

# Cascades East AHEC News

## December 2005-January 2006

### Avian Flu: Should we be concerned? Dr Lewis Rubinson

So what is all the worry about anyway? Influenza is responsible for more than 100,000 Americans being hospitalized and 35,000 dying each year. These annual epidemics generally prey on the very young and old or those with inadequate immune systems or cardiopulmonary reserve. The concern about “pandemics” (above and beyond the importance of reducing the burden of annual epidemics) is that influenza subtypes for which there is little or no immunity in humans can cause human illness and the entire population may be at risk of serious illness or death. H5N1 is such a subtype of influenza, and is causing unprecedented outbreaks in birds across several continents.

Not all pandemics are the same. The Asian flu outbreak in 1957 was responsible for 70,000 US deaths and the Hong Kong flu of 1968 caused even fewer deaths. The problem is that pandemics have the potential for catastrophe. Between July 1918 and March 1919 it is estimated that the Spanish flu pandemic caused illness in 525 million people and killed somewhere between 20 to 40 million people worldwide (500,000 US deaths). Based on these numbers the Spanish Flu had a case-fatality rate of approximately 3 to 7%. The current threat, the H5N1 virus, has infected humans in several countries. As of November 14<sup>th</sup> the WHO reports there have been a total of 126 human cases, 64 of these have been fatal. It appears that most human cases have been transmitted directly from birds, but at least two cases are suspicious for human-to-human transmission. Also, clusters of cases within families are on the rise, which may suggest possible human-to-human transmission among close contacts (or may just suggest common exposures to birds).

Three criteria need to be met for influenza to occur. There is a subtype that can infect humans and for which there is little immunity in the population. The second is that the subtype can cause serious disease or death. These first two criteria have been met by H5N1. The last, that the virus can be transmitted readily from to human and continue to spread through large populations has fortunately not been met. It is unclear whether the current strains of H5N1 will change genetically to allow efficient transmission amongst people. The problem is that if this does happen; the pandemic will likely spread rapidly across the globe. We are currently unprepared to handle most aspects of the medical response to the outbreak. If the outbreak were to occur tomorrow and spreads within a short time to our community, health care in Central Oregon may cease to function, as almost happened with hospitals in Toronto that cared for only 370 suspected/confirmed patients with SARS in 2003.

The dilemma is that H5N1 may not cause the next influenza pandemic. Most hospitals and clinics never have large fires either, but we have strict fire codes, have to perform fire drills, and it would be inconceivable for hospitals and clinics to operate without insurance policies. Can we as part of the central Oregon health care system simply ignore the threat that lingers? In addition, preparedness activities that purchase fancy equipment may be less than optimal, but those designed to enhance catastrophe response functionality tend to make our systems work better during usual operations. Yeah, I think we should be concerned. More importantly, I think we should be prepared for pandemic influenza.

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*Ex-Officio Board Members  
Listed on Page 5*

## December 2005

### This Month Is:

World Aids Day (1)  
 National Aplastic Anemia Week (1-7)  
 National Hand Washing Awareness Week (3-9)  
 National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month  
 Safe Toys & Gift Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Health Careers To Honor:

### **DO YOU HAVE PROGRAMS YOU WANT TO ANNOUNCE IN THIS PUBLICATION?**

Send an email or give us a call to place upcoming programs in the Cascades East Area Health Education Center Regional News! Deadline for information is the 15th of each odd month. For submissions or questions, please contact Leslie Terrell at (541) 322-4713 or email lterrell@scmc.org.

## Program Information

For additional information regarding events listed here, contact the CEAHEC office at (541) 388-7710.  
 For more information on programs offered by Merle West in Klamath Falls, please contact the CME Coordinator at (541) 882-6311.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Name and Information</u>	<u>Time and Location</u>
December 6	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
December 6	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
December 7	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
December 7	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
December 8	SCMC Multidisciplinary Breast Conference: (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Location varies 7:00-8:00 a.m.
December 13	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
December 13	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
December 14	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
December 14	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
December 20	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
December 20	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.

December 21	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
December 21	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
December 21	Merle West Tumor Board	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
December 22	SCMC Multidisciplinary Breast Conference: (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Location varies 7:00-8:00 a.m.
December 27	Merle West RMT Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
December 27	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
December 28	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
December 28	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.



For additional information regarding events listed here, including information about continuing education credit availability, contact the CEAHEC office at (541) 388-7710. CME and CE credits are available for many of the offerings listed here.

● For more information on CME or CE programs and credits offered by Merle West in Klamath Falls, please contact Wanda Young, Merle West CME Coordinator at (541) 882-6311. Please contact Wanda for more information about Grand Rounds, RMT Rounds, Sisters of Providence Video Conference Sessions, and ER.



## January 2006

### This Month Is:

National Autism Awareness Month  
 National Birth Defects Prevention Month  
 National Eye Care Month  
 National Glaucoma Awareness Week (19-25)  
 Sight-Saving Sabbath (19 & 26)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Health Careers To Honor:

15-21 Activity Professionals Week  
 23-27 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week

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<u>Dates</u>	<u>Name and Information</u>	<u>Time and Location</u>
January 3	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 3	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
January 4	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
January 4	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 10	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 10	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
January 11	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
January 11	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 12	SCMC Multidisciplinary Breast Conference: (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Location varies 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 17	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 17	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.

January 18	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 18	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
January 18	Merle West Tumor Board	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 21	Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Instructor Class	SCMC-Bend 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For Information: 541-388-7710
January 21-22	Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Completion Class	SCMC-Bend 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For Information: 541-388-7710
January 24	Merle West RMT Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 24	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.
January 25	SCMC Cancer Clinical Conference (Tumor Board): (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room A&D 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 25	Merle West-Ground Rounds Telecast from Providence Portland Topic to be Announced	SDR 8:00-9:00 a.m. ●
January 26	SCMC Multidisciplinary Breast Conference: (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Location varies 7:00-8:00 a.m.
January 31	Merle West Grand Rounds Topic to be Announced	SDR 7:00-8:00 a.m. ●
January 31	SCMC Cardiac Clinical Conference (AMA C1) Case Presentations	SCMC-Bend, Conf. Room D 12:30-1:30 p.m.



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## Ex-Officio Advisory Board Members

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**Leslie Terrell, EMT-P**  
CE Specialist, CEAHEC  
Health and Learning  
St. Charles Medical  
Center  
Bend  
(541) 322-4713

## Mark Your Calendars!

**February 12-16, 2006**  
**HIMSS 2006 Annual Conference  
and Exhibition**  
“Architects of Change” - San Diego, CA  
www.himss06.org

**February 22-24, 2006**  
**2006 Local, State and Federal Public Health  
Preparedness Summit**  
Washington Hilton—Washington, DC  
Register Online [www.naccho.org/phprep06/](http://www.naccho.org/phprep06/)

**February 25, 2005**  
**Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)  
Renewal Class**  
SCMC-Bend 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
For Information: 541-388-7710

**March 11, 2006**  
**Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)  
Renewal Class**  
FD-Redmond 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
For information: 541-388-7710

**March 25-26, 2006**  
**Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)  
Completion Class**  
SCMC-Bend 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
For information: 541-388-7710

**April 20-21, 2006**  
**16th Annual Kinsman Conference  
“New Issues in Health Care Ethics 2006”**  
SCMC—Bend  
For more information: 541-617-2605, or email  
[tparmele@scmc.org](mailto:tparmele@scmc.org)

**May 15-19, 2006**  
**National Rural Health Association  
“2006 Annual Conference”**  
Reno, Nevada  
[www.nrharural.org/conferences](http://www.nrharural.org/conferences)

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE?

If you have questions about information in this issue of Cascades East AHEC News, please call our program office at (541) 322-4713 or send an email to [lterrell@scmc.org](mailto:lterrell@scmc.org).

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