

# UC Irvine

## UC Irvine Previously Published Works

### Title

Understanding the Health Impact of the September 11th Attacks

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Peer reviewed

REFERENCE ARTICLE

**ORGANIZATIONAL FACTORS AND OFFICE WORKERS' HEALTH AFTER THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TERRORIST ATTACKS: LONG-TERM PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS AND WORK-PRODUCTIVITY**

Osinubi OYO, Gandhi SK, Ohman-Strickland P, et al. *J Occup Environ Med* 2008;50:112-125.

*Response from*

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**Understanding the Health Impact of the September 11th Attacks**

In a cross-sectional study of companies in the area surrounding the World Trade Center, a defensive organizational culture was associated with worker reports of high-strain jobs and a 34% higher likelihood of reporting a cough 2-years post 9/11. The authors do not offer a plausible explanation for how cultural processes within an organization might produce physical health symptoms in their members. Despite the interesting questions being considered by these researchers, the study itself is not adequately designed to answer their questions.

REFERENCE ARTICLE

**DIGITALIS: A DANGEROUS DRUG IN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION? AN ANALYSIS OF THE SPORTIF III AND V DATA**

Gjesdal K, Feyzi J, Olsson SB. *Heart* 2008;94:191-196.

*Response from*

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**To Dig or Not to Dig: A Lethal Question in Atrial Fibrillation?**

Despite digoxin being considered a class I indication for rate control in many patients with persistent and permanent atrial fibrillation, with or without heart failure, its long-term efficacy and safety remains uncertain. Well-designed, multicenter, randomized clinical trials are necessary to clarify the safety profile of a drug daily used in thousands of patients.

REFERENCE ARTICLE

**HIGH GASOLINE PRICES AND MORTALITY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES AND AIR POLLUTION**

Leigh JP, Geraghty EM. *J Occup Environ Med* 2008;50:249-254.

*Response from*

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**Is There a Silver Lining to Rising Gasoline Prices?**

A newly published study suggests that an increase in gasoline prices, sustained over time, will reduce traffic fatalities and deaths due to air pollution. However, gasoline prices are relatively volatile and there is little indication that a large price increase will be sustained such that individuals will dramatically alter their long-term driving behaviors. Gasoline taxes are one method of ensuring higher prices over time but they introduce economic costs, and ultimately, may not be politically viable.

## REFERENCE ARTICLE

**PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATION IN ADULTS: RECOMMENDATIONS, TRENDS, AND PROSPECTS**

Targonski PV, Poland GA. *Cleve Clin J Med* 2007;74:401-406, 408-410, 413-414.

*Response from*

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**Preventive Performance of Pneumococcal Vaccination in Adults: Insights into Theory and Practice of the Vaccination**

The practical benefit of pneumococcal vaccination may still be the focus of controversy. There is no evidence that current vaccination reduces illness or mortality from bacteremia, though many observational studies have shown a significant protective effect against it. As long as the protective effectiveness is well demonstrated, even if the preventive performance is still not ideal, the benefit of vaccination compared with risk and other costs may still support vaccination. Positive prevention as well as prompt diagnosis and effective treatment are vital, and vaccination may play a central part in prevention.

*For the complete text of these Rapid Responses, please see our website at [www.sma.org/smj](http://www.sma.org/smj).*

“Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee and just as hard to sleep after.”

—Anne Morrow Lindbergh