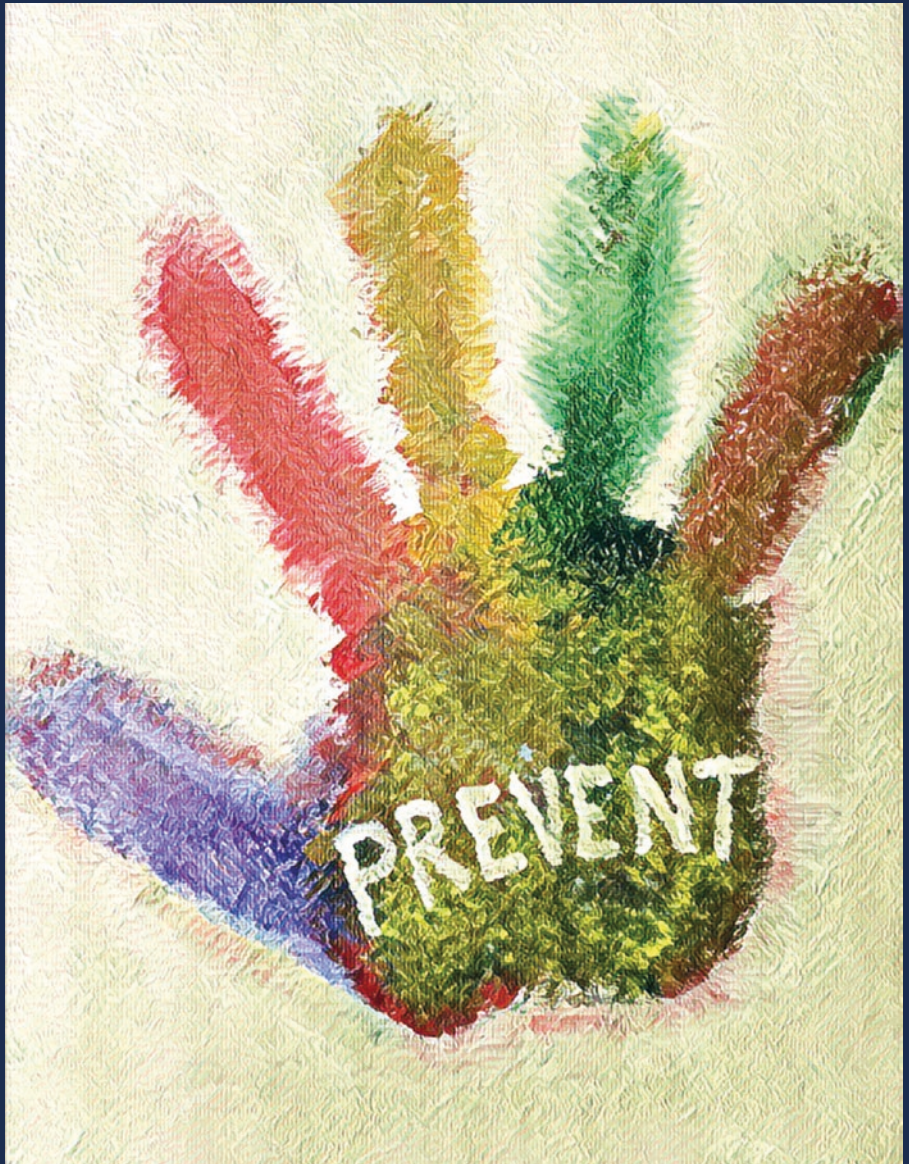


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Artist: Michael Calderwood



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About the cover:



Title: *In Our Hands*, 2023

Artist: Michael Calderwood, MD, MPH

Medium: Acrylic paints on canvas

Dr. Calderwood spoke to ICHE about his artwork.

What was the inspiration for this artwork? Over the years, there have been many campaigns to improve hand hygiene in health care facilities (e.g., “Clean Hands Save Lives,” “My Health is in Your Hands,” “Speak up for Clean Hands”). During the past few years, though, the concept of the hand has taken on other meanings, as those in the healthcare community have lent a hand across a myriad of settings, have held the hand of patients, family, friends, and fellow healthcare workers who were suffering, and have stood hand-in-hand in facing the unknown, overcoming obstacles, and navigating the path forward. A hand held in an upward position, as shown in the painting, is also a means of saying “stop” or more specifically “prevent” as written on the palm. Whether it be in areas of HAI prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, outbreak investigation, diagnostic stewardship, or one of the many other topics covered within the pages of ICHE, the idea of prevention is one where safe and effective patient care is front and center in everything that we do. We are strongest when we work together toward a better future, recognizing that we each have something to teach, and we each have something to learn. As for the colors chosen in my art, many of our infection prevention strategies are targeted at infections involving blood, urine, wounds, stool, and water. You will see these each depicted, melding into a singular patina reminding us once again to wash our hands, as clean hands really do save lives.

What is your personnel connection to the content of ICHE? I am an active member of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), having served on multiple committees, including the Publications Committee. I am both an author and a reviewer for ICHE. Recently, I was lead author on the 2022 update of the surgical site infection prevention section of the Compendium of Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections in Acute Care Hospitals. I have served in leadership roles in hospital epidemiology and antimicrobial stewardship, and I currently oversee both disciplines in my role as Chief Quality Officer at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

Dr. Calderwood is the Chief Quality Officer for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, USA. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and a staff physician in Infectious Disease & International Health.

Cover image: *In Our Hands*, 2023

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