

Germ Theory of Disease

- Germ Theory of Disease Overview
 - Some diseases are caused by microbes
 - Infectious vs noninfectious
 - Corollary = if you can control exposure...you can prevent the disease (yay!)
- 19th century Healthcare
 - Lack of proper medical education
 - Primitive anesthesia
 - No PPE, handwashing, sanitation
 - No separation between clinic, labs, morgue, operating rooms -> spread of disease
- Semmelweis's Work
 - Ignatz Semmelweis
 - Labeled as the savior of mothers
 - Made the connection between maternal deaths from septicemia to lack of proper handwashing
 - Told hospital staff to wash their hands (but they didn't listen...too scandalous of an idea apparently)
 - Ignored due to lack of tact; too early for his time (before Pasteur)
- Joseph Lister
 - English surgeon and aristocrat
 - 1865; made the connection between Pasteur and Semmelweis's works
 - Discovered that carbolic acid can disinfect surgical tools and decrease infections
- Other Contributors to Germ Theory
 - John Snow
 - 1854; mapped out cholera epidemic to find the hot spots to detect the source
 - Florence Nightingale
 - Crimean War 1854
 - Introduce sanitation to hospitals in the war
 - Clean sheets, laundry, ventilation
 - Clara Barton
 - Nurse during the American Civil War
 - Founder of the American Red Cross