

### Preparation for your *Scientific American Update*

(An investigative essay designed for *Scientific American* that provides an update on research on a public health topic)

These earlier articles will provide a point of departure for your **Update**.

**Obesity:** *Scientific American* 1996: “Gaining on Fat” by W. Wayt Gibbs  
[possible focus: contributing factors not considered in 1996 article, e.g. impoverished gut microbiota or sleep deprivation]

**Asthma:** *Scientific American* (on **childhood asthma**) 1999: “The Invisible Epidemic” by Mark Alpert [possible focus: contributing factors other than those considered in the 1999 article, e.g. gut microbiota and/or delivery by caesarian section]

**Malaria:** *Scientific American* 1952: “The Eradication of Malaria” Paul F. Russell  
[possible focus: the changing role of DDT and other pesticides in combatting malaria and/or strategies for diminishing the risk of pesticide resistance among anopheles mosquitoes.]

**Tobacco use:** *Scientific American* 1995: “The Global Tobacco Epidemic” (surprising persistence of smoking in US and rise elsewhere) [possible focus: changes in smoking patterns in the US or in third-world countries since 1995]

**Lyme & other tick-borne diseases:** *Scientific American* 1994: “Disarming Lyme Disease” by Fred S. Kantor [possible focus: why tick-borne diseases continue to spread and why we haven’t “disarmed” them]

**Vaccination programs & public resistance:** *Scientific American* 2000: “Granting Immunity” [possible focus: the false science linking autism and MMR vaccines and why such links continue to influence parent choices.]

**STDs (including HPV):** *Scientific American* 1991: “Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the AIDS era” by Sevgi O. Aral, King K. Holmes [possible focus: STDs and cancer]

**Type 2 Diabetes:** *Scientific American* 1979: “The **Causes of Diabetes**” (covers both juvenile-onset (type 1) and maturity-onset (type 2)) [possible focus: explanations for the dramatic rise in Type 2 Diabetes in recent decades or current strategies for combatting and/or controlling diabetes.]

**Cholera:** *Scientific American* 1971 “Cholera” Norbert Hirschhorn and William 13. Greenough III (article focuses on fluid replacement strategies) [possible focus: why cholera has been so difficult to combat in Haiti and other third world countries]

**Food allergies:** *NYTimes Magazine* 1990: “Food Allergies: A Growing Controversy” by Jane Brody [possible focus: new theories about rise in food allergies]

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