

In This Issue

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SPECIAL FEATURE: AVIAN INFLUENZA

Despite extensive global response efforts, H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has become entrenched in North Africa and many parts of Asia over the last ten years. **Sims and Jeggo** provide a detailed introduction and overview for this Special Feature. **Forster** argues that in order to address avian influenza more effectively, a reframing of the political dynamics is required to better recognize, prioritize, and respond. In a study by **Mariner et al.**, participatory surveillance was implemented in Africa and Asia to learn from communities by collecting epidemiological intelligence for health decision-making. **Costard et al.** reviewed risk assessments undertaken in seven South-East Asian and African countries, finding that sustainable and efficient animal health risk mitigation strategies should rely on approaches integrating epidemiology and social sciences. **Daniels et al.** explored the correlation between zoonotic disease management and the accuracy of the information regarding the diagnosis and characterization of the infection and its distribution. While studying a live bird market in Indonesia, **Naysmith** found that human behavior might exacerbate risk for emerging infectious diseases and offer a rare look at the social context of these environments in the wake of a government-led intervention, while **Eastwood et al.** describe the use of bird surveillance work to assess West Nile Virus (WNV) status in Ecuador.

The risk of avian influenza associated with poultry markets and production was also explored in several studies in this issue. **Alders et al.** provide a detailed overview of village poultry production and the multiple ways that the HPAI H5N1 pandemic has impacted village poultry, their owners, and the traders. **Finucane et al.** studied how outbreaks of AI in poultry are related to urbanization in Vietnam by interviewing farmers and village leaders in different types of communities, while **Rimi et al.** observed poultry slaughtering practices in

Bangladesh where the risk of human infection is increased due to the exposure of poultry blood and body parts during the slaughtering process at festivals, ceremonies, and rituals. **Swayne et al.** studied the use of vaccinations in poultry to prevent outbreaks of H5N1 bird flu, concluding that failures resulted from improper vaccinations and poor-quality vaccines. **Cappelle et al.** focus on the synchrony among rice cropping, free-grazing domestic duck farming, and wild duck migration that may facilitate AIV transmission and spread, suggesting environmental sampling and targeting resident species in surveillance programs.

SAY NEIGH TO WNV

WNV is a major public health problem worldwide. In Italy, WNV has been circulating since 2008, causing large outbreaks among equines. In a study by **Mughini-Gras et al.**, it was determined that there are significant associations between the observed occurrence of equine outbreaks and the predicted habitat suitability for *Culex modestus* and *Cx. pipiens*, providing circumstantial evidence of their involvement in WNV epidemiology in Italy.

RAT-ICAL HEALTH EDUCATION

In areas that lack environmental sanitation, the relationship between humans and rodents is increased. In a study conducted in a shantytown in Buenos Aires, Argentina, **Hancke and Suárez** demonstrated the feasibility of performing health education campaigns in school-aged children by means of practical activities to stimulate observation, participation, and comprehensive understanding of the problems posed by urban pests.