

HOPKINS
26 MAR 03

Reflections on a Career in Public Health

Preventive Medicine/Public Health
Grand Rounds

26 March 2003

Before I knew Public Health existed.

- A Canadian family
- Oberlin College 1946-50
- Rochester Medical School 1950-54
- Medical Intern - the Bassett Hospital
Cooperstown, New York

Tutors in Public Health-1955-60

- CDC and the Epidemic Intelligence Service ~ *depts*
 - Alexander Langmuir (the Hopkins tradition)
training program
- An internal medicine resident *Boval*
- Hopkins and Abe Lillienfeld
the longer view

"...one can think of the middle of the 20th century as the end of one of the most important social revolutions in history, the virtual elimination of the infectious diseases as a significant factor in social life."

Sir Macfarlane Burnet -- 1962

Surveillance and International Health
1960-1966

- CDC Chief of Surveillance
 - A smallpox unit is formed
 - International initiatives
 - A good idea goes awry
- CDC Director of Smallpox Eradication/Measles Control Project
West and Central Africa

Exile in Geneva 1966-77

- A Global Program is launched and a new Director has an 18 month assignment *2 Gates*
- The 10 year program *why?*
- The Expanded Program on Immunization
- The International Health Division of the Rockefeller

the longer view

A School of Hygiene and Public Health
1977-90

- A reluctant Dean
- The big H and the little h
- The Best Years = AIDS / Vaccines
- The Search Committee and the Search and Find Committee

1990 - Call from W.H.

Bush I and Clinton I 1990-95

- Science Advisor for the Life Sciences
 - A novice in the White House or how policy is really created
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health

3 points

Concern about the unspeakable—
biological weapons 1995-2001

- Biological weapons – a repugnant subject to public health and medicine
 - DOD and DOJ assume responsibility – 1995
- September 1997 – a decision to change
 - We live increasingly in a different world with major threats both to the world and to the U.S.
 - National security is most readily comprehended
- The Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies

\$1 → \$1.7B
\$200

A Drought changes to a Monsoon

- Dark Winter
- 9/11
- The new Office of Public Health Preparedness
- A new term in Congress and the Executive- "Public health infrastructure"

\$ J. Billin

The longer view

Coda

On 1 May, I happily return to Hopkins and a Center which clearly is the world's pre-eminent Center dealing with the concerns of biology in the 21st century

- The response of communities to catastrophes
- New and Emerging Infections
- Biological weapons
- Recombinant and other laboratory-created organisms

the world's leading center

As we now look to dealing with a new virus - all we have done in our bio weapons preparation is moving in the right direction

many progress - face it is just too hard network

Vaccine research capability (as was not 5 yrs)

Surveillance

ER rooms under way - progress

Question - ~~ask~~ as Principal Advisor to the
Society - what do you do?

What is an average day like?

There is no average day! Last 4 days -

Saturday night - a 54 I died of a heart attack -

VACCES - Vaccinated 4 days before.

~~Two other cases~~ Two other cases in NY - one is
many risk factors - diabetes, hypertension -

Probed further - 2 came with angina

5 cases - all occurring at 4-5 days / one at 9

Concord or Temporal - Multiple dissemination

Last night - 9:00 PM Press Conference

Coronary artery disease & contra-indications

Meanwhile daily closed circuit conference calls to

CDC and WHO - SARS Some patients dying
fever, cough, pneumonia - 3-4% CFR.

Until late Monday - spread hosp. family

Hong Kong, South China → H.K. → Hawaii →

Switzerland → Bangkok → now Canada -

U.S. (40 cases in 18 states) → Germany

↑ ^{hot news} Rapid spread in H.K.; China refuses entry of WHO

Canada is 25 cases - now excluding ^{tourists} foreigners

At least of flights to transmission

What do we do? ? of air travel.

Corona virus - now cranking up to do ad
vaccines