and accounted for 70 per cent of the negative health impact associated with drug use disorders worldwide, according to the latest World Drug Report, released today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).”

Washington Post - The World Health Organization spends more on travel than on key diseases. That’s actually okay.

Mara Pilinger; https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/06/22/the-world-health-organization-spends-more-on-travel-than-on-key-diseases-thats-actually-okay/?utm_term=.dbff508bf8d0

Pilinger nails it in this in-depth analysis.

NYT – Senate Health Care Bill Includes Deep Cuts to Medicaid

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/22/us/politics/senate-health-care-bill.html>

The NYT’s (in-depth) view on the Senate health care bill (and first reactions).

Among others this one, by **Barack Obama** himself (Guardian) - [Obama attacks Republican health bill as 'massive transfer of wealth' to the rich](#) He criticizes the fundamental meanness in the Republicans' bill.

Hepatitis C controversy

Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology - Clinical effects of antivirals for hepatitis C

"An [Editorial](#) from The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology and an [open letter from the World Hepatitis Alliance](#) address recent controversy around the benefits of direct-acting antiviral drugs." As you can imagine, the reactions to the Cochrane review from last week aren't all that enthusiastic...

Lancet (Comment) - Clinical trials during epidemics

G Keusch et al; [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31602-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31602-1/fulltext)

"The consensus report of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for the first time evaluates the clinical trials on Ebola therapeutics and vaccines in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia during 2014–15. The report presents seven recommendations for both inter-epidemic and epidemic periods to improve the likelihood that important new information on therapeutics and vaccines can be obtained during future epidemics."

Lancet Letter – WHO R&D Blueprint: a global coordination mechanism for R&D preparedness

MP Kieny et al ; [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31635-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31635-5/fulltext)

*"A report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the Comment in today's issue of The Lancet by Gerald T Keusch and colleagues outline how to improve the speed and effectiveness of clinical trial research before and during an epidemic. The report uses key lessons learned from the Ebola epidemic in west Africa. **We at WHO welcome the report...** ... The National Academies report and the Comment by Keusch and colleagues propose the establishment of a coalition of international stakeholders. We argue that such a coalition can only be coordinated by a supranational entity that is global and impartial in nature, and that the R&D Blueprint is already fulfilling this function...."*

Global Humanitarian Crisis

Guardian - Bunkers, blackmail and bureaucracy: aid agencies accused of outsourcing danger

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jun/22/bunkers-blackmail-bureaucracy-aid-agencies-accused-outsourcing-danger>

"Aid agencies often rely on local people to carry out work in the world's war zones while their own staff remain holed up in bunkers, a report based on interviews with 2,000 humanitarian workers has found. Highlighting alarming practices in countries including Syria, Yemen and Iraq, the authors of the independent study said aid groups are spending too little time on the ground in conflict zones and are over-reliant on subcontractors."

UN News - Many aid groups unable to manage war zone risks, says UN-backed report

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57038#.WUyrkeuLTIU>

*"Humanitarian aid workers want to help people in some of the biggest war zones, but extreme risks and threats are paralyzing their operations, a United Nations-backed report today concluded. "Conflict parties' lack of respect for the fundamental tenets of international humanitarian law and the brutality and volatility of today's armed conflicts make it extremely difficult and dangerous for these brave aid workers to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection in complex emergencies," said UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien, whose Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) co-produced the report. **Presence and Proximity: To Stay and Deliver, Five Years On**, produced by OCHA, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Jindal School of International Affairs in India, is based on interviews with more than 2,000 international and national aid workers, and includes case studies on humanitarian aid in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Syria and Yemen...."*

And some quick links:

Nature (News) - [US court grants Elsevier millions in damages from Sci-Hub](#)

Humanosphere - ['Anti-Forbes' list of world's Bottom 100 highlights widening wealth gap.](#)

Humanosphere - [Worldwide decline in personal rights hampers social progress, study shows.](#)