Patient Zero: The Resurgence of Measles in the US and Across the Globe

Richard Watanabe
Professor of Preventive Medicine and Physiology & Neuroscience, Keck School of Medicine

Abstract
Measles has returned with a vengeance. We'll be taking a whirlwind tour of different components of public health examining critical drivers of the current measles epidemic using both historical and global views. This micro-seminar draws on classic and new writings in population health and historical case studies as the groundwork for examining our current measles crisis. We will examine real-world population health data and gain an understanding of the complex, dynamic, and tiered factors that drive the current epidemic. Students will gain a broad familiarity with core principles of public health and gain insight into the multi-disciplinary nature of gathering information on population health and the processes by which data is used to guide policy formulation.

Faculty Biography
I am Professor of Preventive Medicine and Physiology & Neurosciences. I am a three-time USC alumnus and did my post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan, before returning to join the USC faculty in 2000. Although my training and research are a unique blend of systems physiology, genetics/genomics, and applied mathematics focusing on type 2 diabetes and obesity, I have been teaching public health topics for the last 20 years in our undergraduate and graduate programs. I have taught an undergraduate general education seminar called "The Health of Populations: Epidemics and Their Causes" for the last three years, which tied directly in with this micro-seminar.