

Fast Breaking Papers - 2010

April 2010



Rogelio Perez-Padilla talks with *ScienceWatch.com* and answers a few questions about this month's Fast Breaking Paper Paper in the field of Clinical Medicine.



Article Title: Pneumonia and Respiratory Failure from Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) in Mexico

Authors: **Perez-Padilla, R**; de la Rosa-Zamboni, D; de Leon, SP; Hernandez, M; Quinones-Falconi, F; Bautista, E; Ramirez-Venegas, A; Rojas-Serrano, J; Ormsby, CE; Corrales, A; Higuera, A; Mondragon, E; Cordova-Villalobos, JA; INER Working Grp Influenza
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(addresses have been truncated.)

SW: Why do you think your paper is highly cited?

The timing was very appropriate, as it was published in the middle of the pandemic and was therefore a good source of information for many countries where the outbreak was just starting. It provided important clinical information regarding the influenza pandemic.

SW: Does it describe a new discovery, methodology, or synthesis of knowledge?

It was a timely synthesis of clinical features of the severe influenza, including only routine clinical, radiological, pathological, and laboratory features which were important to know because it was a new virus.

SW: Would you summarize the significance of your paper in layman's terms?

It alerted physicians, health personnel, and ministries of health of the main clinical characteristics of severe flu, and, in many countries, it helped prepare them for the influenza outbreak before it started. Indeed, they knew the flu was coming, and the paper described the presentation of the most severe cases.

SW: How did you become involved in this research, and were there any problems along the way?

"We hope the pandemic ceases, but surely influenza became a priority for clinical research and basic research at our institution."

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Our institute was one of the first hospitals concentrating on patients with severe influenza and therefore we had the experience that would soon be needed elsewhere.

The problem was working on the paper while, at the same time, having an increasing workload due to patients suffering from the influenza outbreak in our hospital.

SW: Where do you see your research leading in the future?

We hope the pandemic ceases, but surely influenza became a priority for clinical research and basic research at our institution. We've increased the surveillance of respiratory viruses, the capability for identifying variants, and are now in a better position for dealing with new outbreaks of severe respiratory disease. We also participate in national and international networks on influenza for research purposes.

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KEYWORDS: AVIAN INFLUENZA; VIRUS-INFECTIONS; H5N1; HUMANS; DISEASE.

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