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Looking into the 2020's, as people did in the 1920's, there appeared to be a sense of prosperity and positive change. Although the process has been slow, there has been gradual improvement in the last few decades. Most of which will be solidified in the 2020's. Often progress for a country works like a marathon, no one sees all the training and running that one does to get to the finish line, but when the person reaches the finish line it is quite an accomplishment. The 2020's have been projected to be that finish line for a while. It just so happens that the decisions of the past and the projects that have been in the works will most likely come out of the woodwork in this decade. All of this progress was halted by the outbreak of COVID-19, similar to the 20th century with the Spanish flu. Therefore, to get a good glimpse into the future after pandemics one logically must look into the past.

The economic events that follow pandemics are either a short lived negative or a positive. For instance, following the Flu of 1918, there was a shortage of labor. Because of this shortage, workers' wages increased because companies were so desperate to have labor that they were willing to pay more. While this labor shortage does not directly relate to our world today, mainly because so many companies are globalized and automated, there will most likely be the opposite effect from the CoronaVirus. This difference is because of the staggering amount of people that are quarantined at home and not working, as shown by this article titled "Record 3.3m Americans file for unemployment as the US tries to contain Covid-19"

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/26/us-unemployment-rate-coronavirus-business>). In 1918 and 1919 the lack of labor was due to a loss of life, there were not a lot of qualified workers waiting at home for the opportunity to be hired again. Today, I expect that the workforce will be flooded, shortly after states lift their quarantine recommendation. The availability of workers will greatly benefit companies by permitting them to be selective, but will unfortunately hurt the average worker.

However, there is good news. Despite a lack of knowledge about COVID-19, even the very worst predictions of its time line show that it will not last the entire decade of the 2020's. If one considers the Spanish Flu of 1918' "The first wave began in March 1918 and lasted throughout the summer of 1918. The more devastating second and third waves (the second being the worst) occurred in the fall of 1918 and the spring of 1919"

https://www.stlouisfed.org/~media/files/pdfs/community-development/research-reports/pandemic_flu_report.pdf). The Coronavirus is far less deadly and contagious than the Spanish Flu, so if we compare the two, our time line for the end of the coronavirus is most likely the end of 2020 or early 2021. Anticipating a similar timeline, the world has a lot to look forward to.

As man advances, there is an evolution of inventions and discoveries. Following the Spanish Flu, new drugs, including sulfa drugs, which have saved thousands of lives from bacterial and viral infections, and new vaccines were released based on research that was started in the 1910's. As with the years following the Spanish Flu, the world will most likely see the biggest advance in health care and research. Health and the healthcare system is not necessarily a linear model; it often moves forwards, backwards, and every which way. Nonetheless the common trend has been forward. The average person is able to lead a longer and more active

life. Improving the health of people and making advances in the world whether it be with prevention or treatment, will hopefully continue to be a constant occurrence. While there will be great improvement in public health, the greatest reform and change the world will see in this decade is the response to pandemics.

It has long been known that the world is not ready for the next Black Plague or Spanish Flu, despite constant warnings from experts and brief scares from viruses, such as SARS. There is still a lack of tenacity in improving health care systems to fight pandemics. In this decade, especially with COVID-19 adding pressure, there is no doubt that the world, specifically the United States, will work towards a better response towards outbreaks. At the very least a faster response to outbreaks will be developed.

In a 2015 TED talk, Bill Gates suggests how to increase the response time to outbreaks. He stated that the United States must look at a pandemic as preparing for war. If the amount of resources and effort that is put into preparing for a potential war was decreased and a fraction was allocated to research, strengthening the current healthcare system, and building a reserve of trained medical personnel, the next pandemic may not look like the Black Plague and Spanish Flu. This allocation of resources and effort involves an increase in spending which the United States, fortunately, has seen recently, “After five straight years of historically low growth, U.S. healthcare spending ballooned to \$3 trillion in 2014, spurred by coverage expansion and prescription drug costs” (<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/the-decade-in-healthcare-12-milestones-we-won-t-forget.html>). Regrettably, there is no way to be sure on what to improve and what to research. As with war, the country would simply be preparing for the unknown. Hopefully, after the increase in research, if another deadly

virus or disease comes, the world will be better prepared and in the end have savings, in lives and resources.

Despite the glum reality that is encompassing the world currently, there is a really bright future. As with each decade, there are major advances, whether it be in discoveries or technological evolution, the 2020's will prove to be another culmination of the research and development, just like the 1920's were. Electricity in homes was a huge advance in the 1920's that permitted Americans to run the new household appliances, such as refrigerators, washing machines, irons, and vacuum cleaners. The labor saved by the appliances allowed more free time to enjoy the newly invented radios, phonographs, and televisions. Similarly, this year, 2020, the human race, particularly the United States, is in for a big treat. The space shuttles, Dragon by SpaceX and the CST-100 Starliner by Boeing, are due to be fully developed and operational this year. After COVID-19 is gone, or largely taken care of, the 2020's should be a phenomenal decade in which people will be able to see much of the futuristic technology that has been predicted in movies, as well as hopefully continue to make the advances the world needs in order to maintain itself, both in environmental aspects and global relations. There will most likely be more of a "we" and less of a "me" attitude.

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‘Nobody Has Healthcare Figured out.' It's a Line Spoken Often in the Becker's Healthcare Newsroom and Encouragement for Our Reporters to Ask the next Question, Talk to More People, Find a New Perspective and Explore the Bigger Picture. It's Also a Reminder to Be Ambitious Yet Humble, Both of Which We Are in Presenting This Compilation of Milestones as Definitive of Healthcare in the 2010s.” *Becker's Hospital Review*, www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/the-decade-in-healthcare-12-milestones-we-won-t-forget.html.

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