VIROX™ TECHNOLOGIES INC.

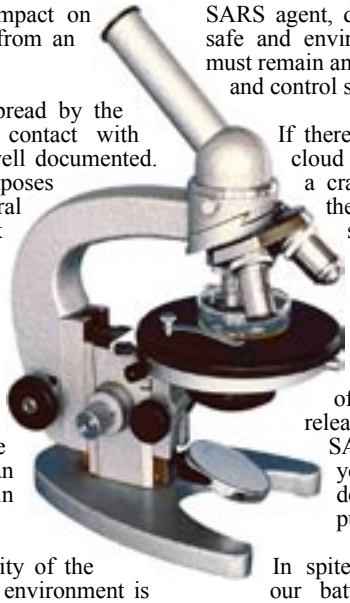
Spring 2003 Issue

Solutions®

SARS-Another Lesson in Humility

What do West Nile, Ebola, Nipah, Hendra, the bird flu, and Norwalk have in common? These are all relatively new viruses - unknown to us until the last few years. And secondly, each one of these infinitesimal beasts has taught us that the human race can be readily humbled. The most recent addition to this list is the virus that causes SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome). In just a few short months it has had more profound and humbling an impact on our lives than we have seen from an infectious agent in generations.

The ability of the virus to spread by the respiratory route, on close contact with infected individuals, is now well documented. Such viral distribution exposes caregivers to the greatest viral loads and the infection risk – the high proportion of cases in healthcare personnel is incontrovertible evidence of this. We should take comfort in that the virus does not appear to be transmitted by air in the same manner as influenza, mumps and measles. Had that been the case, we would have seen an even greater impact of SARS in a much shorter period.



Our understanding of the ability of the SARS agent to survive in the environment is still very rudimentary. The summary reports published by the World Health Organization, for example, are based on studies with fundamental differences in test methodologies, thus making their data difficult to interpret. Statements based on these studies can also be quite misleading. For instance, the virus may survive on an environmental surface for perhaps 24 hours, but this does not necessarily translate into a health risk for those touching such a surface or object. A better way to measure the risk is to determine: 1) how much infectivity the virus has lost during that period; 2) the amount of virus that can be acquired upon hand contact; 3) the likelihood of inoculating oneself or others with the minimum infectious dose of the virus.

As to the resistance/susceptibility of the SARS agent to environmental surface disinfectants and antiseptics, I am unaware of any data derived from tests on the SARS agent itself. Work with other coronaviruses indicates that while they are slightly more resistant to commonly used germicides than other enveloped viruses (this may be due to their closer association with membranes in host cells), they are substantially less resistant to germicides than non-enveloped viruses. However, until we have better evidence on the exact means of transmission of the SARS agent, disinfection and antisepsis with safe and environmentally friendly chemicals must remain an essential part of any prevention and control strategies.

If there is a silver lining to this dark cloud it is that SARS has given us a crash course in outbreak control the likes of which we have not seen in a long while. Local, national and international agencies have been forced to pool their expertise to counter this common enemy. This experience will be most helpful in our preparations in case of any deliberate or accidental release of infectious agents. The SARS outbreak has demonstrated yet again the unstinting and heroic dedication of our healthcare and public health professionals.

In spite of the oft-noted progress in our battle against infectious agents, many pathogens somehow continue to find our Achilles' heel, proving how vulnerable we truly are to these incredibly small life forms and the havoc they can wreak.

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"The secret of success is constancy of purpose"

Benjamin Disraeli

The Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA-Canada)

National Education Conference

"Waking the Giant"
Thunder Bay, June 22-25, 2003

Now *anyone* can attend!

VIROX PATRON MEMBER Scholarship Fund

JohnsonDiversey

BUTCHERS

deb Deb Canada

SciCan

Virox Technologies Inc., JohnsonDiversey, The Butchers Company, SciCan, Deb Canada and Webber Training Inc. are committed to furthering educational opportunities for the Infection Control Professional (ICP) in Canada. The Community and Hospital Infection Control Association National Education Conference is an excellent opportunity to bring ICPs together in a forum of learning.

The Virox Patron Member Scholarship Program is intended to provide financial assistance to eligible ICPs to attend the annual National Conference of CHICA-Canada.

"CHICA would like to thank Virox Technologies for their contribution."
During the Voices of CHICA teleclass on May 8, CHICA President, Mary McNaughton, thanked Virox Technologies Inc, and announced that the Virox Patron Scholarship Fund is making it possible for 17 ICP's to attend the national conference in Thunder Bay. Seven CHICA members will receive $1,500 to offset expenses, and ten members will receive $750. The Virox Technologies team is proud to be a part of this project. On behalf of the other Patron Members who support the fund we'd like to thank Shirley Paton and the members of the Selection Committee.

Going to APIC 2003? Come visit us at Vendor Booth #607

Joining us as our special guest will be Paul Webber, Director of Webber Training, and co-founder of Teleclass Education for Healthcare Professionals. Meet Paul and get a sense of his approach to *No-Barriers* infection control education.

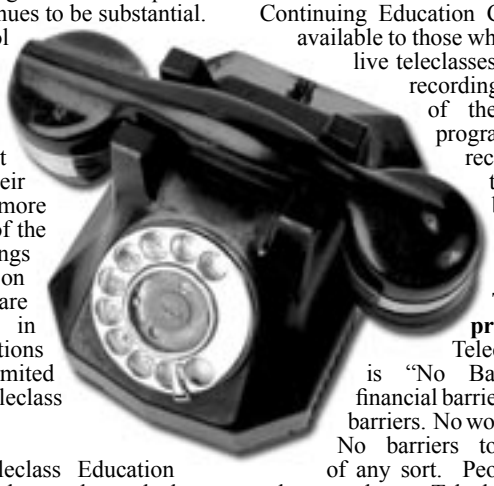
Disinfection, Sterilization and Antisepsis: Practices, challenges, and New Research Principles

Chaired by William Rutala, Phd, MPH, CIC

The Small Experiment

Teleclass Education started as a small experiment. Dr. Syed Sattar and Paul Webber sought to develop a new way to distribute the most current, conference-quality infection control information to the largest possible audience in a way that was memorable.

The idea for Teleclass Education was a modest one, although the effort required to pull it off continues to be substantial. Infection control professionals by the thousands meet together by phone to hear about the most current issues in their field. Thousands more would make use of the teleclass recordings on-line and on CD. Healthcare professionals in developing nations are permitted unlimited free access to teleclass material.



Funding for Teleclass Education is derived from the modest teleclass registration fee charged to each registered site (regardless of the number of participants at the site), supplemented with corporate sponsorships. These remarkable, forward-looking sponsors contribute to the growth of Teleclass Education even though teleclasses never promote or endorse any particular product or company.

Teleclass presenters too are fantastically generous and progressive people. They come from the top of their field, and although they could command a very large fee indeed, their effort to prepare and deliver their teleclass is not rewarded with great riches. A small sum is set-aside for the presenter as a token of their audience's appreciation, although the reward most highly valued is the role that they play in the reduction of infectious disease transmission worldwide. They are committed to sharing their knowledge far and wide, and a teleclass presentation accomplishes this with elegant simplicity.

In coming months and years there will continue to be more teleclasses on topics of tremendous interest, and featuring presenters of global notoriety and authority. Multi-part Telecourses will be offered in cooperation with infection control associations. Continuing Education Credits will be available to those who participate in live teleclasses or in teleclass recordings. As part of the international program, teleclass recordings and transcripts will be translated into Spanish and French.

The defining principle for Teleclass Education is "No Barriers". No financial barriers. No location barriers. No workload barriers. No barriers to participation of any sort. People who don't know about Teleclass Education have a barrier in front of them that can only be lifted by awareness. The co-founders of Teleclass Education would like to thank every Webber Training Member who has told a colleague about their teleclass experience, and to Virox Technologies among other corporate sponsors for their financial and moral support. Teleclass information can be accessed though the Webber Training web site www.webbertraining.com. Those interested in helping to spread the word can contact Paul Webber paul@webbertraining.com.

"Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises."
Demosthenes

Virox Sponsors
Dr. William Rutala

Virox Technologies Inc. is pleased to support the May 22, 2003 teleclass entitled "Disinfection of Patient Care Equipment" featuring Dr. William Rutala. Dr. Rutala is one of the primary researchers, educators and thought-leaders in the field of disinfection. His teleclass will identify the particular requirements and current shortcomings in the cleaning and disinfection of patient care equipment in acute care and long-term care.

To find out more about this teleclass visit www.webbertraining.com or contact Paul Webber. Paul coordinates and hosts most teleclasses, and is available at paul@webbertraining.com, or at 800-363-5376.

Virox is committed to education. In our experience, educated people are aware people, and aware people are generally more likely to appreciate the benefits of Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide.

Other Webber Training Teleclasses Scheduled for 2003:

- Innovations in Hand Hygiene
- Cleaning Patient Care Areas, Where's The Time?
- Evidence-Based Infection Control
- Alcohol Hand Sanitizers and their Effect on Viruses
- Influenza - Strategies for the Community and High Risk Groups
- Reprocessing Difficult to Clean Medical Devices
- Exploring the New CDC Hand Hygiene Guidelines
- Disinfectants in Infection Control, Can They Make Bacteria Resistant to Antibiotics?
- Mold in Healthcare Facilities, Remediation and Prevention Strategies
- Community Acquired MRSA, Big Problem of Sign-of-the-Times?

To find out more about these teleclass topics contact Webber Training Inc. info@webbertraining.com or go to their web site www.webbertraining.com

Virox Launches Redesigned Web Resource

As a part of our primary mandate to anticipate your needs, Virox Technologies is pleased to announce the launch of the newly updated electronic resource, www.viroxtech.com. The Virox web site offers a rich and rapidly expanding collection of current information and resource tools, compiled into the following categories:

- **Outbreaks**. An ongoing overview of bacterial and viral outbreaks that have impacted infection control practitioners and how they were resolved.
- **Guidelines**. A centralized resource library of documents from Health Canada, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, City of Toronto Sewer Use Bylaw and many others.
- **Protocols**. Referenced documents intended to provide guidance on the proper cleaning and disinfection procedures in a variety of settings and applications.
- **Compatibility**. Technical reports on the compatibility of various materials (including stainless steel, plastic, polycarbonate resin, PVC and many more) when in contact with Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide.
- **Health & Beauty**. A new page specific to the Health & Beauty industry that can be found under the Specialty Markets tab.

We're committed to your knowledge, awareness and success. The next issue of Virox Solutions will highlight even more new additions to www.viroxtech.com, but you don't have to wait until then. Have a look for yourself anytime. New scientific articles by experts in their field, technical documents, protocol suggestions, and other material of specific interest to you will be posted regularly. Thanks for your support.

Ontario Ministry of Health Recommends AHP for SARS

In the early days of Ontario's battle against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome the Ministry of Health sent an e-mail to all EMS managers. Under the heading "Decontamination of Equipment and Vehicles", the document read, "*It is recommended that Virox-5™, an accelerated hydrogen peroxide base formulation, be used as the disinfectant of choice for this purpose. Studies have concluded that Virox-5™ is over 99% effective in disinfecting surfaces when used according to manufacturers specifications. The product is therefore suitable for use . . . and is safer than many other broad-spectrum germicides.*" (In fact, Virox-5 is many times more effective than 99%)

Virox Technologies is grateful for the opportunity to play our part. Like all Canadians we are as proud as we can be of the infection control heroes who worked brilliantly and tirelessly to bring a resolution to the SARS outbreak.

Look for the next Virox Solutions newsletter in September 2003

VIROX™ TECHNOLOGIES INC.