

## The Pandemic Ventilator Project

Clarence Graansma, Senior Renal Technologist, Kitchener, Ontario, experienced the 2003 SARS epidemic. Canada takes its pandemic planning very seriously, and in a meeting at the hospital where he is employed, he contemplated what he would do if a friend needed a ventilator during a possible bird flu pandemic and none was available.

Could he build one? Recognizing he could not, Graansma started a blog in February 2007. In addition to raising awareness and lobbying governments to develop realistic plans, the blog's objective is to gather information to build prototypes of ventilators that could be quickly made from commonly available components.

To review the archives and join the conversation, go to <http://panvent.blogspot.com/>

- APRIL 10-12** **Eighth Annual Focus on Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine Conference.** Opryland Hotel & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee. [www.foocus.com](http://www.foocus.com)
- MAY 16-21** **American Thoracic Society International Conference.** Toronto, Ontario, Canada. [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org)
- JUNE 19-22** **FSMA Families and Professionals Conference.** Boston Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts. [www.fsma.org](http://www.fsma.org)
- JUNE 22-24** **International Conference on Chronic Ventilated Patients: Multidisciplinary Management from ICU to Home** under the auspices of Reuth Medical Center. Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel. Keynote speakers include J. Milic Emili, Roger Goldstein, Doug McKim, Canada; Enrico Clini, Italy; Pamela Cazzolli, USA. Contact Hila Vakrat, Conference Coordinator; +972-3-5767723; [Hilav@congress.co.il](mailto:Hilav@congress.co.il), [www.congress.co.il/ventilation-reuth08](http://www.congress.co.il/ventilation-reuth08)
- JULY 17-20** **Parent Project for Muscular Dystrophy.** Lowe's Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. [www.parentprojectmd.org](http://www.parentprojectmd.org)
- SEPT. 18-20** **ALS/MND Nursing Symposium.** Radisson Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. [www.lesturnerals.org/educationalactivities.htm#nursing](http://www.lesturnerals.org/educationalactivities.htm#nursing)
- OCT. 4-8** **European Respiratory Society Annual Congress.** Berlin, Germany. [www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org)
- OCT. 25-30** **CHEST 2008.** American College of Chest Physicians. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. [www.chestnet.org](http://www.chestnet.org)
- NOV. 3-5** **19th International Symposium on ALS/MND.** Birmingham, England. [www.alsmndalliance.org](http://www.alsmndalliance.org)
- DEC. 13-16** **54th International Respiratory Congress of the American Association for Respiratory Care.** Anaheim, California. [www.aarc.org](http://www.aarc.org) ▲

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