

World Sepsis Day

September 11, 2015



Paetzold Auditorium, 1st floor, Jim Pattison Pavilion
Vancouver General Hospital, 899 West 12th Avenue

1:00—3:00 PM with reception following

Please join us on Sept 11 for an early event in recognition of World Sepsis Day on Sunday Sept 13, 2015. The UBC community has recently made breakthroughs in the treatment, diagnosis and in how the disease is understood. **Help us welcome speakers, Keith Walley, and John Boyd, both from the Center for Heart Lung Innovation, UBC & St. Paul's Hospital and Mark Ansermino from the Child and Family Research Centre.** Our lead talk will be an overview from **Niranjan "Tex" Kissoon, Vice-Chairman of the Global Sepsis Alliance Executive Board** who will tell us about the coordination efforts for a UN sanctioned Day for Sepsis, the first step to increase awareness and funding for this neglected disease.

Sepsis is one of the most common, least-recognized illnesses in both the developed and developing world. Globally, 20 to 30 million patients are estimated to be afflicted every year, with over 6 million cases of neonatal and early childhood sepsis and over 100,000 cases of maternal sepsis.

Worldwide, a person dies from sepsis every few seconds.

In the developed world, sepsis is dramatically increasing by an annual rate of between 8-13 % over the last decade, and now claims more lives than bowel and breast cancer combined. Reasons are diverse, but include the aging population, increasing use of high-risk interventions in all age groups, and the development of drug-resistant and more virulent varieties of infections. In the developing world malnutrition, poverty, lack of access to vaccines and timely treatment all contribute to death.

Despite its remarkable incidence, sepsis is practically unknown to the public and is often misunderstood as blood poisoning. Sepsis arises when the body's response to an infection injures its own tissues and organs. It may lead to shock, multiple organ failure, and death, especially if not recognized early and treated promptly. Sepsis remains the primary cause of death from infection despite advances in modern medicine, including vaccines, antibiotics, and acute care with hospital mortality rates between 30 and 60%.

To stem the rising tide and take appropriate steps to ultimately reverse the global increase in the numbers of deaths from sepsis, we - the global sepsis community - issue this common call to worldwide action.

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