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Heart rate as a prognostic risk factor in patients with coronary artery disease and left-ventricular systolic dysfunction (BEAUTIFUL): a subgroup analysis of a randomised controlled trial.
Fox, K., Ian Ford, P Gabriel Steg, Michal Tendera, Michele Robertson and Roberto Ferrari.

How much does quality of child care vary between health workers with differing durations of training? An observational multicountry study.

Implications of mortality transition for primary health care in rural South Africa: a population-based surveillance study.
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Stranded in San Francisco.
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SPECIAL REPORT


People are living longer with Down’s syndrome, yet a paucity of research exists, say many experts. Tensions between funding different aspects of research have divided the field, but several new initiatives are now underway, which might also prove useful in other disorders. Kelly Morris reports. Down’s syndrome is the commonest identified genetic cause of intellectual disability, caused by trisomy 21.

WORLD REPORT


Protests and violence in hospitals that isolate patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis is becoming an all-too-familiar story across Africa. Community-based treatment could help ease some of the tension, say experts. Zoe Alsop reports on the situation in South Africa and Kenya. This summer more than 20 patients infected with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis attacked a nurse and hurled stones at security guards in the South African hospital where they had been locked up in a bid to protect the public from their lethal disease. These types of riots are becoming increasingly commonplace in the country.


Public-private partnerships have sprung up in several states in India to deliver primary health care to rural populations. Bharathi Ghanashyam takes a look at one example and asks experts whether similar partnerships should be scaled-up to cover the country’s entire health sector. Pattanayakanahalli village lies at a distance of about 172 km from Bangalore on the Bangalore—Mumbai highway in Southern India. 18 km from the nearest town, it is home to a population that is largely made up of landless ...


Brazil’s strategy to deliver primary health care to millions of poor people has won widespread acclaim. But all is not well. The initiative’s insufficient number of clinics and staff has put a strain on the country’s under-equipped public hospitals. Michael Kepp reports from Rio de Janiero. Public health in Brazil gets high marks for having brought basic health care to millions of poor people previously denied it, but lower scores for the inadequate treatment they get at overcrowded, understaffed ...


Thousands of community workers are helping Ethiopia to deliver primary health-care services to people living in rural areas. But critics say the training these workers receive is not adequate for them to attend many of the health problems they encounter. Wairagala Wakabi reports. Although it still has some of the worst health indicators in the world, Ethiopia is fast registering impressive successes in extending affordable primary health-care services across the country. These achievements are la ...

PERSPECTIVE


Mirai Chatterjee could probably have pursued a lucrative career in the UK or the USA, having studied in both. Instead, she chose to return to India to support the millions of working poor women whose health, and the health of their family, depends absolutely on the ability to earn however small an amount of money. Chatterjee is co-ordinator of the social security team of the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), a union with 1-1 million members working in the informal economy in nine Indian states.


Carmen Rojas left Bolivia in 2000. The USA denied her a visa, but she decided to enter the country anyway. Hidden in an aperture behind the back seat of a car, she was smuggled into the country where she finds, “I’m always in a hurry”. She’s a cleaner and dog-washer, a nanny and home-help. She needs the money for her daughter Carla, who remained in Bolivia with Carmen’s mother. When she was 7 years old, Carla was hit by a bus. She lost the use of her legs and requires lifelong specialised care. La Americana Directed and produced by Nicholas Bruckman.


In Puccini’s opera, candidates for Turandot’s hand are given a fair choice: correctly answer three riddles and marry the princess; fail and be executed. No male, however ardent or focused on the main chance, is forced into it—he can choose. One could, therefore, argue that the process is fair. The outcome, as distinct from the process, is anything but: a trail of dead suitors and one chaste princess (until, of course, the tenor arrives which usually spells the end of the soprano’s chastity). On this evidence—fair process versus fair outcome—would we deem the society in which Turandot was a princess to be a just society?

The black dog, the devil’s bath, the mind’s canker, the noonday demon—for centuries writers have tried to articulate the experience of sadness and its effect on the soul. While we now generally refer to such oppressive, persistent sadness as depression, for most of western European history this condition was known as melancholy. Like clinical depression, melancholy was understood to have a physiological basis, but debates concerning the condition often stretched beyond the world of medicine. In ...

**ARTICLES**


This psychological intervention delivered by community-based primary health workers has the potential to be integrated into health systems in resource-poor settings.


Guidelines on integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) for severe pneumonia recommend referral to hospitals. However, in many settings, children who are referred do not actually attend hospital, which severely limits appropriate care. We aimed to assess the safety and effectiveness of modified guidelines that allowed most children with severe pneumonia to be treated locally in first-level facilities, with referral only for those with danger signs or other severe classifications. We did an observational cohort study in ten first-level health facilities in Matlab, rural Bangladesh that had implemented IMCI guidelines.


The BEAUTIFUL study assessed the morbidity and mortality benefits of the heart rate-lowering agent ivabradine. The placebo arm of the BEAUTIFUL trial was a large cohort of patients with stable coronary artery disease and left-ventricular dysfunction. We did a subanalysis of this placebo group to test the hypothesis that elevated resting heart rate at baseline is a marker for subsequent cardiovascular death and morbidity. The association of baseline resting heart rate with cardiovascular outcomes was analysed using Cox proportional hazard models for groups with a heart rate of 70 beats per min (bpm) or greater (2693 patients) versus less than 70 bpm (2745 patients).


IMCI training is associated with much the same quality of child care across different health worker categories, irrespective of the duration and level of preservice training. Strategies for scaling up IMCI and other child-survival interventions might rely on health workers with shorter duration of preservice training being deployed in underserved areas.


Mortality from non-communicable disease remains prominent despite the sustained increase in deaths from chronic infectious disease. The implications for primary health-care systems are substantial, with integrated chronic care based on scaled-up delivery of antiretroviral therapy needed to address this expanding burden.
CASE REPORT


In August, 2005, a 51-year-old unemployed, divorced man was brought by ambulance to our emergency department, after being found unconscious in the hallway of the hotel where he lived alone. On arrival at hospital, he had regained consciousness. He reported that small purple patches, which were not painful or itchy, had appeared on his left buttock a month before; the patches had grown, and coalesced into a large “bruise” that extended down his leg. The patient also reported severe light-headedness, and daily episodes of fainting on exertion.