Original Contributions

Viral Richness is Positively Related to Group Size, but Not Mating System, in Bats
Quinn M.R. Webber, Quinn E. Fletcher, Craig K.R. Willis

Subterranean Mammals: Reservoirs of Infection or Overlooked Sentinels of Anthropogenic Environmental Soiling?
Lizel Retief, Nigel C. Bennett, Jennifer U.M. Jarvis, Armanda D.S. Bastos

Human–Wildlife Interactions Predict Febrile Illness in Park Landscapes of Western Uganda
Jonathan Salerno, Noam Ross, Ria Ghai, Michael Mahero, Dominic A. Travis, Thomas R. Gillespie, Joel Hartter

Interactions Between Carnivores in Madagascar and the Risk of Disease Transmission
Fidisoa Rasambainarivo, Zach J. Farris, Hertz Andrianalizah, Patricia G. Parker

Implications of Tourist–Macaque Interactions for Disease Transmission
Charlotte Carne, Stuart Semple, Ami MacLarnon, Bonaventura Majolo, Léa Étiau Maréchal

Pastoralists’ Vulnerability to Trypanosomiasis in Maasai Steppe
Happiness J. Neko, Paul S. Gwakisa, Anibariki Ngonyoka, Mshau Saigul, Moses Ole-Neselle, William Kisoka, Calvin Sindato, Anna Estes

Molecular Epidemiology of Trypanosomatids and Trypanosoma cruzi in Primates from Peru

Armillifer-Infected Snakes Sold at Congolese Bushmeat Markets Represent an Emerging Zoonotic Threat
Richard Hardi, Gergely Babocsay, Dennis Tappe, Mihály Sulyok, Imre Bodó, Lajos Rózsa

Large-Scale Removal of Invasive Honeysuckle Decreases Mosquito and Avian Host Abundance
Allison M. Gardner, Ephantus J. Muturi, Leah D. Overmier, Brian F. Allan

The Influence of Temperature on Chytridiomycosis In Vivo
Julia M. Sonn, Scott Berman, Corinne L. Richards-Zawacki

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In This Issue

MORE BATS, MORE VIRUSES

Behavioral ecology is an important aspect of host–pathogen dynamics. Behaviors that influence epidemiological parameters, such as contact rate and transmission, may be particularly important. Webber et al. examined the relationship between host social group size, mating system, and viral richness in bats. Their findings suggest that bats roosting in large groups host more viruses than bats roosting in small groups. These results highlight behavior as a potentially important mechanism driving viral richness in bats.

MOLE-RAT BACTERIA

African mole-rats represent biotic concentration vessels for soil-associated microbes due to their subterranean, earth-moving lifestyle. Retief et al. assessed bacterial prevalence and diversity in African mole-rats and confirmed that those living in proximity to human settlements had the highest levels of infection. Subsequent evaluation of Bacillus bacteria revealed that they occur at higher rates in urban African mole-rats, which may make these animals sentinels for anthropogenic soiling.

FEVERS IN WESTERN UGANDA

Fevers of unknown origin are a global health burden and disproportionately impact people in the tropics. Salerno et al. examine cases of self-reported fever, both malarial and non-malarial febrile illnesses in households adjacent to national parks in the Ugandan Albertine Rift, a biodiversity and emerging infectious disease hotspot. They find that non-malarial fever, but not malaria, is associated with more frequent wildlife contact. Reported fevers are found to have varying associations with household locations throughout the landscape of farms and forest fragments bordering the parks.

3-2-1 CONTACT

Human–animal contact is an important driver of zoonotic disease transmissions. Close contact between humans and mammals infected with trypanosomes poses a risk of infection. Aysonoa et al. determined the prevalence rate of trypanosomatids and Trypanosoma cruzi in different genera of Neotropical primates in Peru. Pitheciidae and Cebidae were the primate families with the highest Trypanosomatid and *T. cruzi* prevalences, respectively. Wild primates had higher prevalence of both trypanosomatids and *T. cruzi*, compared to captive animals, suggesting that transmission in non-human primates occurs more actively in the sylvatic cycle. However, primates from urban settings were also infected, which may lead to parasite transmission to humans, by vectorial, oral, or accidental infection. Planning trypanosomiasis control requires the understanding of locations more vulnerable to this disease and the adaptation strategies that are chosen. Across the Atlantic in the Masaii Steppe of Tanzania, Nnko et al. have identified locations more vulnerable to animal trypanosomiasis and analyzed determinants of adaptations. Livestock extension services, wealth, and education were strong determinants of adaptation strategies, which could assist in prioritization of immediate and future adaptation needs and where to focus control strategies. Although there is widespread agreement that more human–animal contact increases transmission risk, the term contact has not been analyzed. Giles-Vernick et al. evaluated the uses of “contact” to explain cross-species spillovers between humans and non-human primates. The authors...
advocate integrating anthropological and historical approaches to examine the processes bringing people, animals, and pathogens into contact. Greater precision in describing human–animal contacts and attention to ecological and historical influences on pathogen–human–animal interactions are needed. Mareýchal et al. delve deeper into this by evaluating contacts between tourists and Barbary macaques that affect disease transmission risks in Morocco. They found that macaques do not differ in ability to spread disease, but due to frequent interactions between tourists and macaques, even when the animals were ill, there is a potential of disease risk from primate tourism.

**Parasitic Snake Meat**

Human pentastomiasis caused by *Armillifer armillatus* and *Armillifer grandis* parasites is an emerging zoonotic disease in the Congo basin as the proportion of infected snakes in bushmeat markets increases. The exact mode of transmission to humans is still not known. Hardi et al. surveyed snakes being sold for human consumption at markets in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They provide quantitative measures of snake infections, snake size, and data on *Armillifer* host specificity. Additionally, the authors gathered anecdotal information about the snake consumption habits of local tribal cultures.

**No More Honeysuckle Hideout**

One consequence of biological invasions is an altered risk of exposure to infectious diseases in humans and wildlife. Gardner et al. conducted a 2-year field experiment to examine how removal of invasive Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) in a forest fragment embedded within a residential neighborhood affects the abundance of mosquitoes, including two important vectors of West Nile virus, *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans*. They found that removal of Amur honeysuckle reduced the abundance of both vector and non-vector mosquito species that commonly feed on human hosts.

**The Spread of Bd and Bsal**

Chytridiomycosis, an emerging infectious disease caused by two fungal pathogens, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), threatens amphibian diversity. When Bd was first described in 1999, action was not taken rapidly, and a global pandemic ensued. With the recent discovery of Bsal, a second amphibian pandemic is considered to be looming. Yap et al. review what is known about Bsal, the global efforts to minimize its spread, and regulatory gaps that impede a rapid response. Sonn et al. investigate how temperature impacts the interaction between Northern cricket frogs (*Acris crepitans*) and Bd using an exposure experiment at six temperatures. They find a mismatch between temperature’s effect on this pathogen’s growth in vitro and its effects on live hosts. Host mortality and probability of infection are inversely related to temperature and peak below the optimal temperature range for Bd growth in vitro.

**You Dirty Rat!**

In this article, Peterson et al. discuss the prevalence and diversity of Bartonella bacteria detected in commensal urban rats in the USA from New Orleans, Louisiana, and New York City, New York. They find that Bartonella infection in rodents is highly heterogeneous both within and between cities and that hotspots of spillover risk exist within cities.

**Analyzing One Health in Australia**

Degeling et al. conducted an iterative online survey regarding One Health approaches to emerging infectious diseases (EID). There was strong agreement that One Health was essential to EID control, but there was sectoral disagreement over the priority of animal welfare and economic considerations. History indicates that differences amplify during EID events involving scientific uncertainty and ethical ambiguity, so attempts to re-sector roles and responsibilities can meet resistance. This has implications for the success of One Health approaches and points to the importance of proactively addressing cross-sectoral differences.

**Host–Pathogen Interactions in Songbirds**

Pathogen exposure level is an understudied mediator of heterogeneity in host responses and a potentially critical factor for predicting population-level disease dynamics. Leon and Hawley assessed the effect of low dose and repeat
exposure to a pathogen on host susceptibility, progression, and resulting protection from a secondary challenge in a wild songbird hosts. Their findings suggest that the within-host dynamics in wildlife disease systems are strongly influenced by a host’s level of exposure to a pathogen, with important consequences for both the ecology and evolution of host–pathogen interactions.

**AVIAN PATHOGENS**

The role of wild avian species in the epidemiology of important diseases such as avian influenza, Newcastle and West Nile virus diseases is still largely unknown. Here, Caron et al. report the presence of related viruses in a community of swallow-like species in Zimbabwe. They discuss the implications and call for more studies on the role of swallow-like species and Passeriformes play in disease ecology.

**OUT OF THE BOX TURTLES**

A wild population of eastern box turtles was brought into captivity for later release, but a ranaviral infection caused 72% of the turtles to die over the 2 years that the population was monitored. Kimble et al. found that detectable infection rates varied widely, perhaps due to clearing and reinfection or imperfect detection. After the initial die-off in the first year, mortality was low in the second year, which may mean that some turtles have innate or adaptive tolerance.

**Ticks on Cats in Maryland**

Shannon et al. tested healthy housecats and their ticks for bacterial pathogens to assess the risk of disease spillover to veterinarians and cat owners. The authors found evidence of exposure to and infection with several tick-borne pathogens, including the recently identified agent of *Borrelia miyamotoi* disease. These findings underscore the public health importance disease risk from domestic animals to humans and highlight the potential role housecats may play in the transmission and maintenance of several bacterial pathogens.

**Zika Virus in the Americas**

Thompson et al. review the role of wildlife in Zika virus disease ecology, how mosquito behavior and biology influence disease dynamics, and how non-target species and ecosystems may be impacted by vector control programs. The authors suggest that free-ranging, non-human primates may be involved in transmission in the Old World; however, other wildlife species likely play a limited role in maintaining or transmitting Zika virus. Understanding behaviors and habitat tolerances of mosquitoes that can transmit Zika virus in the Americas will allow more accurate modeling of disease spread and facilitate effective control efforts. Vector control efforts may have direct and indirect impacts on wildlife, particularly invertebrate feeding species; however, strategies could be implemented to limit detrimental ecological effects.
What’s New?

**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

Every two years, the Conference of Parties (COP) for Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meets to make decisions about the implementation of the Convention. In between these gatherings of the parties, an open-ended intergovernmental technical advisory body, known as the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meets to generate recommendations that become the key discussion and decision points for the subsequent COP. The 21st SBSTTA meeting will be at the home of the Secretariat and will directly influence COP 14 in December 2018 where health and biodiversity will be one of four priority issue areas.

*December 11–14, 2017, Montreal, Canada*

[https://www.cbd.int/sbstta](https://www.cbd.int/sbstta)

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**U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATIVE MEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM**

The US-JCMSP 20th International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases focuses on the pathogenesis and protective immunity of viral diseases of importance in the Asia-Pacific region. The objectives of this conference are to share current research findings and foster existing and potential international research collaborations that engage investigators and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and the USA.

*January 8–12, 2018, Shenzhen, China*

[https://respond.niaid.nih.gov/conferences/USJapanCMSP2017/Pages/default.aspx](https://respond.niaid.nih.gov/conferences/USJapanCMSP2017/Pages/default.aspx)

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**PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2018**

The general objective of the annual Prince Mahidol Award Conference is to bring together leading public health leaders and stakeholders from around the world to discuss high-priority global health issues, summarize findings and propose concrete solutions and recommendations. It aims at being an international forum that global health institutes, both public and private, can co-own and use for the advocacy and the seeking of international advices on important global health issues. Specific objectives of each year’s conference will be discussed among key stakeholders and co-hosts of the conference.

*January 30–February 3, 2018, Bangkok, Thailand*

[http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th)

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**2018 AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY BIOThREATS**

The 2018 ASM Biothreats meeting will convene to discuss high-consequence pathogen research, biological threat reduction, product development and policy. Thought leaders in academia, industry and government will gather to present and discuss the latest developments in this emerging field.

*February 12–14, 2018, Baltimore, Maryland*


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**CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**

The CUGH Annual Conference brings together committed leaders, professionals, educators, students from diverse
fields of study including engineering, business, law, policy, natural sciences, nursing, public health, medicine and environmental studies to explore, discuss and critically assess the global health landscape.

March 16–19, 2018, New York City, New York
https://www.cugh.org/annual-conference
Following discussions on the convergence of “One Health” and “Ecohealth” during the 4th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology & Health in October 2012 in Kunming China, a partnership agenda emerged between scientists from Japan and Switzerland. Since 1979, the Human Ecology research group at the University of Tokyo has promoted health research toward sustainable harmonization between populations and the environment (Suzuki 1979). Today, a number of universities in Japan embrace Ecohealth research. Since in the late 1990s, two research units (Human and Animal Health and Ecosystem Health Sciences) at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), an associate institute of the University of Basel, have ushered in a broad agenda encompassing both One Health and Ecohealth research and application (Zinsstag et al. 2011). In parallel, the Swiss Centre for Scientific Research in Cote d’Ivoire (CSRS) has promoted and applied Ecohealth approaches in Africa over the last 20 years (Cissé et al. 2011). Worldwide, Japan and Switzerland have the highest population longevity and face novel challenges to address this complex issue. Because it is a global concern, Japan and Switzerland aim to join forces in their research with African partners, identifying the particular strengths and niche in the global development research efforts.

On January 11–12, 2017, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Bonn Office convened its annual colloquium in Basel, Switzerland, in partnership with a group of Japanese research institutions and universities (National Institute for Humanities, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Rakuno Gakuen University, Tohoku University, University of Tokyo) and Swiss TPH. Additionally, one colleague from the CSRS in West Africa participated. The aim of the 2-day colloquium was to debate avenues of ecosystem approaches to health in the twenty-first century among the group of 25 scientists from Japan and Switzerland, having the cooperation of the two countries with Africa as a background. The colloquium included plenary presentations and a science cafe to develop a joint Ecohealth research agenda between Japan and Switzerland, centered on specific examples and applications for Africa. Five sessions were organized: (1) Ecohealth in the twenty-first century; (2) transdisciplinary approaches; (3) the food and health nexus; (4) climate change challenges in Africa; and (5) environmental risks and the long-term effects on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Climate change, agriculture dynamics, food cultures, religion and spirituality powerfully mediate human health and well-being worldwide. Specifically, the intercultural exchange showed a perception that sacral and, conversely, profane attributes to food, nutrition and the physical environment affect public health, food waste and environmental degradation. In conjunction with the growing importance of NCDs, infectious diseases, in particular, emerging zoonoses and neglected tropical diseases, are still a major public health issue in large parts of Africa and were...
identified as a common interest (Box 1). Moreover, aging emerged as a mutual hot spot, perhaps explained by the fact that Japanese women (86.8 years) and Swiss men (81.3 years) had the highest life expectancy at birth globally in 2015. In Japan, increased health costs, due to longer life expectancy and generous national medical insurance, are threatening sustainability of both the health system and the social welfare scheme (Shimizutani 2013). The decreasing total fertility rate, particularly over the past two decades (lowest at 1.26 in 2005), will further burden younger generations to support the older population. Longevity is a fruit of successful improvement of health systems, welfare schemes, hygiene and economics, yet it gives rise to new challenges for ethics and sustainability of socioeconomic, medical and care systems and welfare of rapidly aging and existing aged populations (Chomik and Piggott 2015).

The Japanese-Swiss Ecohealth Colloquium was an important first step of consensus finding and knowledge and methods sharing for an Ecohealth approach. There is a need to strengthen this knowledge base, facilitated through a portfolio of joint research and applications. The main challenge is accessible funding to foster “out of the box” joint Ecohealth programs between Japan and Switzerland, with an emphasis on projects and human resource development in Africa. The old Japanese saying, “When in hurry, take a detour,” which translates as “Haste makes waste,” compels agreement to pursue the aforementioned agenda. The spirit of shared values, joint vision and encompassing trust which emerged during the 2-day colloquium holds promise for a mutually beneficial partnership to drive an exciting and meaningful Ecohealth agenda between Japan and Switzerland, with benefits that extend far beyond these two countries. A second meeting is anticipated in 2018, following publication of this paper and further debate on avenues of ecosystem approaches to health.

Kohei Makita, Rakuno Gakuen University, Ebetsu, Japan
Bassirou Bonfoh, Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d’Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Jakob Zinsstag, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland; University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

On behalf of the colloquium participants
Bassirou Bonfoh, Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d’Ivoire, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Gueïadio Cissé, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
Lisa Crump, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
Hong Wei Jiang, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan

Box 1. The common Ecohealth research agenda, as elaborated during the Japanese-Swiss Ecohealth Colloquium, January 2017

1. Food and nutrition transition
Food security is currently a major issue for specific population groups (e.g., pastoralists) and may be further aggravated in the future. Food safety is at risk from agro-chemical residues, zoonotic agents and antimicrobial resistant bacteria. Rapid changes have been observed in human diets with major health consequences, also regarding NCDs.

2. Environment and climate change
There is a need for adaptation of pastoralists in the face of growing desertification. New research is warranted to further understanding of waste water management and pollution of freshwater ecosystems within urban contexts. Rapid urbanization has important ramifications for urban–rural linkages, health and well-being. Health impacts from climate change, including adaptation and mitigation strategies, should be identified.

3. Culture/religion and health
Culture and religion are significant determinants of food practice and illness behavior and thus important cofactors in biomedical and technical approaches to food security and health research. A deeper understanding of contexts of culture/religion and ecosystems is necessary to assess disease risks.

4. Aging, quality of life and cost of health
There is a rapid increase of life expectancy in Africa and Asia, which in turn raises the cost of health care systems. Welfare of elderly populations may be jeopardized and sustainability of health systems is at stake. Globally increasing longevity challenges human resources in health service and nursing. Non-human support, including artificial intelligence, has high potential to increasingly support very old people.
Keiichi Kodaira, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Bonn Office, Germany

Ryo Kohsaka, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

Kohei Makita, Rakuno Gakuen University, Ebetsu, Japan

Hein Mallee, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan

Kazuhiko Moji, Nagasaki University School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nagasaki, Japan

Theres Paulsen, td-net for Transdisciplinary Research, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences, Bern, Switzerland

Nicole Probst-Hensch, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

Yo-Ichiro Sato, National Institute for Humanities, Tokyo, Japan

Makiko Sekiyama, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Japan

Ueru Tanaka, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan

Masahiro Umezaki, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Jürg Utzinger, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

Piet van Eeuwijk, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

Chiho Watanabe, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Jakob Zinsstag, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

References


Transactions of the Linnean

The following is a description of the skin of a native of Senegal

The bill is pale then succeeds a broad black zone across both mandibles thence grows vermilion

A little way down runs a bare flattened part in the manner of the cere in the Fulicae

The whole head and neck are black and covered with feathers, small and semi-setose

The plumage of the breast, back, thighs, &c. are more than lanceolate white

Beneath the base of the bill, pear-shaped, pendant wattles resembling isinglass

The whole leg and thigh black except round the knee as well as round each joint of the toes

The beautiful specimen in the Leverian Museum falls short of this curious genus above mentioned

It is to be observed in the Systema Naturæ no species known to exist viz. Mycteria Senegalensis fascia nigra

Mark Olival-Bartley
ABOUT THE ART AND ARTIST

Kerry R. Thompson was born in 1986 in San Diego, California, graduating with honors from the New York Academy of Art with a Masters degree in Painting in 2014. While there, Kerry was awarded multiple scholarships and was one of 6 students to be shortlisted for the Third-Year Post-Graduate Fellowship. Since exhibiting his work in his first solo show, “K.R. Thompson: A New Mythos” at the Noel-Baza Gallery in San Diego, CA (2012), Kerry has shown in numerous shows throughout New York City and has works in numerous local and international collections. In addition, Kerry has participated in numerous artist residencies overseas and locally, including the Terra Foundation for American Art-Europe in Giverny, France, the Hudson River School Painting Residency at Clermont and Olana, NY, and the Bingham Cottage Artist-in-Residence at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, ME. Recently he was the recipient of a generous grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation of the Arts.

Kerry’s work is both a celebratory and critical exploration of the delicate and highly complex natural biological systems of the world and the artificial human relationship to those systems. The work investigates the intricate interrelatedness of the inhabitants of various worldwide biomes, the formation of these systems through the naturally selective forces of evolution, and the human role as an orchestral agent acting on these systems from the outside, not within. Here the human capacities for ambition, hubris, arrogance, invention, and mimicry are explored in the attempt to replicate from the past or fine-tune the present.

Within the work, the artifice and sterility of the diorama tableau meets the dynamic cacophony of living systems connected by an invisible interdependence. Through the formation and maintenance of these systems, in both historical and current manifestations, the artificial human element orchestrates the natural world from afar.

The use of an economy of short hand, popularized in science illustration and diorama murals, meets traditional, venerated operatic compositional forms of art historical elements. The oil painting language of the artistic past recontextualizes the scientific and biological understanding of the natural world today. The work is a balancing act between opposing stylistic and conceptual reads: natural versus artificial, historical stylism versus contemporary biological understanding, all in the service of a “transcendent wonder” at the complexity and interconnectedness of the natural world and its tenuous relation to the human component.

Kerry continues to paint, work, and teach in the New York area and lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

E-Mail: kerrythompson001@yahoo.com.

ABOUT THE POEM AND THE POET

This poem was created through the selection and elision of verbatim phrases in the order that they appear in a taxonomic proposal by George Shaw, M.D., that was read before the Linnean Society in London on December 4, 1798, wherein he described and named a new species of sub-Saharan stork, now known as Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis; two years later, the Society published Shaw’s findings in the fifth volume of its transactions.

Mark Olival-Bartley, the resident poet at EcoHealth, is presently anatomizing the prosody of E. A. Robinson’s sonnets for his dissertation at Amerika-Institut of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, where he tutors composition and poetics; he is also now assembling Chimera, a collection of his translations and verse.