



Health innovations: transforming through pandemics

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The International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent National Societies



American Red Cross volunteers transport a Spanish flu patient (1918)



Spanish Red Cross volunteers transport a COVID-19 patient (2020)

“Be fast, have no regrets. **You must be the first mover.** The virus will always get you if you don’t move quickly.

If you need to be right before you move, you will never win.

Speed trumps perfection. And the problem we have with society at the moment is everyone is afraid of making a mistake. Everyone is afraid of the consequence of error. But the greatest error is not to move.

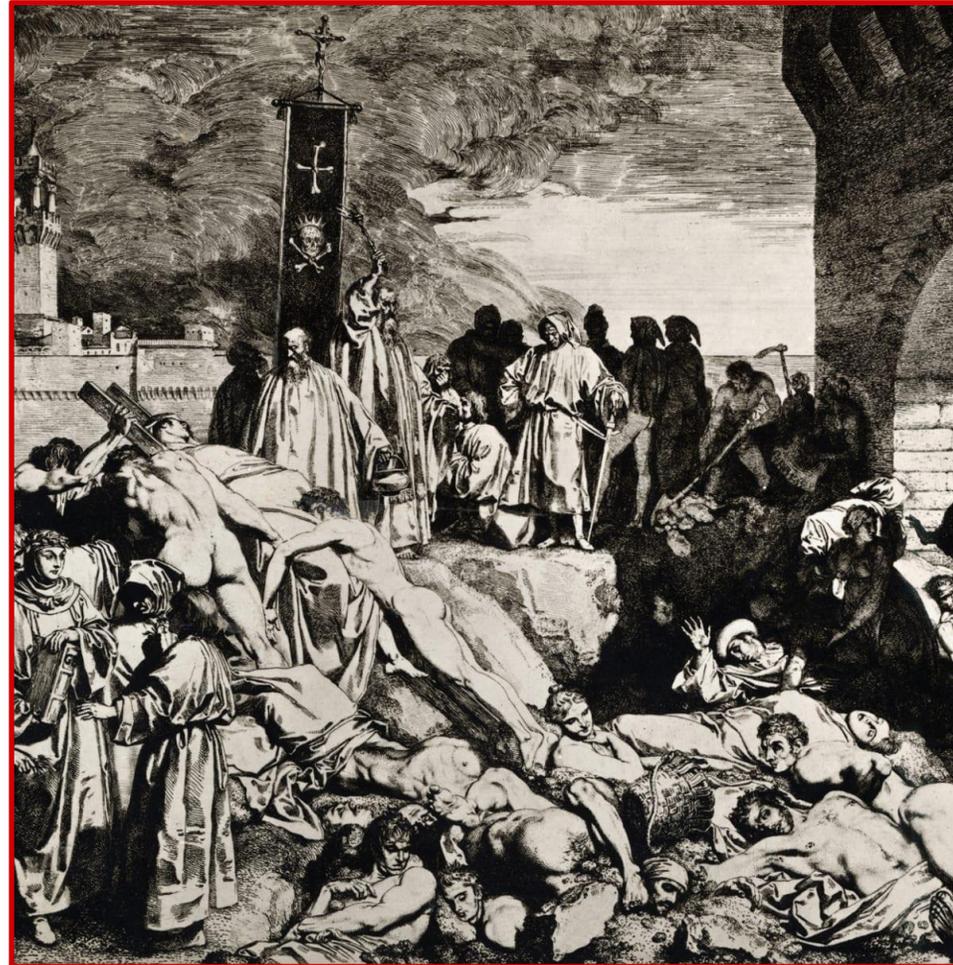
The greatest error is to be paralyzed by the fear of error.”

2. AGILITY



Mike Ryan,
WHO Health Emergency Programme ED
March 15, 2020

1. The Black Death (1347-1351)



The Plague of Florence, Italy

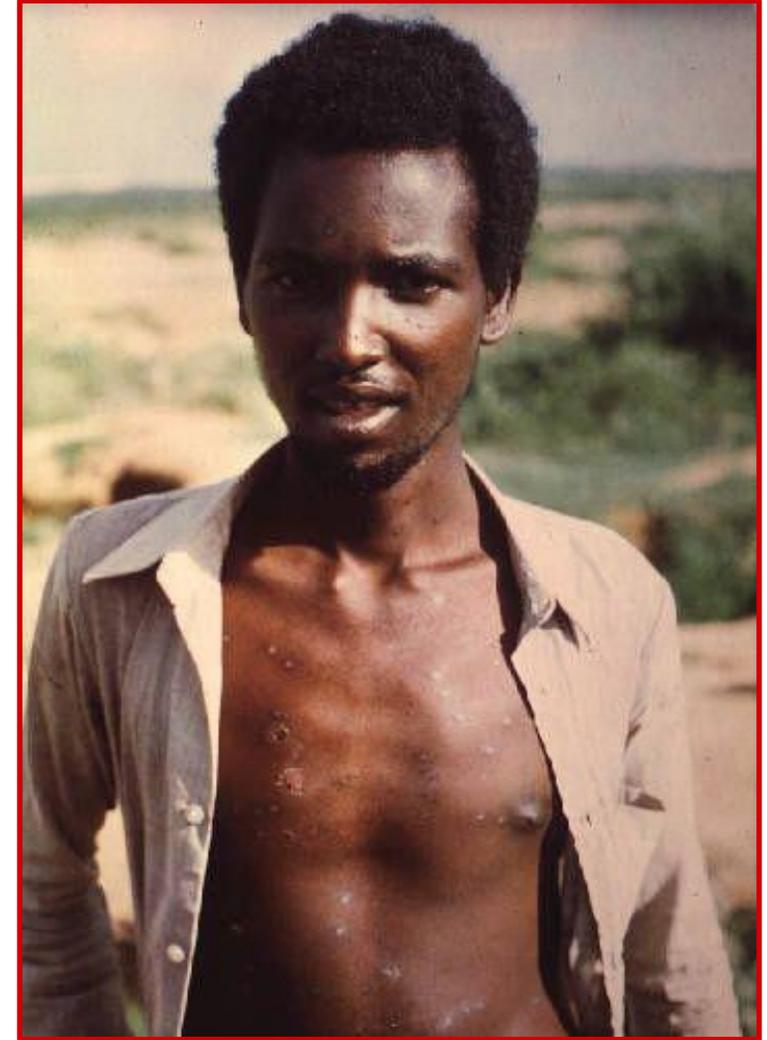


The first masks...

2. Smallpox (1350 B.C. – 1979)



People line up in Paris to receive their smallpox vaccine in 1942.



Ali Maow Maalin,
the last smallpox patient

3. Spanish Flu (1918-1919)

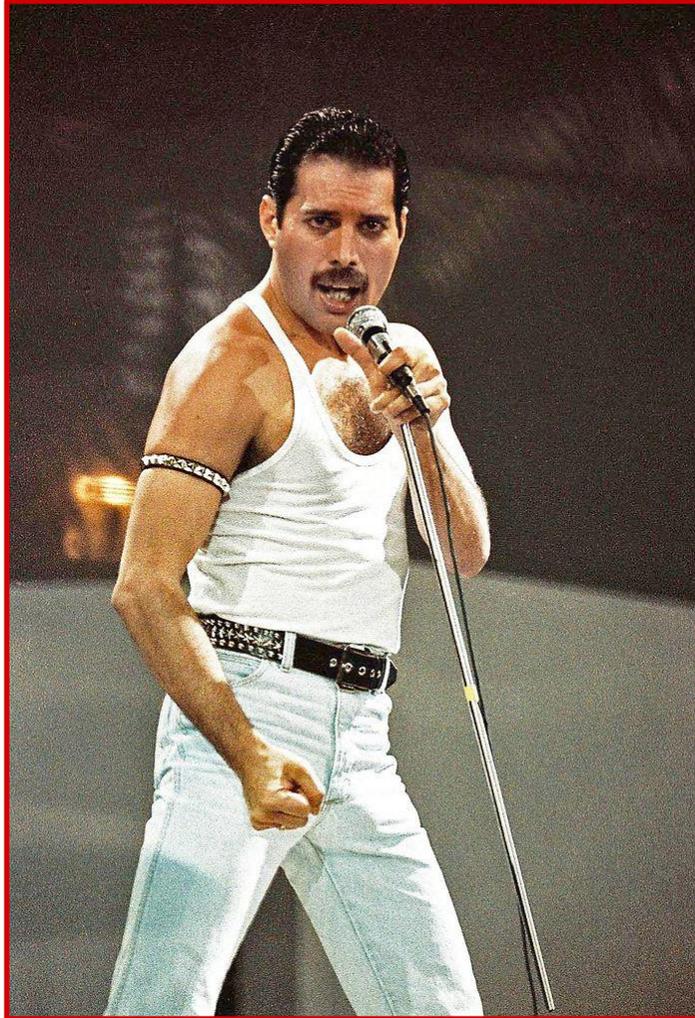


Influenza patients, emergency hospital near Fort Riley, Kansas.



Poster seen in Alberta, Canada.

4. Hiv/AIDS (1980's – Present)



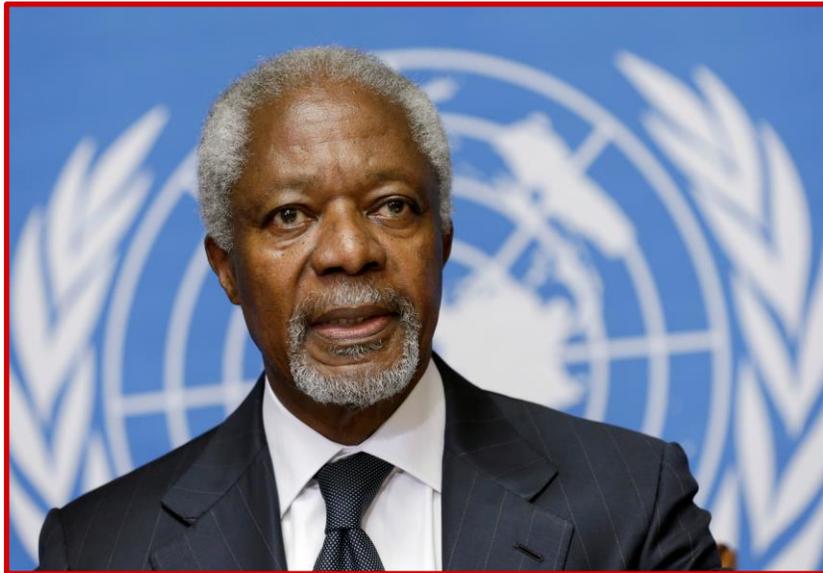
Freddie Mercury



The birth of a civil society movement

HIV/AIDS

(1980's – Present)





5. West Africa Ebola

(2014 -2017)

West Africa Ebola

(2014 -2017)



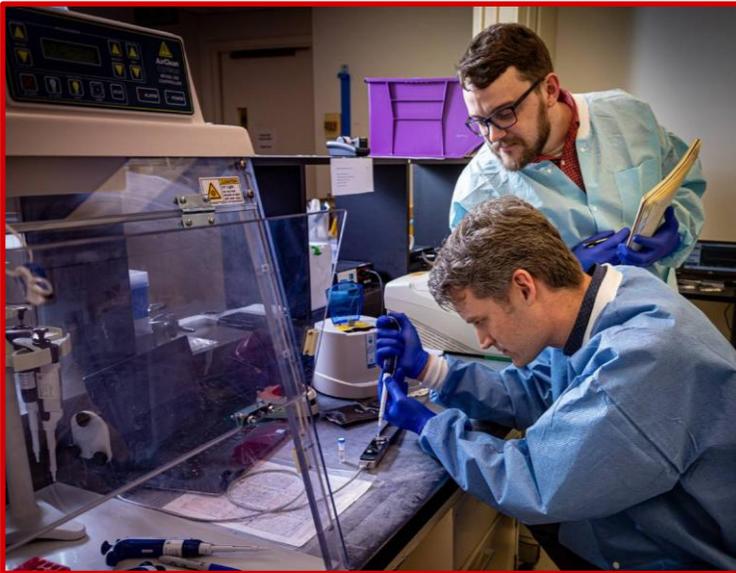
6. DRC Ebola (2018-Present)



Community engagement

ERVEBO: first FDA approved Ebola vaccine

7. COVID-19 (2019-present)



Sharing of COVID-19 genomic sequence



Shifting geopolitics:
China vs. USA

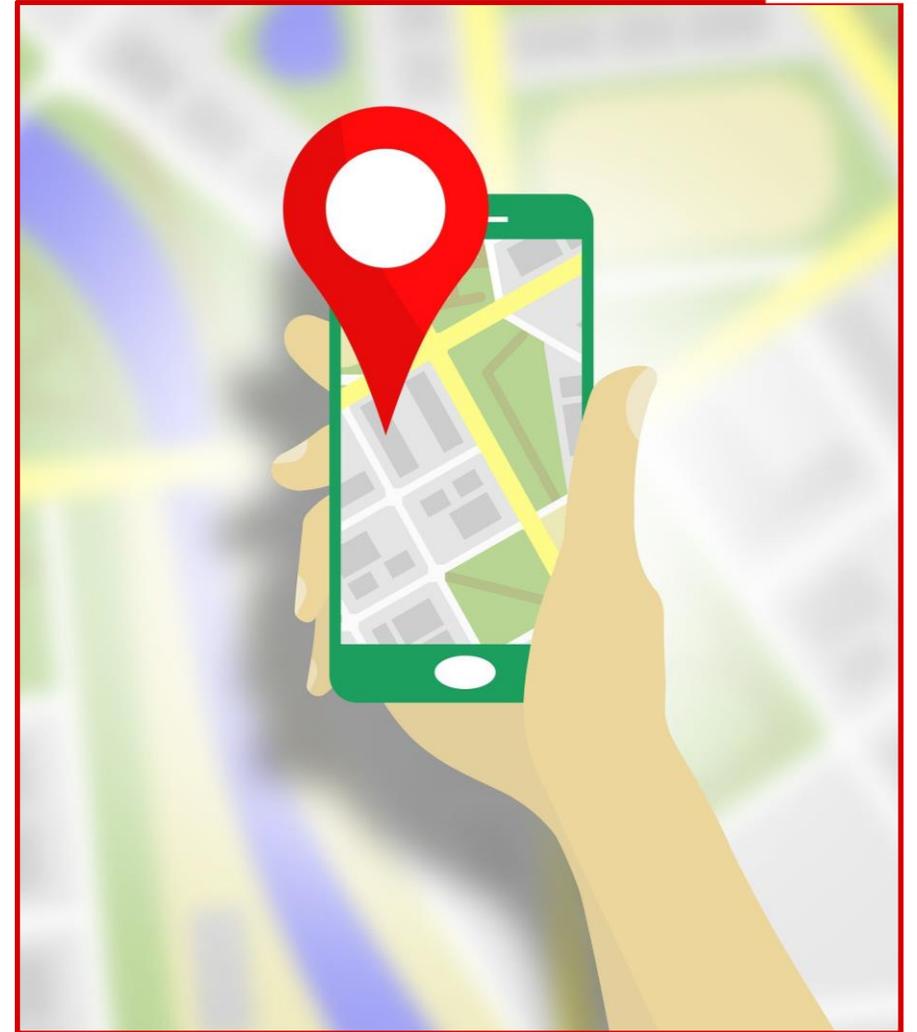


Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funds the manufacturing capacity for 7 vaccines

COVID-19 (2019-present)



3-D printing to produce medical equipment



Apple and Google join forces on contact tracing

INNOVATIONS & AGILITY

Financial

- CEPI
- PEF
- BMGF

Organizational

- The Global Fund
- GPMB
- CEPI

Technological

- Vaccines
- Plasma Transfusion
- Genomic sequencing
- 3-D printing
- App-based Contact Tracing

Geopolitical

- "Spanish" Flu
- US vs. China

Public Health

- Quarantine
- Masks
- Community engagement

Human

- Edward Jenner
- Freddy Mercury
- Civil Society
- Kofi Annan
- Bill & Melinda Gates



“Learning agility means to learn, de-learn, and relearn all the times.”

Pearl Zhu, [Digital Agility: The Rocky Road from Doing Agile to Being Agile](#)

Thank you.

+CIFRC

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