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Emory University
Serious Communicable Diseases Program (SCDP)
Project ECHO Program
Thinking Ahead of the World Cup:
Hantavirus (Old and New World, ANDV)
Thursday, May 28, 2026
11 AM – 12 PM (ET)

Facilitator:

- Jay B. Varkey, MD - Chief Quality Officer, Emory University Hospital/Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital; Associate Professor (Infectious Diseases), Emory University School of Medicine

Didactic Presenter:

- Steven Q. Simpson, MD, FCCP, FACP - Professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, University of Kansas

Case Presenter:

- N Mariam Salas, MBBCh, FIDSA - Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education; Program Director, Infectious Disease Fellowship; Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, UNM HSC

Public Health Speaker:

- Skyler Brennan, MPH - Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist, Georgia Department of Public Health

Target Audience:

- Anyone interfacing with patients or responsible for patient/community health, including physicians, nurses, EMTs, paramedics, pharmacists, hospital administrators, public health officials, etc., are welcome to attend.

Session Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the current and projected epidemiologic trends of potential hantaviruses as related to World Cup exposure
- Utilize a case-based scenario to discuss clinical presentation and management of a person infected with Andes Virus
- Understand the ongoing surveillance measures and public health preparedness approaches in Region IV



Connection Details: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PEIHaFduRbaeNQcxqSOEBA

Time	Topic	Presenter
11:00 -11:05	Welcome, Intros, Polls	Varkey
11:05 -11:10	Situation Report – Overview of Current Disease Outbreaks	Harris
11:10 -11:20	Andes-like hantavirus infections in returning travelers from Paraguay	Salas
11:20 – 11:35	Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome 2026 A Global Threat?	Simpson
11:35 – 11:45	Hantavirus – Public Health	Brennan
11:45 -12:00	Discussion/Q&A <i>(Audience can submit questions and experts will discuss)</i>	Varkey, Salas, Simpson, Brennan
12:00	Wrap-up, Polls	Varkey

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Emory University and Project ECHO. Project ECHO® is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



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Disclosure Statement

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content of an educational activity disclose all relevant financial relationships they have had within the last 24 months with an ineligible company.

None of the planners and presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Gavin Harris, MD

Aneesh Mehta, MD, FIDSA, FAST

Sharon Carrasco, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC, NP-C, CEN, FAEN, FAAN

Yasmin Thornton, MPH

Allison Klajbor, MBA

Jay Varkey, MD

Natalie Mariam Salas, MBBCh, FIDSA

Steven Q. Simpson, MD, FCCP, FACP

Skyler Brennan, MPH

Bios:

Jay B Varkey, MD

Dr. Jay B. Varkey is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, at the Emory University School of Medicine. He received his BA in International Affairs and Political Science and graduated with honors from Marquette University in 1998. In 2002, he graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center.

He was recruited to the Emory University School of Medicine in 2009 to become the medical director of the antibiotic stewardship program at Emory University Hospital where he later served as Hospital Epidemiologist and currently serves as Chief Quality Officer. He is an active teacher and lecturer. His research interests are focused on improving hospital quality and patient safety.

In Fall 2014, Dr. Varkey was one of five infectious diseases physicians that provided direct care to 4 patients with Ebola virus disease treated in the Serious Communicable Diseases Unit (SCDU) at Emory University Hospital including the first 2 patients with Ebola treated in the United States.

During both the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Varkey has been invited to provide medical expert commentary to multiple media organizations



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in newspapers, radio, and on television including multiple appearances in the Associated Press, National Public Radio, NBC, CBS, ABC, and CNN.

Natalie Mariam Salas, MBBCh, FIDSA

Dr. Natalie Mariam Salas is an Associate Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of New Mexico. She is a committed UNM Lobo, having completed her internal medicine residency and her infectious diseases fellowship at the University of New Mexico. She deeply loves New Mexico for the beautiful mountains, the glorious sunsets and the fascinating infections including bubonic plague and Hantavirus. Dr. Salas is passionate about education as reflected in her role as Program Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship and Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education. She has developed numerous curricula not only for the Division of Infectious Disease, but across the School of Medicine; all dedicated to fostering a love for patient-centered care and stamping out infections.

Steven Q Simpson, MD, FCCP, FACP

Dr. Simpson is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, in Kansas City KS. He trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas and in Pulmonary and Critical Care at Rush University, in Chicago. He is currently Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Kansas. From 1990 through 1997 he was an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico, where he helped to provide the original clinical description of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome and led the team developing the approach to critically ill patients with the syndrome. He presented the team's early work in the keynote address of the 1994 Society of Critical Care Medicine International Congress. He has consulted with the CDC's Special Pathogens Branch regarding the approach to treatment and participated in CDC's educational videos for practicing physicians. He consulted with foreign government health officials during HPS outbreaks in other nations, specifically in the southern Andes. Because of these experiences with an emerging pathogen, he was prepared to develop KU's Ebola intake center in 2014 and to serve on the NIH's COVID-19 Guidelines panel from 2020 – 2024.

Dr. Simpson has been Director of Critical Care at the New Mexico Regional Federal Medical Center, Director of Critical Care at the University of Kansas, Director of KU's three Medical Intensive Care Units, Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship director, and Interim Chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. He worked from 2018 – 2022 as a Senior Medical Advisor to BARDA's Solving Sepsis program within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has co-authored three versions of the Surviving Sepsis Guidelines, from



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2012 – 2026. He served as the President of the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) in 2020 – 2021. He is the current Chair of the Board of Directors of Sepsis Alliance.

Skyler Brennan, MPH

Skyler Brennan has been the zoonotic disease epidemiologist at the Georgia Department of Public Health since 2019. She is responsible for surveillance of notifiable diseases transmitted from animals to humans, such as rabies and several bioterrorism agents. She also participates in emergency preparedness activities at DPH.