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We are CMEL! Welcome to the eighteenth issue of the CMEL Newsletter! This publication aims to update you on the latest news and information in the biomedical world. We will also share information about upcoming events, so stay tuned! Find out more about CMEL. We also have a Facebook page, you can follow us here.

Top stories in this newsletter

In the News: Antibiotic-resistant superbugs found on train handrails of the Mass Transit Railway in Hong Kong

In further news about antimicrobial resistance in Hong Kong, a team of researchers from the University of Hong Kong found the train handrails of the Mass Transit Railway ("MTR") in Hong Kong dispersing superbugs with antibiotic-resistant genes. The results of the study suggest that there could be transmission of superbugs across the border between Hong Kong and Shenzhen via the MTR system. Read more here.

In Commentary: Liabilities of individuals and institutions for medical negligence

A hospital doctor was convicted in the UK in year 2015 of manslaughter by gross negligence of a 6-year-old boy in her care. This commentary piece discusses whether the doctor was scapegoated for the failures and inadequacies of her team and her hospital’s systems. Read more here.

Concerns over consent issues in the context of direct-to-consumer genetic testing

23andMe, a company well-known for providing direct-to-consumer genetic testing services, has recently partnered with the pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline, permitting the latter to conduct pharmaceutical research by utilizing “deidentified” DNA and other data that 23andMe collects from consumers. This commentary piece explores whether the consent given by the customers of 23andMe extends to the use of their data for the purpose of pharmaceutical research. Read more here.

In Entertainment: The Bleeding Edge

Netflix has released a new documentary called "The Bleeding Edge", which explores the dangers of medical devices, such as the possible seeping of harmful metal from hip implants into the body and the potential ill effects of an implantable birth control device called Essure. Read more here.

Gene Editing on Last Week Tonight with John Oliver

John Oliver recently did a segment on gene editing on Last Week Tonight, a popular American television talk show. Read more here.