

**Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases (EPID):
Focus on the Societal and Economic Context**
George Mason University * Fairfax, Virginia, U.S. * Jul. 8–11, 2012
Biographical Information of Scientific Presenters

Prof. Arthur Caplan, Ph.D.

Prof. Arthur Caplan, a renowned bioethicist, is the Drs. William F and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor, and head of the Division of Bioethics at New York University Langone Medical Center in New York City. Prior to this, he was the Sidney D. Caplan Professor of Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, where he held various positions from 1994 until July 2012. Before joining University of Pennsylvania, Prof. Caplan taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Pittsburgh, and Columbia University. A prolific writer, Prof. Caplan is the author or editor of more than 30 books and 550 peer-reviewed papers, and connects with the public through several popular media outlets, including his column on bioethics for MSNBC.com. Prof. Caplan has served on numerous national and international committees including the National Cancer Institute Biobanking Ethics Working Group, the Advisory Committee to the United Nations on Human Cloning and the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. In addition, Prof. Caplan is currently the ethics adviser to the Department of Defense/Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) on synthetic biology. Prof. Caplan is the recipient of several awards, including the McGovern Medal of the American Medical Writers Association, the Franklin Award from the City of Philadelphia, and the 2011 Patricia Price Browne Prize in Biomedical Ethics.

Dr. Peter Daszak, Ph.D.

Dr. Peter Daszak is President of the EcoHealth Alliance, a global organization dedicated to innovative conservation science linking ecology and the health of humans and wildlife. A disease ecologist in the field of conservation medicine, Dr. Daszak's research has been instrumental in identifying and predicting the impact of emerging diseases across the globe. In his prior role as Executive Vice President of Health at EcoHealth Alliance, Dr. Daszak directed a program of collaborative research, education, and conservation policy, which examined, among other things, the role of wildlife trade in disease introduction and the emergence of novel zoonotic viruses lethal to humans. He joined EcoHealth Alliance in 2001 as Executive Director of its Consortium for Conservation Medicine (the first formal interinstitutional partnership bringing conservation and disease ecology under one umbrella). Dr. Daszak is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Forum on Microbial Threats and served on the IOM Committee on global surveillance for emerging zoonoses, the National Research Council committee on the future of veterinary research, and the International Standing Advisory Board of the Australian Biosecurity CRC. He has authored more than 150 papers, and his work has been the focus of extensive media coverage ranging from popular press articles to television appearances. He received the 2000 CSIRO Medal from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation for collaborative research and is Editor-in-Chief of the Springer journal *EcoHealth*.

Dr. Vanessa Hayes, Ph.D.

Dr. Vanessa Hayes is Professor of Genomic Medicine at the J. Craig Venter Institute in San Diego. Prior to joining the Venter Institute in 2010, Dr. Hayes headed a genetics laboratory focused on the genetic basis of HIV susceptibility in local populations at the University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa, and was group leader of the Cancer Genetics research group at both the Garavan Institute of Medical Research and the Children's Cancer Institute in Australia. Dr. Hayes' work focuses on defining the extent of human genome diversity and how this diversity impacts human health. She is also a proponent of information sharing, particularly with respect to genetic sequences. In 2010, she made headlines by co-leading a study to define the extent of human diversity by generating the genome sequence of South African Noble Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and a Bushman (hunter-gatherer) from the Kalahari region of Namibia. Published in *Nature* in 2010, this work was the first genome sequence of an indigenous person. Dr. Hayes is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Fulbright Australian-American Professional Scholarship, the Ruth Stephens Gani Medal for Human Genetics and the New South Wales Premier's Award for Outstanding Cancer Research. She has also been appointed as an Honorary Professor of Medical Sciences at the rural-based University of Limpopo, South Africa.

Dr. Laura H. Kahn, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P.

Dr. Laura H. Kahn is a Physician and Research Scholar with the Program on Science and Global Security at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, with expertise in public health, biodefense, and pandemics. Before joining Princeton in 2002, she was Managing Physician for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, and a Medical Officer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In 2006, Dr. Kahn co-founded the "One Health Initiative," a movement to forge collaborations among physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific-health and environmentally related disciplines. Dr. Kahn actively promotes One Health and engages scientists and the public in pertinent science policy issues in her online column, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, as well as through numerous journal articles, presentations, and public engagements. She authored the book *"Who's in Charge? Leadership during epidemics, bioterror attacks, and other public health crises"* and is currently writing a book examining the use of antibiotics in humans and livestock. Dr. Kahn co-organized the Carnegie Corporation's Biodefense Challenge seminar series, which introduces biosecurity, codes of conduct, and dual-use biotech threats to the life sciences community. Dr. Kahn is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and is a recipient of the New Jersey Chapter's Laureate Award.

Dr. Gay Miller, D.V.M., M.S., Ph.D.

Since 1994, Dr. Gay Miller has been a Professor in the Department of Pathobiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois. She is also a Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois, and an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, University of Minnesota. From 1989 until joining the University of Illinois, Dr. Miller was Associate Professor at the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Ohio State University. Dr. Miller has more than 30 years of experience in economics and veterinary medicine, bringing a critical economic perspective to problem solving in food safety and disease control. Her primary research focus is on the economic implications of disease outbreaks in food-producing animals, and how different prevention and response strategies can influence both the epidemiological and economic outcomes. In 2006, Dr. Miller was the recipient of an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship, and spent a year working at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), providing input into the organization's plans for handling foreign animal diseases, such as avian influenza, that could potentially be introduced into the nation's livestock. Dr. Miller continues to work with the USDA on cooperative agreements. She has authored more than 100 publications and received the Delta Sigma Omicron Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Paul Slovic, Ph.D., M.A.

Dr. Paul Slovic has been a Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Oregon, since 1986, where he studies judgment and decision processes with an emphasis on decision-making under conditions of risk. In addition, Dr. Slovic is the Founder and President of Decision Research, a nonprofit research organization. As part of his work, Dr. Slovic studies the factors that underlie perceptions of risk and attempts to assess the importance of these perceptions for the management of risk in society. He has developed methods to describe risk perceptions and measure their impacts on individuals, industry, and society. Dr. Slovic has served on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Humanitarian Assistance, and the Department of Homeland Security's Steering Committee for the Workshop on Crisis Communication. The author of several hundred publications, his most recent books include "*The Perception of Risk*," "*The Social Amplification of Risk*," "*The Construction of Preference*," and "*The Feeling of Risk*." Dr. Slovic is a past President of the Society for Risk Analysis, and has received numerous awards including the Society for Risk Analysis Distinguished Achievement Award, the American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, the Oregon Academy of Science Outstanding Contribution to Science Award, and the Franklin V. Taylor Lifetime Achievement in Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology Award.

Dr. Richard Williams, Ph.D., M.A.

Dr. Richard Williams is the Director of Policy Research at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Prior to joining the Mercatus Center, he served for 27 years as the Director for Social Sciences at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He also served as an adviser to the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis and taught economics at Washington and Lee University. Dr. Williams is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Dr. Williams is an expert in benefit-cost analysis and risk analysis, particularly associated with food safety and nutrition. He has led study teams of multidisciplinary social scientists producing consumer research, risk assessments, and benefit-cost analysis of food safety and nutrition. Additionally, Dr. Williams has created food safety risk analysis classes taught internationally to thousands of public and private scholars and managers, has lectured internationally on risk analysis and economics of nutrition and food safety, and has created federal workgroup-to-peer review of regulatory impact analyses. Dr. Williams has published in journals such as *Risk Analysis* and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* and has addressed numerous international governments, including the United Kingdom, South Korea, Yugoslavia, and Australia.

Prof. Jakob Zinsstag, D.V.M., Ph.D., Dip.ECVPH

Since 1998, Prof. Jakob Zinsstag has led a research unit at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, investigating the interface of human and animal health, with a focus on the health of nomadic people and control of zoonoses in developing countries under the paradigm of One Health. He is also a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Basel. From 1990 until his current appointment, Prof. Zinsstag led a livestock research project at the International Trypanotolerance Centre in The Gambia, and then directed the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Prof. Zinsstag's research has been a key factor in validating the One Health concept, and in 2004 he and his team received the TD-award, a Swiss-academies award for transdisciplinary research. His research group is currently part of the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South, wherein Prof. Zinsstag is Co-leader of Health Research, which has projects based on four continents. Prof. Zinsstag is also Vice President of the International Association for Ecology & Health, Associate Editor of PLoS, Neglected Tropical Diseases, a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Public Health, and member of the scientific advisory board of the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.