

# Global Health Newsletter

July 2023

## Staten Island University Hospital

Madi Lindauer, MD MPH

### Americas

#### Guillain Barre Syndrome Outbreak in Peru

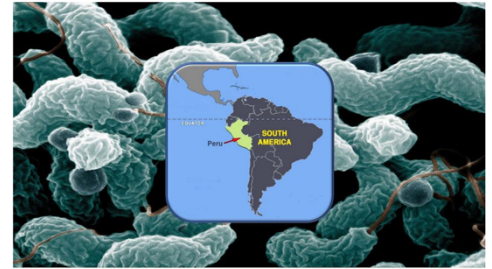
On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Peru's ministry of health declared a health emergency due to the rise of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS). Peru's president, Dina Boluarte, has issued a decree allocating \$3.27 million towards an action plan to improve patient care. This money will also be used to buy 5,000 immunoglobulin vials.

So far, 237 cases have been reported with 191 cases the last week of June. Of the 191 cases, 77 were confirmed by the laboratory and the rest based on symptoms. There have been four deaths. 58.6% of cases are male with the age range between 2 and 86 years with an median of 41 years. Of the registered cases, 23% presented with gastrointestinal infections, 24.1% with respiratory infections and 16.2% with fever. 71.9% of the cases presented with upward progression of paralysis and 21.9% with some type of sequelae.

The trigger for this GBS outbreak is unclear at this time. This outbreak is also during the country's worst outbreak of Dengue. So far 11 cases have been positive for *Campylobacter jejuni*.

#### Further reading

<file:///C:/Users/WNY030EMD002/Downloads/2023-july-10-briefing-note-gbs-peru-final.pdf>



### Middle East/Northern Africa

#### Restaurant in Jordan Offers Nap Time After Meal

Moab, a restaurant in Amman Jordan, offers people a bed to nap in after their meal. This restaurant only offers Mansaf. Mansaf is a traditional Levantine dish made of lamb cooked in fermented dried yogurt sauce and is served with rice or bulgar often placed on bread. It is considered the national dish of Jordan. Mansaf is thought to cause post prandial sleepiness, aka the food coma, due to its high fat ingredients. One customer, Mohammed Al Ouqdah states "Mansaf is naturally a very heavy meal in Jordan and it is important for one to have a nap, sleep, after eating Mansaf - why? Because Mansaf shakes the mind... so one has to sleep. If he did not sleep, then there should be something wrong with the Mansaf."



Postprandial sleepiness is not entirely understood and can occur due to multiple factors including when, how much and what a person eats. Meals that are high in fat, carbohydrates or calories may lead to sleepiness. Studies have shown that a 15 to 45 minute nap can help combat this sleepiness and lead to more energy.

The idea to put beds in the restaurant began as a joke after a customer suggested the idea. Now the restaurant has a separate air conditioned section with beds. They also offer coffee.

#### Further Reading

<https://arab.news/43zza>

## Asia/Pacific

### Indonesia's Anthrax Outbreak

93 people have been infected and three people have died in Yogyakarta province of Indonesia due to anthrax. The first death, was a 73 year old man who ingested meat from one of his cattle that died from anthrax. The man butchered the cow and distributed the meat to dozens of other residents. Blood tests were done on the 125 residents and found 85 of them to be infected. Many had symptoms such as diarrhea, rashes and skin sores. These patients are currently being treated with antibiotics.

Anthrax is a serious disease of livestock and other farm animals because it can cause the rapid death of many animals in a short time without any signs and symptoms of disease. The infected animals often ingest the bacillus spores which eventually kill the animal. Bacillus anthracis is a spore forming bacteria that can live in the environment for decades due to its durability and remains infectious during this entire time.

Anthrax is spread to humans by breathing in the Bacillus anthracis spores, consuming contaminated food or drinks or through direct exposure to wounds on infected animals, their meat or their hides. There is currently no human to human transmission. It can take up to two months for a patient to display symptoms.

#### Further reading

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/anthrax-scare-indonesia-infected-more-than-80/>

<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/indonesia-anthrax-outbreak-in-yogyakarta-96444/>



<https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2023/07/07/govt-steps-up-efforts-to-curb-anthrax-after-outbreak-kills-3-people.html>

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### Nyarugusu, One of the World's Largest Refugee Camps Achieved Zero Maternal Deaths in 2022

Tanzania has the tenth-highest national maternal mortality rate in the world for 2020, recording 5,400 maternal deaths. The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of the World's Midwifery report revealed that well-trained midwives could help prevent two thirds of all maternal and newborn deaths.

Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania was created by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1996 after an estimated 150,000 Congolese refugees fled to Tanzania to escape a civil war. In 2015, there was an influx of over 110,000 Burundian refugees who fled due to civil unrest. It is estimated that today there are 140,000 total refugees currently living in the camp.

In 2022, 6,235 women and girls gave birth at Nyarugusu refugee camp and all of them survived. UNFPA deployed 15 skilled nurse midwives and trained 47 health workers across three refugee camps in Kigoma. These healthcare workers attended two UNFPA-supported training sessions. One covered emergency preparedness, obstetric emergency response, and essential new-born care and the second built capacity in infection prevention and control. Within Nyarugusu more than 99 percent of deliveries are conducted by skilled health-care workers (the global rate is 84 percent). This was made possible by high community awareness of the importance of early medical evaluation.

#### Further reading

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2023/success-nyarugusu-how-one-world-s-largest-refugee-camps-achieved-zero-maternal>

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiI0\\_PJ0qqAAxU2D1kFHb3LD7UQFnoECDcQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdata.unhcr.org%2Fen%2Fdocuments%2Fdownload%2F58702&usg=AOvVaw0sEzI97N7oXD2k8ID0171L&opi=89978449](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiI0_PJ0qqAAxU2D1kFHb3LD7UQFnoECDcQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fdata.unhcr.org%2Fen%2Fdocuments%2Fdownload%2F58702&usg=AOvVaw0sEzI97N7oXD2k8ID0171L&opi=89978449)



<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2023/success-nyarugusu-how-one-world-s-largest-refugee-camps-achieved-zero-maternal>

## Europe

### Shopping Cart Sensors Identify Atrial Fibrillation

In the UK, 10 shopping carts with cardiac sensors in the handles were placed in four supermarkets for three months. The goal was to identify atrial fibrillation in shoppers. Participants were asked to hold the trolley handle for at least 60 seconds. If sensors picked up signs of atrial fibrillation a red cross flashed on the handle. If no signs of atrial fibrillation were identified a green check mark appeared. To confirm this all participants were given a pulse check.



<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/23/supermarket-trolley-sensors-ecg-atrial-fibrillation-stroke-trial-research>

Over this time 2,155 adults were screened. 220 participants were flagged as having atrial fibrillation and 59 were diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. Of the 59 identified 39 did not have a previous diagnosis. The average age of the participants with atrial fibrillation was 74 and 42% were women.

In the UK, it is estimated that one in 45 people have atrial fibrillation. This is a good start for possible identification of abnormal cardiac rhythms; however, still needs to be adjusted to improve the accuracy of the approach as 20% of the 220 ECGs were unclear, mostly because hand movements complicated the readings.

### Further Reading

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/23/supermarket-trolley-sensors-ecg-atrial-fibrillation-stroke-trial-research>

## What's New at Northwell's Center for Global Health?

Daniel Leon MBA PMP

### Zoll supports Guyana in Response to Mahdia Fires

After a devastating fire at a secondary school in Mahida, Guyana, that killed 20 children, Zoll Medical Equipment provided three ventilators to Northwell. This response came as a result of close communication with Northwell's Chief Procurement Officer, Phyllis McCready, and VP of Global Health, Eric Cioe Pena.



It became evident that Guyana required additional life-saving medical equipment, particularly portable ventilators. These devices had previously played a vital role in saving the life of Moriza Williams, a victim of the fire who had suffered burns on over 45% of her body. After undergoing life-saving surgery by the chief surgeon at Georgetown Public Hospital (GPHC), Dr. Shilindra Rajkumar, to stabilize her condition, transported her to Northwell for further surgeries. To ensure a safe journey, SIUH Burn Surgeon Dr. Michael Cooper attended to her medical needs, and ZOLL's portable ventilator was crucial in the transportation process.

### CGH Donates Butterfly Ultrasound Devices to Enhance Healthcare in Guyana

This month, the Center for Global Health (CGH) at Northwell donated two Butterfly Ultrasound IQ+ devices to Georgetown Public Hospital Corp in Guyana. The timing of this donation aligns perfectly with the recent opening of Georgetown Public Hospital Corp's state-of-the-art surgical training facility.





## **Northwell Partners with Doctors Without Borders for Turkey-Syria Relief Efforts**

The Center for Global Health at Northwell has recently teamed up with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) (also known as, Doctors without Borders). In response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, The Center for Global Health received donations totaling over \$44,000 from team members and global health enthusiasts. Recognizing the importance of utilizing these funds effectively, CGH turned to MSF, with whom they had collaborated in the past for relief efforts in Haiti and Ukraine. MSF, is already on the ground providing essential relief to those impacted by the earthquake. Their efforts include the distribution of medical and non-medical supplies, offering shelter, food, access to healthcare, water, sanitation services, as well as implementing long-term strategic initiatives such as constructing a maternity center and rehabilitating hospitals and healthcare centers.



Northwell and The Center for Global Health will be kept informed with monthly updates from MSF, detailing the medical advancements and earthquake relief that the \$44,000 donation has enabled.

## **Upcoming Lectures/Conferences**

### **VIDEO: Ripple Effect: Exploring the Intersection of Water Insecurity and Displacement in the Middle East**

Click below to watch the CSIS Middle East Program virtual discussion on the connections between water insecurity and displacement and how these factors have played out in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria with eminent experts Giorgi Gigauri, Niku Jafarnia, and Michael Talhami, moderated by Natasha Hall.

[https://youtu.be/s\\_3C42tzHmw](https://youtu.be/s_3C42tzHmw)

### **Bobi Wine: The People's President Documentary Showing**

July 27<sup>th</sup>

New York Premiere! Music star, activist and opposition leader Bobi Wine rallies his people in a fight for freedom from President Museveni's oppressive regime.

#### EVENT DETAILS

6:00 PM Doors Open and Set by DJ Birane Begins

7:00 PM Live Performance by Bobi Wine

7:45 PM Screening Begins

#### VENUE

CAPITAL ONE CITY PARKS FOUNDATION SUMMERSTAGE IN CENTRAL PARK

Rumsey Playfield (accessible via the 5th Avenue and 69th Street entrance to Central Park)

<https://rooftopfilms.com/event/bobi-wine-the-peoples-president/>