

drug stewardship policies will be effective. For example, we have published work that demonstrates that patient-to-patient transmission is important for colonization acquisition of ESBL-producing *Klebsiella* spp. and *Escherichia coli* (5).

We believe that a couple of points require clarification. In our article, we looked at risk factors for colonization with ESBL-producing bacteria on admission to an intensive care unit. We did not examine risk factors for selecting ESBL-producing bacteria as the letter implies. For the antimicrobial drugs identified as potential risk factors, we clearly stated in the discussion that the risk factors identified may be causally related to the outcome of ESBL-colonization or may only be statistically associated. We argue that even risk factors identified are not causal; they may be important because they can help determine

which patients may need empiric antimicrobial drug therapy targeted to the ESBL-producing bacteria. Future research work is still needed to assess the relative importance of patient-to-patient transmission versus antimicrobial selective pressure.

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ANOTHER DIMENSION

Aftermath

George Held

It's not the storm itself—wind and rain lashing shore,
uprooting trees, toppling poles and dousing lights,
flooding cellars and roads, capsizing boats—
but the aftermath—the bright calm, the pair
of drowned cats crumpled against the picket fence,
the parlor of Izzy's shack open for inspection,
the walls fallen flat on all sides, your own
roof filling the front yard, covering your car,
and your own twin daughters dazed by Nature's
petulance—that makes you reconsider
your life and weigh your possessions and the cost
of putting down stakes too near the coast
as the globe warms, and storms grow worse.

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