

Episode: *Author Interview: “How Should Wet Market Practices Be Regulated to Curb Zoonotic Disease Transmission?”*

Guest: Jake Young, PhD, MPH, MFA

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:04] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I’m your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Dr Jake Young, a policy analyst at the American Medical Association in Chicago, Illinois. He’s here to discuss his article, “*How Should Wet Market Practices Be Regulated to Curb Zoonotic Disease Transmission?*,” in the February 2024 issue of the Journal, [Health Ecology and Disease Transmission](#). Dr Young, thank you so much for being on the podcast. [music fades]

DR JAKE YOUNG: Thanks for having me.

[00:00:41] HOFF: So, what is the main ethics point of your article?

YOUNG: So, recent epidemics and pandemics including Ebola, bird flu, and COVID-19 have highlighted the fact that zoonotic disease transmission, where diseases spread from animals to people, is a real threat to public health, and that the global wildlife trade and the consumption of wildlife, which brings humans into direct and indirect contact with wild animals, have created an increased risk for new, emerging infectious diseases. These practices, however, often support the livelihoods and nourishment of many individuals. So, the key ethical concern here is how to come up with equitable policies and regulations that prevent disease transmission but that also minimize harm to the communities that are most directly impacted.

[00:01:28] HOFF: And so, what do you see as the most important thing for health professions students and trainees specifically to take from this article?

YOUNG: No, I think the most important thing to take away is that the health of people, animals, and the planet are all intricately connected. And this means that if we want to tackle complex health issues like zoonotic disease transmission, then we need to engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure that our policies and practices are both equitable and practical.

[00:01:56] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn’t have the time or the space to fully explore, what would that be?

YOUNG: I think another important aspect is that diseases don't recognize borders. So, not only do we need local and national policies put in place to help minimize the spread of zoonotic diseases, but we also need better international collaboration and more support for those countries that have fewer resources. This requires collaboration among multiple stakeholders, both within and across countries, but at the same time, the strategies they develop will need to be heterogeneous. [theme music returns] We can't have a one-size-fits-all approach, and they will need to be created in consultation with local communities.

[00:02:35] HOFF: Dr Young, thank you so much for your time on the podcast today, and thanks for your contribution to the Journal.

YOUNG: Thank you.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.