

## RCPE Tackling old and new foes in the global fight against infectious diseases

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### Hepatitis C in Scotland: recently arrived but soon to depart? - Professor John Dillon

**Q. As HCV programmes start to reach elimination and it seems less of a pressing issue, is there concern that funding may be switched to other issues/programmes and how can that be prevented?**

A. It is important to make the point to them about ongoing surveillance testing and treatment of re-infection

**Q. Do you think that the more unusual subtypes with reduced susceptibility to DAAs will impact eradication on global level? For instance those identified in Africa?**

A. Drug cost is the most dominant impact on elimination efforts, the sub-types may have an impact but we need more data from in field trials before we can make comment.

### Go to the people: offering better medical care to the homeless - Dr James Withers

**Q. Dr Withers. I appreciate your good work. Have you ever encountered litigations in your practice of street medicine? Some of my colleagues fear lawsuits when they go for that extra mile of patient care.**

A. Thank you. Anecdotally none of us has ever had or heard of a law suit in any of the over 100 US programs. We just completed an unpublished law literature review with our school of law and there were no law suits found in the practice of street medicine. We are hoping to survey our movement soon on this and injuries (also none we know of). Honestly, it is strange that this field seems to have less law suits than other medical practices. It could be these patients are unable to mount a law suit, but in the US lawyers advertise for "no fees unless you win!" It may be the nature of the trust developed

### Human trafficking and labour exploitation: a public health concern - Professor Cathy Zimmerman

**Q. Are there known instances where trafficked individuals end up in UK detention centres rather than receiving the help that they need?**

A. Yes. There have been many instances where trafficked individuals are in detention centres, particularly if they are only identified as irregular migrants and they themselves or others are not aware of the laws around human trafficking. See for example:

<https://news.sky.com/story/thousands-of-possible-human-trafficking-victims-being-detained-by-uk-authorities-12208131>. A number of further explanations are offered in this recent paper.

Moreover, in some circumstances, cases can be confusing because of the need to make distinctions between smuggling and trafficking. Moreover, cases can also become complex when the trafficked

person becomes the 'trafficker', which has happened in cases of sex trafficking, when the woman may move into a position where she is responsible for 'training' the new women, and therefore becomes in a position of a trafficker. Further, detention of sex-trafficking survivors, including prison, is especially common in countries where prostitution is illegal and the laws on trafficking are weak or non-existent. We had several examples of this among women trafficked from Ukraine to Turkey in our early studies.