

Viral Chatter ~ 2012-2013

Zoonotic diseases have always had the potential to wipe out great numbers of human populations. Poverty, along with advances in both medical and transportation technology have greatly increased the chances of a global pandemic. In a survey of many of the world's leading epidemiologists, it was reported that 90% believed there would be a world-wide pandemic within the next 1 or 2 generations which has the potential to leave 165 million people dead and lead to a global recession and depression. This has inspired great interest in the study of 'viral chatter'.

Trace the development and historical impact of zoonotic diseases. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of our current monitoring and response patterns. Bring fresh ideas to the table for how the world could be realistically better protected. Present to an informed audience on Tuesday, December 18.

Labs: Microscope usage
Comparative microbiology
Viral modeling

Reading: chapters from The Viral Storm by Nathan Wolfe
The Hot Zone by Richard Preston (book and/or movie)
Contagion (movie)
Journals from the Black Plague