

**The inaugural Wright State University  
Public Health Grand Rounds  
Friday July 22, 2011**

**Topic:**

The Worldwide ReNu<sup>®</sup>-Related *Fusarium* Keratitis Epidemic of 2004-2006: What Would The Reverend Henry Whitehead and Doctor John Snow Have Done?

**Delta Omega Lecturer:**

[John D. Bullock, MD, MPH, MSc](#)

Infectious Disease Epidemiologist

Clinical Professor of Community Health

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

**Summary:**

Public health “experts” attributed several cholera outbreaks in London in the mid-1800’s to “miasma,” polluted gases arising from the products of filth and decay; Dr. John Snow, a physician, and The Reverend Henry Whitehead, a minister, later proved epidemiologically that cholera was transmitted by contaminated water.

Between 2004-2006, a worldwide epidemic of *Fusarium* keratitis occurred which was attributed to a “perfect storm” of events related to the contents of a specific contact lens solution and to the microbiological characteristics of the *Fusarium* organism; it was later shown statistically that improper storage conditions exposed some of the bottles to excessive temperature which most likely allowed a chemical contaminant of the plastic bottle to leach into the solution and inactivate its antimicrobial agent.

Multiple parallels are drawn between these two events showing that scientists, human nature, and politics have changed little in over 150 years.

**Location:**

**Gandhi Auditorium of White Hall** at the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway, Dayton, OH 45435.

Free parking is available in Lot 16 located in front of White Hall.

Please do NOT park in the Reserved A spaces or the handicapped spaces (unless you have a valid Ohio handicap placard).

**For more information:**

Contact Pam Mondini at 937-258-5555 or [pam.mondini@wright.edu](mailto:pam.mondini@wright.edu) if you have any questions or if you need a map.

We look forward to having you join us!

