

to summarize the current thinking in public health law pursue their illusive task as one might attempt to catch a wave on the sand — in the past several years, following the events of September 11, 2001, and the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, certain areas of public health law have come to the fore, including civilian protection against bioterrorism and emergency preparedness. As noted in the first chapters, the major achievements of public health in the 20th century included the conquest of lethal communicable diseases, the control of smoking and the use of tobacco, and improvements in motor-vehicle safety. In the 21st century, the focus shifts to the use of the law as the superstructure in a variety of settings, with regulation and litigation the weapons in the practitioner's arsenal.

One consequence of expanded popular awareness of public health law, following recent pandemics and environmental emergencies, is the need to redefine the roles of states, municipalities, and nations under the principles of federalism. In this sense, the editors of the book have erred on the side of caution by allowing the repetition of major themes regarding federalism in several essays.

The outstanding chapter by David P. Fidler and Martin S. Cetron, "International Considerations," makes a pathbreaking effort to "remedy the neglect of international considerations in the analysis of U.S. public health law," acknowledging the growing influence of globalization and international law. Departing from recent history, when, as Fidler and Cetron write, "international health diplomacy lost its grounding in U.S. self-interest," the new International Health Regulations put forward by the WHO embrace the incorporation of human rights principles, acknowledging the need "to balance effective responses to disease risks" with respect for fundamental individual freedoms. The regulations are mindful of restrictions on trade in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that are intended to protect human health and of the U.S. obligation to prevent the exportation of public health threats.

The collective efforts of the editors and authors of this book give renewed vigor to the proposition that around the world, across cultures, and in every generation, public health law is a vibrant req-

uisite of survival — not only for individuals but for all civilization.

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## CORRECTIONS

The Rise of In-Store Clinics — Threat or Opportunity? (February 22, 2007;356:765-8). The third sentence of the seventh paragraph (page 767) should have read "Both the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians support the concept of pluralism in primary care services," rather than "the American Association of Family Practice." The text has been corrected on the *Journal's* Web site at [www.nejm.org](http://www.nejm.org).

Current Concepts: The Serotonin Syndrome (March 17, 2005; 352:1112-20). The legend for Figure 4 (page 1117) should have included the sentence "Criteria adapted from Dunkley.<sup>29</sup>" The text has been corrected on the *Journal's* Web site at [www.nejm.org](http://www.nejm.org).

Left Ventricular Assist Devices and Drug Therapy in Heart Failure (February 22, 2007;356:869-72). The fourth sentence of the letter (page 869) should have read "The survival rate after explantation in the study cohort (81.8% at 4 years) is similar to that among our 35 patients with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy who were weaned from left ventricular assist devices since 1995 (78.1% at 6 years)," rather than "weaned from left ventricular assist devices in 1995." We regret the error. The text has been corrected on the *Journal's* Web site at [www.nejm.org](http://www.nejm.org).

## NOTICES

*Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal's Web site ([www.nejm.org/meetings](http://www.nejm.org/meetings)). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.*

### ID 2007 INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The conference, subtitled "Battling the Scourges of Today, New Insights for Practicing Physicians," will be held in Clayton, MO, on June 21.

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