

Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology

Volume 43, No 11
November 2022

ICHE



Artist: Lona Mody


SHEA
The Society for Healthcare
Epidemiology of America



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Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology (ISSN 0899-823X) is published monthly by Cambridge University Press, One Liberty Plaza, New York, NY 10006, USA.

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About the cover:



Title: *Oversized, Overwhelming Impact of COVID-19, 2020*

Beginning with volume 43 (January 2022), the cover of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* (ICHE) will feature art inspired by or reflective of topics within the scope of the journal and their impact on patients, healthcare personnel and our society. These topics include healthcare-associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, and healthcare epidemiology. The intent is to feature original artwork that has been created by individuals who have a personal connection to one or more of these topics through their clinical work, research, or experience as a patient or an affected patient's family member, friend or advocate. The goal is to provide readers with a visual reminder of the human impact of the topics addressed in the journal and the importance of the work being done by those who read or contribute to ICHE and by all who are trying to make healthcare safer through the elimination of healthcare-associated infections.

For more information about the ICHE cover and how to submit artwork for consideration for a future cover, please visit the ICHE website: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospital-epidemiology>

Artist: Lona Mody, MD, MSc

Medium: Acrylic paints on canvas

Dr. Mody spoke to ICHE about her painting.

What was the inspiration for this artwork? I am drawn towards color and paint art that conveys the happiness that is in my life. However, COVID changed everything. I had to create something that was wholly different to process this unprecedented historic event. Painting this particular piece was extremely cathartic. It allowed me to reflect on the loss experienced by many, its impact on my peers and come to terms with the fact that the worst was yet to come (I started this work in April of 2020 and completed it in May 2020).

This painting depicts an oversized and overwhelming impact of COVID-19 on our healthcare providers and on our healthcare eco-system in general. I was artistically inspired by the lifeless streets in big capital cities, empty tall haunted buildings and incredible havoc created by a virus that was often depicted paradoxically by vivid colors with precise structures and features. Missing in all these early images was the human factor. With this painting, I wanted to show the immediate and devastating consequences on people that work within healthcare and carry the burden of COVID-19. It is now displayed within our departmental offices as a reminder of our collective experiences.

Why is this work appropriate for the cover of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*? ICHE as a journal is about understanding, preventing and controlling infections. It is a journal that publishes high quality evidence written by experts who were overwhelmingly impacted and continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This painting also captures the frustration and sadness felt by many of us in this field.

What is your personnel connection to the content of ICHE? Epidemiology, patterns, association, causality always attracted me. Since my residency, I knew that I had to go beyond clinical medicine to understand these concepts. ICHE was the perfect journal that served as an outlet for my research pursuits. In fact, my first paper (borne out of my residency project) was published in ICHE. ICHE has been instrumental in my academic success. Its readership is a community I am most connected with.

Dr. Mody is the Amanda Sanford Hickey Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan and VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Ann Arbor, MI, USA. She directs the Center for Research and Innovations in Special Populations (CRIISP) and is the Associate Division Chief of Geriatric & Palliative Care Medicine, Associate Director of Clinical and Translational Research (Geriatrics Center), and Co-Director of the Medical Arts Program. Her research investigates the clinical and molecular epidemiology of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens and develops novel interventions to prevent them. Dr. Mody is a member of SHEA and an ad hoc reviewer for and frequent contributor to ICHE. She has published 34 papers in ICHE.

Cover image: *Oversized, Overwhelming Impact of COVID-19, 2020*