

[Resurgent Health & Medical](#)

distributes a free bi-monthly informational and educational newsletter focused on hand hygiene in the healthcare industry, The Newsletter covers the latest information on hygiene compliance, legislation, equipment, and infection prevention.

Resurgent Health and Medical of Golden, Colo. is the leader in automated handwashing and sanitizing technology. For almost 20 years, its Cleantech® brand systems have been used by thousands of companies worldwide in agriculture, food processing, food handling, clean room manufacturing and healthcare. For more information, please visit

www.resurgenthealth.com

In the News

Feature Article:

National Institutes of Health Awards Two Grants For Infections Disease Tests

Immunitics, Inc. (Boston, MA) has received two new grants totaling \$1.2 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infections Diseases Advanced Technology program. The grants will support development of tests for antibiotic resistance in bacteria and for the parasitic agent of Chagas' disease, both emerging public health threats.

With the spread of antibiotic resistance in bacteria, including MRSA as an example currently receiving much attention, serious infections have become more challenging for hospitals to treat and to control. The test under development by Immunitics will provide faster results than are available using current methods, as it is based on genetic information and does not require culturing bacteria for one or more days. Immunitics will be collaborating with Tufts Medical Center in Boston and a Miami medical center under the new grant, which follows a previous \$1.5 million grant supporting development of the bacterial test.

A second grant will support development of a

confirmatory test for Chagas' disease, a parasitic infection which can be transmitted during blood transfusions. With the discovery of Chagas' disease cases in the U.S. resulting from transfusion with infected blood, organizations such as the American Red Cross and other blood centers have begun to screen blood donations for antibodies to the parasite. However, confirming a positive screening result requires a lengthy and complex follow-on test. Immunetics will develop a simpler and more rapid confirmatory test which can be carried out by any clinical or blood bank laboratory.

The company is working with collaborators at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Red Cross to develop the test. "We are very grateful for the support of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for these two projects, especially in light of current funding climate" said Dr. Andrew Levin, Immunetics' founder and Scientific Director who will be directing the work. "The tests which we will be developing under the new grants address growing needs in two critical areas of healthcare – treating and preventing drug-resistant bacterial infections in the hospital and maintaining a safe blood supply. We see our technology's capability to detect and identify pathogens rapidly and accurately as bridging the gap between the limitations of existing methods and the pressing needs of clinicians for timely information, enabling more effective treatment and control of serious infectious diseases."

[Read the entire article: click here](#)

June 18th is
National Time Out Day!

Resurgent encourages all healthcare professionals to take a time out to help insure patient safety. For resources on National Time Out Day, visit the [AORN website](#)

England Hospitals Ditch Their Coats and Ties In the Name of Hygiene

White coats have always been a symbol of the medical profession, but York Hospital in England, has decided to ban the coat, as it is said to be a complication for infection control. Now, doctors at the hospital must dress in a new short-sleeved uniform, much like scrubs.

This move to a more hygienic uniform for all staff working in clinical areas is part of the hospitals campaign to fight off the superbugs, such as MRSA. These new uniforms not only eliminate the chance of bacteria living on the long sleeves of white “doctor coats” but also allow for easier hand washing access, since the arm is bare below the elbow.

[Read the entire article, click here](#)

Product News

Focus on Policy

CLEANTRACKER

Resurgent Introduces RFID Compliance Monitoring Technology Resurgent’s automated hand washing system with RFID compliance verification and automated compliance reporting makes it possible to track every hand washing event, record each hand was to a database, and automate the process of hand hygiene compliance monitoring. Process:

1. Each staff member or visitor wears a RFID tag with a specific identification number.

Focus on Policy:
Hospital’s Teddy Bear Ban to Beat Superbugs

Parents visiting children in hospitals are being advised to bring new soft toys in factory-sealed boxes to prevent the spread of superbugs. The guidance stems from concern that toy fabric is a breeding ground for MRSA and Clostridium difficile.

However, it is bound to cause distress to children who find it difficult to be separated from their favorite toys. Nurses are being told to stop cuddly toys being used by more than one child. And donations of second-hand teddies to wards are being destroyed because of the risks they present. Studies have found harmful bugs on toys in waiting

2. The built in RFID reader automatically identifies the employee or visitor when they use the hand washing equipment through ultra-high frequency RFID Technology.
3. Once the user is identified, the technology records the time, date, location, and completion of the wash cycle and adds the information to a database.
4. Data from the database is sent to either a local or web-based server. The administrator can run detailed compliance reports in real time, sorting by any of the collected identifying information. Each staff member can have a login to the software to check their own compliance rating.

This hand washing data provides a fact-based tool to monitor hygiene trends and drive improvements in hygiene practices.

[Read more about CLEANTRACKER](#)

rooms, and research in 2000 identified the same strain of MRSA on children as their toys.

The issue has prompted A&E nurse Hilary McGibney, from Essex, to develop a wipe-clean teddy. She said: “A toy can give a child comfort during an illness so something that can be instantly cleaned and then given back to hem is a real bonus.”

[Read the entire article: click here](#)

Tips for Preventing Infection:
Germ Proof Your Summer Vacation

Tips for Preventing Infection: Germ Proof Your Summer Vacation With summer vacation just around the corner, you’re probably wondering how to make sure your family stays healthy during, and after, that long-planned getaway.

Depending on where your travel plans take you, the risks may vary from the benign summer cold to more serious germs unique to exotic locales. Here’s a 7 step guide to healthy summer travel excerpted from the new book, *Germ Proof Your Kids – The Complete Guide to Protecting (without Overprotecting) Your Family from Infections* (ASM Press, Washington, D.C., 2008)

1. Immunize your kids. If your travel is domestic, the important vaccines are those required for school. If travel is international, check with your local or state health department before travel to determine what special vaccine precautions are recommended for your destination.

2. Wash their hands. Whether your kids are at home or on the road, hand washing is the single most effective strategy in reducing the spread of infections. Hand washing moments on trips include

anytime there is contact with lots of people or with inanimate objects that lots of people handle – e.g. the security and customs lines at airports, the baggage claim carousel, tour buses and taxi cabs, public restrooms, etc.

3. Use bug spray and to “tic checks”. Mosquitoes and ticks continue to be the most common U.S. vectors for diseases like encephalitis, Lyme disease, and tick fevers but simple preventive measures can reduce their impact. When your kids come in to the tent or cabin or hotel for the night, do a head-to-toe check for ticks and carefully remove any that have attached.

4. Be smart around animals. From the dude ranch to the farm to petting zoos, animals can transmit lots of germs to kids.

5. Don’t drink the water – or do, depending on where you are. Effective prevention strategies include drinking only bottled water, avoiding ice or raw fruits and vegetables, and eating foods that have been cooked to high temperature while still hot.

6. Keep kids’ hands off the floor of the airplane. The recycling of airplane air makes germs that normally are not readily spread through the air more transmissible. The top to bottom laminar flow of air in the cabin actually reduces the spread of germs from row to row, but forces airborne germs to the floor of the craft.

7. Be cabin cautious. Cabins in the woods pose several unique risks. Bats, rodents, and ticks all like the shelter. Kids need to be warned to stay away from droppings of all sorts on the floor or on ceiling beams, and to never handle a dead animal.

[Download the entire article: click here](#)

Helpful Links

Infection Control Resources:

The Joint Commission accredits more than

Germ of the Month: Acinetobacter

1. Acinetobacter is a group of bacteria commonly found in soil and water. It can also be found on the

15,000 healthcare facilities in the U.S. The Joint Commission is recognized by hospitals as a symbol of quality. Patient Safety is a key ingredient to quality, and information on the topic is available through the organization's website.

Link to the website here:

[The Joint Commission](#)

The Centers for Infectious Disease Research & Policy at the University of Minnesota.

CIDRAP's mission is to "To prevent illness and death from infectious diseases through epidemiologic research and the rapid translation of scientific information into real-world practical applications and solutions."

Link to the website here: [CIDRAP, University of Minnesota](#)

skin of healthy people, especially healthcare personnel.

2. Acinetobacter accounts for about 80% of reported infections.

3. Outbreaks of Acinetobacter infections typically occur in intensive care units and healthcare settings housing very ill patients. Acinetobacter infections rarely occur outside of healthcare settings.

4. Acinetobacter causes a variety of diseases, ranging from pneumonia to serious blood or wound infections and the symptoms vary depending on the disease.

5. Acinetobacter poses very little risk to healthy people. However, people who have weakened immune systems, chronic lung disease, or diabetes may be more susceptible to infections with Acinetobacter.

6. Acinetobacter can be spread to susceptible persons by person-to-person contact, contact with contaminated surfaces, or exposure in the environment.

7. Acinetobacter is often resistant to many commonly prescribed antibiotics.

8. Acinetobacter infection typically occurs in very ill patients and can either cause or contribute to death in these patients.

9. Acinetobacter can live on the skin and may survive in the environment for several days. Careful attention to infection control procedures such as hand hygiene and environmental cleaning can reduce the risk of transmission.

For more information on Acinetobacter and other Hospital Acquired Illnesses, please contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Latest News:

Germicidal Wipes Can Spread Bacteria

In a study that focused solely on wipes, researchers concluded that instead of preventing hospital-acquired infections like methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) the wipes could actually be spreading bacteria when used improperly by hospital staffers.

Researchers Jean-Yves Maillard, PhD, Gareth Williams, PhD, and colleagues observed hospital staffers as they used the wipes to disinfect hospital rooms. “We saw that there was a tendency to use one wipe on consecutive surfaces, such as bed rails, computer monitors, and keyboards” Williams tells WebMD.

The researchers used the wipes in this way in laboratory tests designed to measure their ability to remove and kill the bacteria that cause staph infections, including MRSA. While most of the wipes tested did remove large numbers of bacteria from contaminated surfaces, they also commonly transferred live bacteria to uncontaminated surfaces when used in more than one place.

Even some wipes that claimed to kill bacteria were found to transfer live bacteria from one surface to another, the researchers report. “Many of the wipes were effective, but the message is that they have to be used properly,” Williams says. That means using one swipe per wipe on a single surface, Maillard tells WebMD.

[Read the entire article: click here](#)

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