



Whole Body Health!

Mysterious MRSA:

There's a deadly killer lurking in hospitals and jails across America. Representatives of the mainstream medical establishment are trying to keep the growing threat under wraps. But even the "experts" don't know just how bad the threat really is—or are hiding the truth about the MRSA virus.

See **STRANGE**, page B-7

EU APPROVES CLONED MEAT FOR HUMANS



The offspring of cloned animals are now legal for consumption according to a decision by the European Union. The decision comes after heated debate over the issue, particularly from Germany.

European Union says Europeans will eat genetically modified foods whether they like it or not . . .

By Christopher J. Petherick

Agriculture officials from the European Union have approved for human consumption meat and milk produced from livestock that has been grown in laboratories, according to a report by a leading organic foods advocacy group. The United States is expected to follow suit.

Despite vocal objections from organic and natural foods advocates across Europe, in mid-June, EU agricultural ministers okayed so-called "Frankenfoods" for human consumption. These laboratory concoctions still need the stamp of approval from the European Food Safety

See **DANGEROUS**, page B-5

Genetically Modified Organisms Deemed Unfit for Human Consumption by Study

By Ethan Huff

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) has issued a warning urging the public to avoid genetically modified foods and has also called for a moratorium on genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, until long-term, independent studies can prove their safety. The group has also called for required labeling of foods that contain GMOs, a move that has been strongly opposed by the Food and Drug Administration and Big Biotech which cooperatively purport that consumers should not have the right to know whether the foods they buy come from traditionally bred or artificially engineered sources.

While urging for more independent studies, the AAEM paper cites its own studies alleging that genetically modified foods cause serious adverse health effects, emphasizing more than a mere "correlational association" as is commonly assumed.

Probably the worst finding in the AAEM report is the fact that GMOs can live and reproduce in the intestinal flora of the body long after being ingested. The genes present in the genetically modified organisms

can transfer into the DNA of intestinal bacteria, the good bacteria that digest food and maintain bodily health. This reprogramming can cause the intestinal flora to begin reproducing Bt pesticides, for example, rather than producing the harmless bacteria it is supposed to. The implications of these alterations are mind boggling since intestinal flora is crucial for life.

AAEM is urging its members along with the scientific and medical community to continue gathering case studies and initiate epidemiological research to help determine, once and for all, the effects of GMOs on human beings in addition to their effects on animals.

Some doctors are now warning their patients to avoid GMOs, recognizing the possible causation between GMOs and disease. Ohio allergist Dr. John Boyles believes genetically engineered foods are so dangerous that people should never eat them. Biologist Pushpa M. Bhargava, following the review of more than 600 scientific journals, has concluded that the drastic deterioration of Americans' health in recent years can be attributed to GMOs being introduced into their diets.

See **CHILDREN**, page B-4

New Culprit Named as Causative Factor in Obesity Epidemic

By Pat Shannan

What in the world is making Americans so fat in recent years? It is not unusual these days to see teenagers—both boys and girls—a hundred pounds or more overweight, and many adults would wish they could lose that much just as a starter.

Could there be a single chemical in our diets today that is causing this obesity epidemic? John Erb, author of *The Slow Poisoning of America* says there is, He says the culprit is MSG—monosodium glutamate. Erb was a research assistant at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, and spent years working for the government. He made an amazing discovery while going through scientific journals in the midst of researching facts for his book.

In hundreds of studies around the world, scientists were creating obese mice and rats to use in diet or diabetes test studies. No strain of rat or mice is naturally

See **MSG HIDDEN**, page B-2

MSG Hidden in Many Popular 'Health' Foods

Continued from page B-1

fat, so scientists have to create them. They make these creatures morbidly obese by injecting them with MSG when they are first born. The MSG triples the amount of insulin the pancreas secretes, causing rats (and apparently humans) to become obese. They even have a name for the fat rodents they create: "MSG-Treated Rats."

MSG is in your favorite flavor of coffee at Starbucks and may be used in the "secret" herbs and spices Col. Sanders discovered for his "Kentucky fried" chicken recipe now marketed as KFC.

MSG hides behind 25 or more names, such as "natural flavoring," "Accent®," and "natural meat tenderizer." And just how is the public supposed to know that hydrolyzed vegetable protein is actually MSG under a different label?

If you find this shocking, go to your own pantry and refrigerator and discover why you, too, can't shake the excess pounds. Your own house is loaded with MSG. Campbell's soups, Betty Crocker's Hamburger Helper, the Heinz sauces, Swanson's frozen prepared meals, and Kraft's salad dressings—even the so-called "healthy low-fat" ones—are all making you fatter, and this is to mention but a smidgeon of what is on our kitchen shelves.

A few years ago, when some of the better read public began to avoid MSG, the food companies began to package it under the deceptive disguise of "hydrolyzed vegetable protein" (HVP), and it is a safe bet that other attractive marketing terms are now ready to be printed as soon as too many people smarten up and stop buying

any product that mentions the HVP on its label.

But it doesn't stop at your own kitchen.

Taking your family out for fast food certainly doesn't solve anything. Burger King, McDonald's, Wendy's and Taco Bell dispense the MSG as readily as salt and pepper. The sit-down restaurants such as Applebee's, Denny's, Chili's and TGI Friday's use it in abundance, and KFC, by putting it in every chicken dish, salad and gravy that they serve, may be the worst offender of all.

Just ask the manager for his ingredient list, which he will grudgingly provide, and you will see the MSG and hydrolyzed vegetable protein everywhere.

Not only is MSG scientifically proven to cause obesity, it is an addictive substance, strangely interacting with the pleasure center of your brain. Even the food group lobby in Washington that supports it has admitted that the reason the companies add it to their food is to make people want to eat more.

Since MSG was introduced into the American food supply about 50 years ago, it has been added in larger and larger doses to the pre-packaged meals, soups, snacks, and fast foods with which we are tempted every day.

The potato chip TV commercial from 25 years ago saying "Betcha can't eat [just] one" takes on a whole new meaning when we know the secret behind the offer.

The FDA has set no limits on how much MSG can be added to foods, and its claim that the poison can be eaten in any amount flies in the face of decades of research proving that it is not safe at all. The studies mentioned above link MSG to diabetes, migraine headaches, autism, and even Alzheimer's disease.

One may find that Alzheimer's link most interesting when recalling that the appearance and upsurge in inci-



Many people equate MSG with Americanized "Chinese food." But the truth is MSG is packed into all kinds of food products consumers purchase every day including so-called "fast foods" and "healthy" pre-packaged dinners from the grocery store.

dents of that illness spans the same time frame since the introduction of MSG into the American diet.

The mainstream media won't tell the public either, fearing issues with their advertisers. It seems that the fallout on the fast food industry may hurt their profit margin. The food producers and restaurants have been addicting us to their products for years, and now we are paying the price for it. Americans are cursed with obesity caused and accelerated by an addictive food additive. ♥

Pat Shannan is a contributing editor to *American Free Press* newspaper. He has long tried to correct the falsehoods put out by the mainstream medical establishment about natural health alternatives.

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Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in

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Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$10,000 US per year.

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GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leap frog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

The president of BIE Health Products stated in a recent interview, I've been waiting for these products since the 70's. We knew they would come, if only we could stay healthy and live long enough to see them! If you want to stay on top of your game, physically and mentally as you age, this product is a boon, especially for the highly skilled professionals who have made large investments in their education, and experience. Also with the failure of Congress to honor our seniors with pharmaceutical coverage policy, it's more important than ever to take pro-active steps to safeguard your health. Continued use of GHR will make a radical difference in your health, HGH is particularly helpful to the elderly who, given a choice, would rather stay independent in their own home, strong, healthy and alert enough to manage their own affairs, exercise and stay involved in their communities. Frank, age 85, walks two miles a day, plays golf, belongs to a dance club for seniors, had a girl friend again and doesn't need Viagra, passed his drivers test and is hardly ever home when we call - GHR delivers.

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Children at Risk

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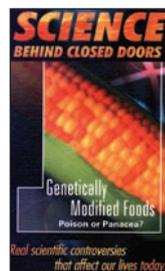
Experimental studies of genetically engineered foods and their effects in the body are disturbing, to say the least. Biologist David Schubert of the Salk Institute has stated that children are the most likely people to experience the adverse effects of GMOs, noting that apart from adequate safety studies, children become “the experimental animals.” In truth, every citizen is a guinea pig when genetically altered organisms are introduced into the food supply without adequate safety studies let alone honest labeling.

It is wise to avoid foods that contain GMOs and ingredients that are genetically engineered. These include non-organic corn and soy derivatives, canola and cottonseed oils, and sugar from sugar beets. Ingredients such as corn starch, corn meal, and soy lecithin are great examples of common ingredients that are suspect. Unless labeled as non-GMO or explicitly organic, these common ingredients are most likely genetically modified and should be avoided. ♥

Ethan Huff is a freelance writer and health enthusiast who loves exploring the vast world of natural foods and health, digging deep to get to the truth. He runs an online health publication of his own at <http://wholesomeherald.blogspot.com>.

Genetically Modified Food: Panacea or Poison?

In the last 30 years global demand for food has doubled. In the race to feed the planet (and turn a profit), scientists have discovered how to manipulate DNA, the blueprint of life, and produce what they claim are stronger, more disease-resistant crops. However, fears that genetically modified foods may not be safe for humans has sparked violent protest and debate. Genetically modified seeds and crops are banned in several countries. Are we participating in a dangerous global experiment? This film helps the viewer decide if the production of genetically modified food is a cure-all for world hunger or a global poison ready to be unleashed upon the most vulnerable people on the planet. DVD *ONLY*, 70 minutes, #1132, \$25.



Bad Seed: The Truth About Our Food

This documentary exposes efforts to control the world's food supply through genetic engineering of food crops. Leading scientists, researchers and activists present the facts you need to know about genetically modified organisms. The methods used to genetically engineer plants are imprecise and extremely dangerous. An estimated 80% of food sold in North America is already genetically modified. DVD *ONLY*, 112 minutes, #1507, \$25.



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Studies Show Animals Fed 'GM' Grains Develop Wide Range of Odd Illnesses

By Ethan Huff

In the animal studies that have been conducted on genetically modified (GM) products, some noteworthy findings have been discovered by researchers:

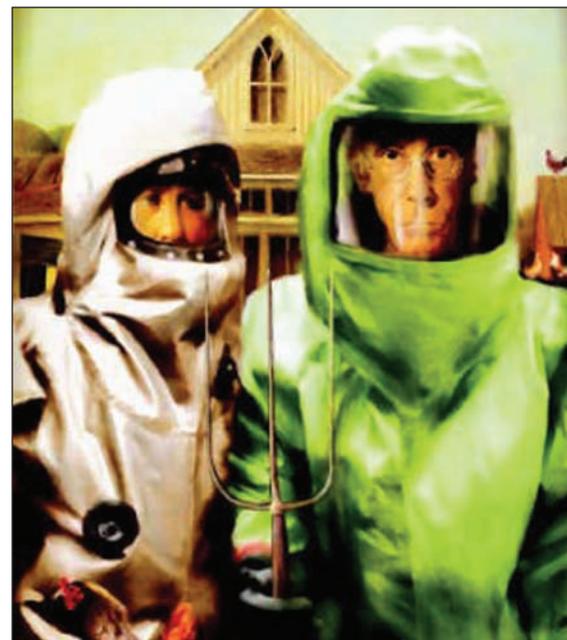
Female rats fed genetically modified food saw most of their babies die within three weeks compared to the 10% death rate experienced by rats fed natural soy. The babies that survived in the genetically modified-fed control group were also born smaller and had problems getting pregnant later on.

Male rats fed genetically modified soy experienced a change in testicular color from pink to dark blue, as well as altered sperm and significant changes in their reproductive systems.

Indian buffalo that consumed genetically modified cottonseed experienced various birthing complications including infertility, abortions, premature delivery, and prolapsed uteruses. Many of the calves that survived birth died shortly thereafter.

In the United States, about 24 farmers reported that their pigs became sterile after consuming genetically modified corn.

Genetically modified corn and cotton, purposely engineered to create their own built-in pesticide called Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), have been indicted in several studies to provoke intense allergic and immune reactions and death. Since the levels of Bt produced in the plant represent thousands of times more a concentration of Bt than natural Bt spray, the effects are greatly amplified. Shepherds whose sheep grazed on Bt cotton after harvest witnessed thousands of their sheep die. Postmortem examinations revealed severe irritation and black patches in the intestines and liver, as well as enlarged bile



ducts. All sheep fed the Bt cotton eventually died within 30 days while those that grazed on natural cotton remained healthy.

Bt corn was also responsible for the deaths of cows, horses, water buffaloes, and chicken in both Germany and the Philippines.

Genetically modified tomatoes fed to rats were shown to cause bleeding stomachs and eventually killed many of the rats.

These are just a few examples of the many catastrophic effects of using genetically modified organisms as food. ♥

Ethan Huff is a freelance writer and health enthusiast who loves exploring the vast world of natural foods and health, digging deep to get to the truth. He runs an online health publication of his own at <http://wholesomeherald.blogspot.com>.

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All information contained inside this special supplement is for educational purposes only. As per FDA requirements “this information is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease. In all health-related situations, qualified healthcare professionals should always be consulted.” Use your own common sense when treating illness. If a cure sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Caveat emptor.

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Dangerous Side Effects of 'GM' Foods

Continued from page B-1

Authority (EFSA), the leading European food regulatory body, before they can be sold in stores across the continent, but that is considered a minor formality if a recent press release from the EFSA is to be believed.

“There is no indication that differences exist in terms of food safety for meat and milk of clones and their progeny compared with those from conventionally bred animals,” the EFSA report said. “Such a conclusion is based on the assumption that meat and milk are derived from healthy animals, which are subject to relevant food safety controls.”

The EU is overruling individual European countries like Germany, where citizens have publicly expressed opposition to these types of food. One of the largest German farm groups along with a few politicians recently came out in opposition the EU decision.

Citing the small amount of research that has been done on the subject of consumption of cloned meats and milk, the German Farmers Association said studies still need to be undertaken on food products that have been taken directly from cloned animals and their offspring before they should be offered to the public. Peter Liese, a German member of the European Parliament, echoed this sentiment, adding that the EU’s decision was “not the last word” on the matter and that the German government was opposed to using cloned animals for food.

Despite the EU’s assurances, the reality is the safety of genetically modified (GM) foods has come under

question in recent years. Studies have shown that food modified in laboratories can pose a health hazard to those who consume them. Some damning evidence of GM foods was presented in a paper by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) released in late May 2009. Founded in 1965, AAEM is an international association of physicians and health professionals. Its membership comprises respected scientists and doctors, many of whom are considered establishment.

In the May report, the group called for “an immediate moratorium” on GM foods pending more analysis after its research showed that GM foods pose “a serious health risk.” The side effects of consuming GM crops can include “rapid aging, severe alterations to the major bodily organs, infertility, immune problems, gastrointestinal dysfunction and disruption to proper insulin regulation.”

The official EU ruling is seen as another step toward the adoption of cloned foods in America. Global agribusiness is moving rapidly to take food from the field to sterile laboratories, where it will be produced in petri dishes by scientists in white coats under the watchful eye of corporations bent on profits. ♥

Christopher Petherick is a journalist and publisher based in Maryland. For more information, see his website at www.brandywinehouse.us or write directly to BRANDYWINE HOUSE BOOKS AND MEDIA, P.O. Box 638, Cheltenham, MD 20623. Check out the new book *The Legalized Crime of Banking while you are there*. Petherick encourages all readers with Internet access to sign up for AFP’s free weekly email newsletter and special updates. It’s loaded with house news and interesting offers available only to newsletter recipients and AFP web site users. See AmericanFreePress.net for more.

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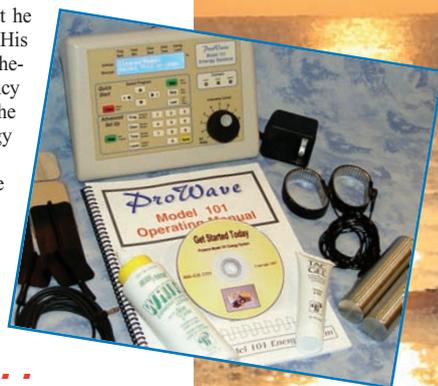
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Micro Farm in Heart of Big Apple Hopes to Produce Tons of Food

By Christopher J. Petherick

At least one positive development has come about as a result of the economic troubles brought on by Wall Street's greed—in cities across the country, the young and old are banding together to create mini farms that produce tons of fresh, locally grown produce where there would otherwise be only large, brick-and-mortar corporate supermarkets.

In the heart of New York City, for example, a three-acre farm is being started that is expected to produce tens of thousands of dollars worth of crops annually.

The farm will be located on Governors Island in the New York Harbor with a close view of the Statue of Liberty. As a vital strategic location, the 172-acre island had been used by the military for 200 years. For 30 years, it served as home to the Coast Guard's largest installation before it was closed down in 1995. Two large forts are still there, but have been turned into museums for the public. That was before the federal government returned the island to the public in 2003, selling it to New York for \$1.

Now a farm has been started there, as a joint project between the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation, which manages the island, and the Brooklyn-based nonprofit Added Value, which, according to its web site, has revitalized "local parks,

transformed vacant lands into vibrant urban farms [and] improved our access to healthy, safe and affordable food."

The farm is being built on the site of the demolished Coast Guard base with tons of compost and topsoil being boated in from the mainland.

The revenue from the farm, which is expected to reach \$25,000 in the first year, will come from sales in the city's farmers markets and directly from the farm itself, which will open a store soon. Any money the farm makes will be used to teach young city kids how to grow their own food and produce for themselves.

The Governor's Island farm joins a growing number of urban farms that are popping up like weeds across the country. From Philadelphia to St. Louis to Phoenix to Detroit, urban farmers have been tearing up backyards and empty lots to turn them into farm fields that grow fresh food.

The Seattle Urban Farm Company, for instance, even offers a community-supported agriculture program that provides its members with fresh produce every week. The farm, which is located in downtown Seattle, also provides advice and training for people who are interested in starting their own urban farm or garden. They will even help supporters raise their own chickens right in the heart of the city. Its web site, seattleurbanfarm.com, happily states: "If you're interested in having a chicken coop in your yard, we offer services ranging from planning and design to installations to monthly maintenance. We're happy to help you learn how to manage and care for your hens, and can provide you with local sources for organic feed and bedding."

The news is a welcome change for Americans, who have seen more and more of their food produced at the lowest price by wage slaves in far-off countries where



This *New York Times* photo shows volunteers stopping to discuss details while working on the 3-acre farm project on Governors Island, New York. Managers hope the farm will produce tens of thousands of dollars worth of food crops for the area.

noxious pesticides are used and outbreaks of bacteria are commonplace.

"It's beyond a movement at this point," one urban farmer told a local newspaper. "It's more like a revolution."

Christopher Petherick is a journalist and publisher based in Maryland. For more information, see his website at www.brandywinehouse.us or write directly to BRANDYWINE HOUSE BOOKS AND MEDIA, P.O. Box 638, Cheltenham, MD 20623. Check out the new book *The Legalized Crime of Banking* while you are there. Petherick encourages all readers with Internet access to sign up for AFP's free weekly email newsletter and special updates. It's loaded with house news and interesting offers available only to newsletter recipients and AFP web site users. See AmericanFreePress.net for more.

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Obama Healthcare: Way Too Coercive, Costly, Unwieldy

By Julia Foster

Washington's proposed healthcare reform creates a national or state-based "health insurance exchange," which would allow individuals and businesses to shop around for various plans offered by private health insurance companies. This is something that is not available today. It provides subsidies to individuals and families, who earn up to four times the federal poverty level, and offers tax credits to small businesses that pay for health care. It also expands Medicaid to cover all earning up to 133 percent of the poverty level.

All Americans would be required to get health insurance unless they can prove they cannot afford it. All employers would have to either offer health benefits or pay the equivalent of 8 percent of their payroll into a government fund. Some small businesses would be exempt, but no specifics have been offered.

The most controversial portion of the proposal centers around a government-run health plan, which would be expected to "compete with private insurance companies." Advocates of the reform plan say that this public insurance program would be financed solely by premiums, not government subsidies, and would be subject to the same insurance regulations as private insurers. But, already, there is talk of raising taxes—such as higher Medicare payroll taxes and tax increases on sugary drinks and alcohol—to come up with additional revenue to pay for the program, which is expected to cost between \$600 billion and \$1.5 trillion. See this week's "Spotlight on Congress" on page eight of the main edition for more on this.

As one of the leading critics of government-run health programs, Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) has already come out against the plan, saying that "forcing Americans to purchase government-approved health insurance is a back door approach to creating a government-controlled healthcare system."

With Congress defining the health policies and coverage requirements, he writes, "I foresee the eventual imposition of price controls and limitations on what procedures and treatments that are covered. This will result in an increasing number of providers turning to 'cash only' practices, making it difficult for those relying on the government-mandated insurance to find healthcare—the exact opposite of the desired result. Consider the increasing number of physicians who are already withdrawing from the Medicare program because of the low reimbursement and constant bureaucratic harassment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services."

Americans need to ask themselves if they really need a new federal agency to manage their health care with the inefficiency of the post office, the expense of the military and the customer relations practices of the IRS. The answer should be a resounding "No." ♥

Strange Bug Rampant in Hospitals

By Pat Shannan

Most of the world has never heard of it, but it is killing people without warning—usually patients who are already under a doctor's care and/or in hospitals around America. Recognized first in the 1970s as a staph infection emerging in the hospitals that was resistant to penicillin-type antibiotics, scientists used that peculiar feature in choosing its name—Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* or simply MRSA.

MRSA, a drug-resistant germ, lurks in hospitals, carried by patients and staff and fueled by inconsistent infection control. This stubborn germ is spreading across America at an alarming rate, but no one has ever tracked these cases—until now.

MRSA, is spread by touch or contact. It can slip into breaks in the skin as tiny as a mosquito bite. Six out of seven people infected with MRSA contract it at a health-care facility, and it is infecting and killing more people this year than ever before. MRSA infections often strike critically ill patients or those with weakened immune systems—patients typically treated in a hospital's intensive-care unit.

Except for having developed some tests to indicate its presence, physicians are baffled by the disease and its sources. Meanwhile, MRSA has found a new breeding ground in unclean jailhouse cells. Texas peace officer Matt Guest worked for a couple of years as a detention officer in county jail and writes that it became his belief that the current generation of young people are more susceptible because of the rampant over-use of antibiotics in recent years.

He explains that not only are doctors prescribing antibiotics far too often, but now farmers are allowed to put them in cattle feed.

"I worked a couple of years in a very clean mid-sized jail," says Guest, "which far exceeded the state standards, and I observed several bad cases of MRSA. The inmates would get boils that would go very deep before coming to a head. Once they finally were lanced, the wound was a large open sore that would not heal quickly, the way you would expect. They would often maintain their infection, with red streaks moving out from the sore."

Guest instructs that one's biggest weapon against MRSA is simple soap and frequent baths for anyone subjected to the conditions such as incarceration or hospitalization.

"Don't just rinse off under the warm water," he says, "but scrub your skin with an abrasive object like a washcloth or loofa or one of those less-than-masculine-looking, yet highly effective, poofball things. Doctors are asking that we don't use anti-bacterial soaps, because we're just breeding super-resistant germs."

Some investigators are struck by the time frame but cannot pinpoint anything definite. MRSA evidently appeared at about the same time our old-fashioned isolation procedures disappeared. Not coincidentally, it was also about the time that business school-educated hospital administrators began to be hired by hospital

boards to manage the business.

"Hospital boards of directors are seldom, if ever, medical professionals themselves," says a reporter who investigated the situation in Seattle hospitals, "so it was a case of the blind leading the blind, otherwise known as a bureaucracy. In my experience, they were far more concerned with hospital cosmetics than with the messy details of patient care."

Concerted efforts of hospitals to hide or cover up the frequency of infection and the mortality of infection are suspected. While it is certain that hospitals don't want the public to be able to judge them on the basis of facts, many believe that the real culprit nationwide is the CDC. This agency has effectively stonewalled any effort to establish infection control procedures in hospitals for decades. Why?

The hand with the biggest stake in this game is big pharma and to them being sick unto death means money. The CDC covers itself by focusing attention on non-existent problems. Meanwhile, America has an epidemic that's becoming worse by the day, according to *The Seattle Times*.

Over the past decade, the number of Washington hospital patients infected with the frightening MRSA virus has skyrocketed from 141 a year to 4,723. The *Times* gained access to state files that revealed 672 previously undisclosed deaths attributable to the infection. One has to assume that the figures would be similar in most of the other states as well.

In "How Our Hospitals Unleashed a MRSA Epidemic," investigative reporters Michael Berens and Ken Armstrong told the story of Joyce Allen.

In October 2005, Allen went for open-heart surgery at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma. Doctors told her to expect a quick recovery. But during the operation, MRSA somehow slipped into her chest. Doctors had cut through her sternum. When they fused the sternum back together, the contagion was entombed inside. The blood-rich bone marrow was a perfect hiding spot. Within a week, the germ pushed into her arteries and crept into vital organs.

Antibiotics failed to conquer the infection. By April 2006, as Allen hovered near death, surgeons made the decision they had dreaded: Cut out the sternum. They sheared away 6 inches of bone with a diamond-coated blade. Allen, 57, is crippled for life. She measures each day by the level of pain. On her worst days, she's unable to pick up her small grandson.

Disabled, she gave up her customer-service job at a Tacoma cabinet company. She now lives in a trailer in Spanaway, surviving on \$877 a month in benefits.

Nobody knows how the germ got into St. Joseph's operating room. But St. Joseph didn't test her for MRSA, according to medical records. When it comes to most cardiac patients, the hospital still doesn't. Who gets tested for MRSA, and who does not, is a medical game of chance.

A Bainbridge Island plaintiffs' lawyer, Christopher Otorowski, believes doctors may many times omit MRSA from death certificates because the infection is typically picked up in a hospital. ♥

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