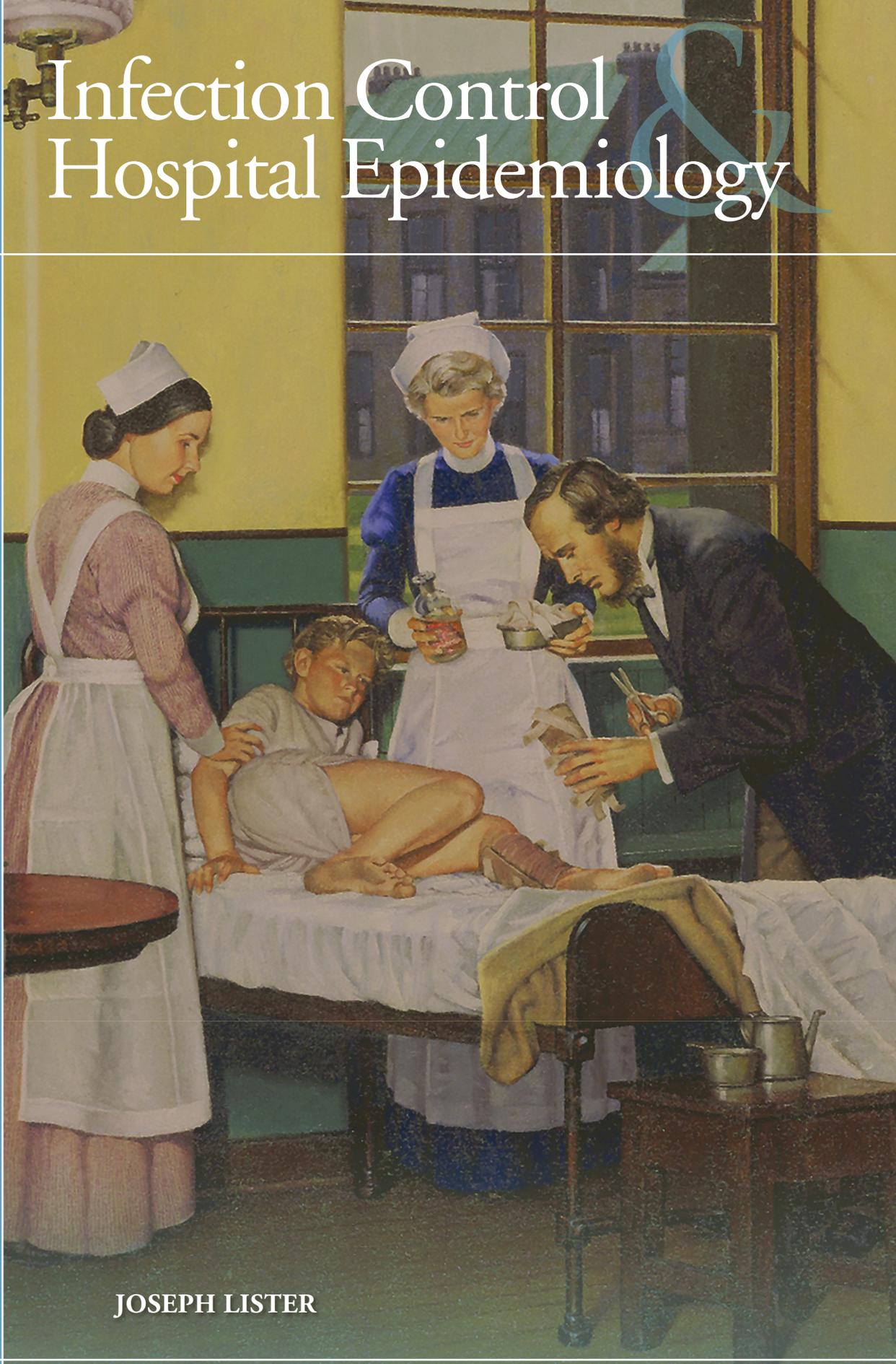


Volume 38, No 7

# ICHE



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## CONTENTS

## Original Articles

- 765** Reduction of Environmental Contamination With Multidrug-Resistant Bacteria by Copper-Alloy Coating of Surfaces in a Highly Endemic Setting  
*Maria Souli, Anastasia Antoniadou, Ioannis Katsarolis, Irini Mavrou, Elisabeth Paramythiotou, Evangelos Papadomichelakis, Maria Drogari-Apiranthitou, Theofano Panagea, Helen Giamarellou, George Petrikos and Apostolos Armaganidis*
- 772** *Commentary*: Can Copper-Coated Surfaces Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections?  
*David J. Weber, Jonathan A. Otter and William A. Rutala*
- 777** A Multicenter Randomized Trial to Determine the Effect of an Environmental Disinfection Intervention on the Incidence of Healthcare-Associated *Clostridium difficile* Infection  
*Amy J. Ray, Abhishek Deshpande, Dennis Fertelli, Brett M. Sitzlar, Priyaleela Thota, Thriveen Sankar C, Annette L. Jencson, Jennifer L. Cadnum, Robert A. Salata, Richard R. Watkins, Ajay K. Sethi, Philip C. Carling, Brigid M. Wilson and Curtis J. Donskey*
- 784** Disinfectant Susceptibility Profiling of Glutaraldehyde-Resistant Nontuberculous Mycobacteria  
*Winona Burgess, Alyssa Margolis, Sara Gibbs, Rafael Silva Duarte and Mary Jackson*
- 792** Management of Risks From Water and Ice From Ice Machines for the Very Immunocompromised Host: A Process Improvement Project Prompted by an Outbreak of Rapidly Growing Mycobacteria on a Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (Hsct) Unit  
*Amanda Guspiel, Jeremiah Menk, Andrew Streifel, Keith Messinger, John Wagner, Patricia Ferrieri and Susan Kline*
- 801** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Outbreak in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Attributed to Hospital Tap Water  
*Cara Bicking Kinsey, Samir Koirala, Benjamin Solomon, Jon Rosenberg, Byron F. Robinson, Antonio Neri, Alison Laufer Halpin, Matthew J. Arduino, Heather Moulton-Meissner, Judith Noble-Wang, Nora Chea and Carolyn V. Gould*
- 809** The Seasonal Variability in Surgical Site Infections and the Association With Warmer Weather: A Population-Based Investigation  
*Chris A. Anthony, Ryan A. Peterson, Linnea A. Polgreen, Daniel K. Sewell and Philip M. Polgreen*
- 817** Effect of Medicare's Nonpayment Policy on Surgical Site Infections Following Orthopedic Procedures  
*Jereen Z. Kwong, Yingjie Weng, Micaela Finnegan, Robyn Schaffer, Austin Remington, Catherine Curtin, Kathryn M. McDonald, Jay Bhattacharya and Tina Hernandez-Boussard*
- 823** Appropriateness of Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Pediatric Patients in Italy  
*Mariavalentina Giordano, Lorena Squillace and Maria Pavia*
- 832** Blogging in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology: Assessment of 'Blogosphere' Content  
*Gabriel Birgand, Rachael Troughton, Luke S. P. Moore, Esmita Charani, Timothy M. Rawson, Enrique Castro-Sánchez and Alison H. Holmes*
- 840** Hospital-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Bloodstream Infections in Québec: Impact of Guidelines  
*Lynne Li, Elise Fortin, Claude Tremblay, Muleka Ngenda-Muadi, Christophe Garenc, Danielle Moisan, Jasmin Villeneuve, Caroline Quach and for SPIN-BACC and SPIN-SARM*

**Cover image: Detail of Lister Introduces Antisepsis, from "The History of Medicine" by Robert Thom, used with permission from University of Michigan Museum of Art.**

- 848** Attributable Mortality of Healthcare-Associated Infections Due to Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria and Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*  
*Richard E. Nelson, Rachel B. Slayton, Vanessa W. Stevens, Makoto M. Jones, Karim Khader, Michael A. Rubin, John A. Jernigan and Matthew H. Samore*

#### Concise Communications

- 857** Computer-Assisted Antimicrobial Recommendations for Optimal Therapy: Analysis of Prescribing Errors in an Antimicrobial Stewardship Trial  
*David N. Schwartz, Kevin W. McConeghy, Rosie D. Lyles, Ulysses Wu, Robert C. Glowacki, Gail S. Itokazu, Piotr Kieszowski, Yingxu Xiang, Bala Hota and Robert A. Weinstein*
- 860** A Simple Microsoft Excel Method to Predict Antibiotic Outbreaks and Underutilization  
*Cristina Miglis, Nathaniel J. Rhodes, Sean N. Avedissian, Teresa R. Zembower, Michael Postelnick, Richard G. Wunderink, Sarah H. Sutton and Marc H. Scheetz*
- 863** Pharmacists' Familiarity with and Institutional Utilization of Rapid Diagnostic Technologies for Antimicrobial Stewardship  
*Rachel A. Foster, Kristi Kuper, Z. Kevin Lu, P. Brandon Bookstaver, Christopher M. Bland and Monica V. Mahoney*
- 867** From VAP to VAE: Implications of the New CDC Definitions on a Burn Intensive Care Unit Population  
*Anne M. Lachiewicz, David J. Weber, David van Duin, Shannon S. Carson, Lauren M. DiBiase, Samuel W. Jones, William A. Rutala, Bruce A. Cairns and Emily E. Sickbert-Bennett*
- 870** Hand Rub Consumption Has Almost Doubled in 132 German Hospitals Over 9 Years  
*Wibke Wetzker, Janine Walter, Karin Bunte-Schönberger, Frank Schwab, Michael Behnke, Petra Gastmeier and Christiane Reichardt*
- 873** Susceptibility of Nosocomial *Staphylococcus aureus* to Chlorhexidine After Implementation of a Hospital-wide Antiseptic Bathing Regimen  
*Cole T. Marolf, Roxanne Alter, Elizabeth Lyden, Paul D. Fey and Mark E. Rupp*

#### Research Brief

- 876** Thirty-Day Readmissions After Hospitalization for *Clostridium difficile* Enteritis Measures and Predictors: A Nationwide Analysis  
*Abhinav Goyal, Kshitij Chatterjee, Chitra Punjabi and Janani Rangaswami*

#### Letters to the Editor

- 879** Priority of Patient Safety Associated With Robotic Surgical Instruments—Response to Landenberg et al  
*Yuhei Saito, Hiroshi Yasuhara, Satoshi Murakoshi, Takami Komatsu, Kazuhiko Fukatsu and Yushi Uetera*
- 880** The Puzzle of Volume, Coverage, and Application Time in Hand Disinfection  
*Günter Kampf*
- 881** Understanding the  $\beta$ -Lactam/Inhibitor of  $\beta$ -Lactamase Combinations: Reassessment for Better Antimicrobial Stewardship  
*Leandro Reus Rodrigues Perez and Gabriel Azambuja Narvaez*
- 883** Transmission of ST8-USA300 Latin American Variant Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* on a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Recurrent Skin and Soft-Tissue Infections as a Marker for Epidemic Community-Associated-MRSA Colonization  
*Dennis Nurjadi, Sabrina Klein, Stefan Zimmermann, Klaus Heeg and Philipp Zanger*
- 885** Multiple Norovirus Outbreaks Due to Shredded, Dried, Laver Seaweed in Japan  
*Eiji Kusumi, Tetsuya Tanimoto, Kazutaka Hosoda, Masaharu Tsubokura, Tamae Hamaki, Kenzo Takahashi and Masahiro Kami*

- 886 Accidental Occupational Exposure to *Burkholderia pseudomallei* in South Korea Did Not Result in Melioidosis  
*Jae-Bum Jun, Taehoon Lee, Joseph Jeong, Jeong-Hoon Chun, Yong-Woo Shin and Jiwon Jung*
- 888 Determination of a Cutoff Time Point for Prophylactic Exchange of Central Venous Catheters for Prevention of Central Venous Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections in Patients with Hematological Malignancies  
*Enrico Schalk, Lena M. Biehl, Jacqueline Färber, Dirk Schlüter, Maria J. G. T. Vehreschild and Thomas Fischer*

### Erratum

- 890 “Bundle” Practices and Ventilator-Associated Events: Not Enough — ERRATUM
- 

### About the cover:



The cover format of each volume of *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology* honors one of the many professionals throughout history who recognized not only how disease might be spread but also how the principles of epidemiology could be applied to reduce healthcare-associated infections.

Joseph Lister (1827–1912) was born to a Quaker family in the outskirts of London. His father, Joseph Jackson Lister, worked as a wine merchant by day and pursued the study of optics as a hobby. His work helped found modern microscopy, for which he was elected to the Royal Academy in 1832.

Young Lister decided to become a surgeon at an early age. Due to his religious affiliation, Lister was barred from attending older universities of greater prestige and settled upon study at the University of London, from which he received his medical degree and Fellowship in the Royal Academy of Surgeons. Lister moved to Edinburgh in 1853 to work under Mr. Syme, one of the preeminent British surgeons of the day. In Edinburgh, Lister made important observations on the pathogenesis of inflammation. He also gained a wife, Syme's daughter, Agnes, but in doing so had to become a member of the Church of England. Agnes worked closely beside Lister for many years, recording his experiments in great detail.

By 1856, Lister assumed professorship in surgery at the University of Glasgow, where he began to develop his principles of antiseptic surgery. At the time, surgical mortality rates from sepsis ranged from 23% to 60%, and it was assumed that putrefaction and purulent infection of wounds originated from tainted air. Based on the work of his colleague, Louis Pasteur, Lister performed a series of meticulous experiments in which he used antiseptics and developed optimal wound dressing techniques that focused on keeping wounds clean rather than excluding air. Lister traveled widely in the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States promoting his wound-care techniques. He returned briefly to Edinburgh before assuming the Chair of Clinical Surgery at King's College in London. In 1891, Lister became a Founder of the British Institute for Preventive Medicine, the first academic medical research institute in the United Kingdom. He served as the Institute's President, and the organization was ultimately renamed in his honor. Lister served as President of the Royal Society of London and was appointed to the House of Lords. After his death, Lord Lister chose not to be buried in Westminster Abbey but rather was laid to rest next to his wife.

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