



Jennifer Donatelli <brooklynparknews@gmail.com>

Global Health NOW: 'Maurice Hille-who', Why Angelina Jolie Matters, and Give Blood, Save Moms

1 message

Global Health NOW <globalhealtheditor@gmail.com>

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Reply-To: Global Health NOW <globalhealtheditor@gmail.com>

To: brooklynparknews@gmail.com

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VACCINES

'Maurice Hille-who'

All of us have heard of Jonas Salk and Edward Jenner—superstars in the vaccinology world. But the name Maurice Hilleman is likely to be met with a reaction of “Maurice Hille-who,” unless you’re a “vaccinerd” like Robyn Correll Carlyle and Jane Huston.

In a tender homage in the Just the Vax blog, the pair argue that more people should be aware of Hilleman’s accomplishments—including developing the first human vaccine against Japanese encephalitis—that put him on the same level as Salk and Jenner. Hilleman also helped develop 8 of the 14 vaccines doctors recommend we receive and why “we are protected from measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chicken pox, meningococcal disease, [and] pneumococcal disease.” He helped develop 36 vaccines in his career.

“Every time you think, speak or advocate for measles immunization, you’re shining a little light on Maurice Hilleman and his amazing career. And while he may not have received as much recognition as he deserved while he was alive, we can still honor him and his accomplishments by protecting the hard-fought progress made in the fight against preventable disease,” they write.

[Just the Vax Blog, Disease Daily](#)

South African Polio Vaccine Shortage

An oral polio vaccine shortage is causing some South African hospitals to turn away mothers wishing to vaccinate their babies. The Biovac Institute, a vaccine supplier, said it has been experiencing the shortage for a month.

Recent WHO recommendations for countries to launch polio vaccination campaigns have strained manufacturers, said Morena Makhoana, Biovac CEO. The multinational drug company in France that manufactures Biovac's OPVs has not been able to meet the demand, though they should be available in about 10 days, Makhoana said, adding people still can be vaccinated with injections, he said.

[IOL News \(South Africa\)](#)

CELEBRITY WATCH

Why Angelina Jolie Matters

Do celebrities like Angelina Jolie actually help when they speak out at events like this week's Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict? The short answer is yes, according to Lauren Wolfe, director of Women Under Siege.

Without the spotlight of Jolie's celebrity, stories of these survivors from Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and elsewhere might not be heard, writes Wolfe.

"Because the attention economy for truly caring about suffering is tiny (as is the funding for efforts to help), we need Angelina Jolie. It is with her help, her devotion to the suffering of women who cannot leave their houses because of the intense stigma of rape, that we can bring attention to this issue. Now we just need governments to take on the complex problems that lead to rape in war and the needs of survivors after the fact. Until they do, Angelina Jolie, we need you," Wolfe writes.

[Women Under Siege](#)

Related: International protocol launched to deal with sexual violence in conflict - [The Guardian](#)

TOBACCO

Smoking's Deadly Toll in Asia Rises

About 2 million people in Asia have died from smoking-related causes in recent years, and [a Vanderbilt University study](#) predicts that number will increase as more Asians begin smoking. Half of Asian men smoke, and the countries where they are more likely to die of cardiovascular or respiratory diseases or cancer include Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. They were 50 percent more likely to die of respiratory diseases than nonsmoking men.

Asian women were less likely to smoke than men but were at risk of death from the same diseases, accounting for 16.7 percent of lung cancer deaths of those at least 45 years old.

The Quote: "Tobacco smoking has now reached epidemic proportions in Asia and it is likely, with the maturation of this epidemic, and the lack of effective tobacco control efforts, smokers will continue to face an increased risk of death from cancer and other diseases," said Wei Zheng, director of the Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center and a leader of the study.

[Vanderbilt University](#)

Tobacco Down in Down Under

Australia's 15-month-old mandate that cigarette packages replace logos with warnings and photos of sick or dying smokers seems to be effective. Household tobacco consumption has fallen 4.9%.

"Plain packaging is one of many measures, including high taxes and laws that restrict where you can smoke, that are having an impact. The national accounts data is the first sign since plain packaging was introduced that consumption has fallen away," said Stephen Koukoulas, managing director of the Canberra-based Market Economics.

[The New York Times](#)

ROAD TRAFFIC

Better Roads, Shared

Could roads better designed prevent traffic accidents like the one that killed India's Rural Development Minister Gopinath Munde June 3? Jayanthi Natarajan explores the possibilities. Traffic deaths account for 10 percent of deaths in India, Natarajan writes. In 2011, 137,000 Indians died in road accidents, making it one of the top three causes of death for people 5 to 44 years old.

Traffic deaths and accidents could be prevented with better road planning that provides for other road users besides private cars. "We have pedestrians, cyclists, rickshaws, carts, and so many different kinds of road users. Yet, any road in any metro in India simply does not have bicycle lanes, that pedestrians have to cling to a corner of the road, since most pedestrian footpaths have either vanished or are transgressed upon by owners of large houses and shops," Natarajan wrote.

[Deccan Chronicle \(Hyderabad, India\)](#)

MATERNAL HEALTH

Maternal Death in the U.S.

Afghanistan—and the U.S.—are among just 8 countries in the world where the maternal mortality rate has been increasing for the past decade.

Having slipped in the past 15 years from the 4th to the 30th position in [annual rankings of well-being of mothers and children in 176 countries by Save the Children](#), the U.S. now is on par with Iran and Romania.

"What is really striking in the U.S. is the inequality. In the U.S., 18 mothers died for every 100,000 live births in 2013, which is double Saudi Arabia and Canada, where seven per 100,000 die. That number more than triples for black women in urban America, according Carolyn Miles, CEO, Save the Children.

[Insurance News Net](#)

Give Blood, Save Moms

This year's World Blood Donor Day (Saturday, June 14) is all about improving access to safe blood for saving the lives of mothers. Almost 800 women die every from causes related to complications of pregnancy and childbirth, according to WHO.

The Numbers: At 510 deaths per 100,000 births, sub-Saharan Africa has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, *and* the lowest blood donation rates, per WHO.

The Quote: "When a new mother dies, not only does her baby face greater risk of death, malnourishment and lifelong disadvantage, but the whole family's wellbeing is affected. If all obstetric facilities provided safe blood for transfusion, many of these mothers' lives could be saved," said Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General.

[WHO](#)

Related: Ghana records over 3,000 maternal deaths in 2013 - [Ghanaweb.com](#)

MIGRATION

Urban Islands

Urban migration among Pacific Islanders is causing them to sink into poverty and live in sprawling slums with profound effects on nutrition and health. The social shift is evident on the southwest Pacific Island state of Vanuatu, population 247,262, which has an urban growth rate of 4%, second in the region after the Solomon Islands. State institutions need to take measures to improve urban planning and reform the housing market in the interests of those in most need, according to the Pacific Islands Forum.

"Eighty percent of people in urban areas cannot even afford one decent meal per day," said Leias Cullwick, executive director of the Vanuatu National Council of Women. "In the hospitals, 70 percent of the women giving birth cannot afford enough healthy food, so [their] babies are going to be malnourished."

[IPS News](#)

POLLUTION

Dirty Air, Zoomable

A quarter of the world's people are breathing dirty air. The result? 7 million premature deaths in 2012.

Where's the worst place for respiration? Angel Hsu and Alisa Zomer created an interactive, zoomable, clickable map for The Atlantic. With an overlay of data from [WHO](#) and [Yale's Environmental Performance Index](#), the map shows national- and city-level exposures to air pollutants with the greatest effect on human health and fine particulate matter, from sources like

power plants, industry and household biomass burning. FPM contributes to acute lower respiratory infections, cancer, and cardiovascular and lung diseases.

[The Atlantic](#)

WORLD CUP: GLOBAL HEALTH EDITION

Football fans in China buy fake sick notes ahead of World Cup - [CNN](#)

Toure Fully Recovered From Malaria Infection - [SBNation.com](#)

Roy Hodgson's World Cup malaria worry - [Daily Star \(UK\)](#)

QUICK HITS

Suicide rates increased in Europe and the U.S. during Great Recession – [Washington Post](#)

Militants Reportedly Overrun Tikrit, As 500,000 Flee Mosul - [NPR](#)

Focus: Flu pandemics – [Orange County Register \(California\)](#)

Scientists condemn 'crazy, dangerous' creation of deadly airborne flu virus – [The Guardian](#)

First Mers death in Algeria, ministry confirms – [Gulf News \(UAE\)](#)

Kenya: Funding Boosts Fistula Treatment Program in Kenya - [allAfrica](#)

The self-lubricating skin-like condom that has piqued the interest of Bill Gates – [Smart Company \(Australia\)](#)

Rotavirus Vaccination Cuts Diarrhea Health Care Utilization – [HCPLive](#)

Measles threatens thousands of children in Somalia: UN – [Channel News Asia](#)

Global health will remain top priority for development funding in a post-MDG world: Benn - [aidspan](#)

China's Environment Goes From Bad to Worse – [BloombergBusinessWeek](#)

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