

Public Lecture

Profiting from the Past: Has History Helped us Understand Infectious Diseases?

Professor Joe Brownlie

Royal Veterinary College, London

Friday 27 March 2015

16:30- 18:00

Mrs Chen Yang Foo Oi Telemedicine Centre

2/F William MW Mong Block

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All welcome. No registration required.

There is considerable concern about the threats posed by new and emerging diseases. During a UK Government review of these risks (the Foresight programme on 'The Detection and Identification of Infectious Diseases'), it became apparent that a new human disease arose every 8 months and that the majority of these arose from animal diseases. These so-called zoonotic diseases remind us that veterinary and human diseases are a continuum and should be considered in their entirety – the 'One Health' agenda. This is not a new understanding and many of the early plagues and pandemics that affected mankind clearly had an animal origin. There is, however, a danger that without understanding and recalling the history of these diseases and their control, we fail to remember the lessons learnt about the critical steps necessary for control. We should examine these steps to agree what were generic for controlling infectious diseases and whether they are still important. In this lecture, it is intended to look at new and emerging contemporary diseases in the light of our historical understanding of diseases and their control.

For further details, please visit http://www.chm.hku.hk/profitng_from_the_past.html



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