

Volume 40, No 3

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## About the cover:



Since 2015, the cover format of each volume of *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* has been changed to honor one of the many professionals throughout history who recognized not only how disease might be spread but also how those principles could be applied to reduce healthcare associated infections.

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon or Moses Maimonides (son of Maimon) was born in Cordoba, Spain, a center of intellectual and religious freedom, on March 30, circa 1135. Maimon ben Joseph, his father, was a prominent scholar, writer, and judge for Jewish religious courts. Maimonides studied with Averroes, a prominent physician-philosopher. In 1148, his family left Cordoba after a repressive dynasty, the Almohades Caliphate that ruled in Spain and North Africa during the 12th and 13th centuries, required that they either convert to Islam, emigrate, or be put to death. They wandered first to Fez, Morocco, and to Acco, Palestine, before finally settling in Old Cairo (Fostat), Egypt, circa 1165. His father and brother established a business selling precious stones, but soon after, his father died and his brother David perished in a shipwreck. Maimonides turned to medicine as a means to support both families. While only in

his thirties, Maimonides was appointed as physician to the Court of the Sultan, and he served as head of the Jewish community in Cairo. During the Crusades, Maimonides' reputation as a healer was so great that King Richard the Lionhearted offered him a position as his personal physician.

Maimonides wrote many scholarly works on a variety of subjects ranging from biblical and Talmudic law to logic, science, and medicine. He embraced the use of careful scientific reasoning and eschewed mysticism. In his 10 books on medicine, Maimonides was an early advocate for the importance of hygiene, bathing, and the need for fresh air, clean water, a healthy diet, as well as proper disposal of refuse and placement of toilets far away from living quarters. Maimonides was an early "steward" who recommended nonpharmacological interventions first. He also noted where evidence was lacking and further investigation was needed before recommendations could be made. Many of the concerns and observations that Maimonides made more than 800 years ago remain highly relevant to the field of infection prevention and control today.

Maimonides died in Cairo on December 13, 1204 at the age of 69. Several legends are ascribed to Maimonides. It is unlikely that he wrote the Oath or Prayer of Maimonides. He is buried in Tiberias, Palestine, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee in present-day Israel. However, this site was not chosen at random by a donkey that roamed free while bearing his body; Maimonides was interred at Tiberias at his request. Even today, Maimonides remains a highly regarded physician, philosopher, and scholar among Jewish, Arabic, and Christian circles.

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**Cover image: Statue of the Jewish scholar Moses Maimonides, Rabbi Mosheh Ben Maimon, Cordoba, Andalusia, Spain - courtesy of Shutterstock.**



## Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control

Henry Ford Health System, one of the world's most distinguished academic medical centers, announces a search for a Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control.

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Henry Ford Health System is comprised of hospitals, medical centers and one of the nation's largest group practices, the Henry Ford Medical Group, which includes more than 1,300 physicians practicing in over 40 specialties. Henry Ford Health System has one of the largest medical education enterprises in the United States with 6 hospitals and 30+ ambulatory centers throughout Southeastern Michigan. One-third of all physicians in Michigan received training at Henry Ford. The System sponsors 97 graduate training programs, including 62 ACGME accredited residency and fellowship programs. HFHS is also in the top 6 percent of National Institutes of Health-funded institutions. In 2016, HFHS research funding reached a 100-year high with \$82.5 million in external grants and contracts for research.

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