Discovering novel pathways of cross-species pathogen transmission



Tony L. Goldberg, Ph.D., DVM, MS

University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine Associate Director for Research, Global Health Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Other Affiliations

UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment UW-Madison Departments of Population Health Sciences, Zoology, and African Studies Program Makerere University, Uganda, Department of Zoology





2012

J. Robbins, "The Ecology of Disease." New York Times, July 14, 2012

Kibale National Park

- In the Albertine Rift
 - Biodiversity hotspot
- High primate biodiversity and biomass
- High rate of human population growth







Primate extinction in forest fragments



Data from Goldberg et al., 2008, EID 14:9, 1375-1382 and Chapman et al. 2014 (book chapter in press)

General knowledge about zoonoses



Paige, S. B., C. Malave, E. Mbabazi, J. Mayer and T. L. Goldberg (2015). Uncovering zoonoses awareness in an emerging disease 'hotspot'. *Soc Sci Med* 129: 78-86.

An interesting story from an open-ended interview

- "Yes, primates can as well bring diseases to people. Because in this community we hear people telling us [stories]. Like two years back, or three, that 'a red colobus bit my two children and they died.' Apart from we don't know if it's poison from their teeth or a disease from their blood, but yes, they also have diseases." (*37 yr old male "enrolled nurse"; owns drug shop*)

Paige, Malave, Mbabazi, Mayer and Goldberg (2015). Uncovering zoonoses awareness in an emerging disease "hotspot." *Social Science and Medicine*, 129: 78-86

Virus hunting













Multiple infection of Kibale red colobus with three novel simian retroviruses

Virus	% infected (n = 31)
SFV	97
SIV	23
STLV	7
SIV + SFV	23
STLV + SFV	7
SIV + STLV + SFV	3

Goldberg *et al.*, 2009. *Journal of Virology* 83:11318-29.



Simian hemorrhagic fever virus and its relatives



Lauck et al. (2011). PLoS One 6(4): e19056. Lauck et al., (2013). *J Virol* 87(1): 688-691. Bailey et al., (2014). *J Virol* 88(22): 13231-13239. Lauck et al. (2015). *J Virol* 89:8028-8087. Kuhn et al., in revision (ICVT taxonomy proposal). GBV-C: a "good" virus



Sibley et al., (2014). PLoS One 9(2): e98569.



Bhattarai, N. and J. T. Stapleton (2012). GB virus C: the good boy virus? *Trends Microbiol* 20(3): 124-130.



Lauck, M., A. L. Bailey, K. G. Andersen, T. L. Goldberg, P. C. Sabeti and D. H. O'Connor (2015). GB virus C coinfections in west African Ebola patients. *J. Virol* **89**(4): 2425-2429.

Kibale primate RNA viral diversity



Option 1: pathogen discovery

Discover pathogens for "pandemic prevention"
Discover them all, prevent them all



Viral discovery curve. 1,092 Indian flying fox samples PCR-tested for nine viral families. black = rarefaction curve; red = empirical accumulation of novel viruses; blue, gray = other estimators.

Cost to discover all 320,000 unknown mammalian viruses = \$6.3 billion. From Anthony et al., 2013. *Mbio* 4(5): e00598-13

Option 2: "pathway discovery"

- Discover novel transmission pathways
 - "Hunt" for unknown routes of pathogen transmission









Dolgin, 2014. Nature Medicine 20, 691-692.

Transmission pathways



Example 1: Beyond Bushmeat





- Modes of contact
 - Chased and bitten
 - Killed by school children
 - Killed by dogs
 - Found dead, fed to dogs
 - "Crop guarding"
 - Baboon traps
 - "Rogue chimps"

NO "BUSHMEAT!"

Paige, S. B., S. D. Frost, M. A. Gibson, J. H. Jones, A. Shankar, W. M. Switzer, N. Ting and T. L. Goldberg (2014). Beyond bushmeat: animal contact, injury, and zoonotic disease risk in western Uganda. Ecohealth

Specific knowledge about zoonoses

Animal	Reported diseases/symptoms	% Respondents
Pig	Worms, fever, cholera	30
Monkeys	Ebola, monkeypox, fever, cough, worms	25
Other domestic animals	Fever, cough	15
Cows	Fever, worms	13
Birds	Flu	2
Goats	Cough	2
Mosquitoes	Fever	2

Paige, S. B., C. Malave, E. Mbabazi, J. Mayer and T. L. Goldberg (2015). Uncovering zoonoses awareness in an emerging disease 'hotspot'. *Soc Sci Med* 129: 78-86.



Kristina Roesel ILRI Uganda/ Freie Universität Berlin, Germany Matuga, Uganda, 15 February 2014

Nigerian hunting communities



Friant, S., S. B. Paige and T. L. Goldberg (2015). Drivers of bushmeat hunting and perceptions of zoonoses in nigerian hunting communities. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 9(5): e0003792.



Education

- Lack of education may be the most important of the common pathways.
 - Germ theory
 - Hygiene
 - Public health
 - Zoonoses





Example 2: "Maize daubing" and food safety







Cross-species transmission of *Giardia duodenalis* in western Uganda













Friant, S., K. Brown, M. T. Saari, N. H. Segel, J. Slezak and T. L. Goldberg (2015). Lung fluke (*Paragonimus africanus*) infects Nigerian red-capped mangabeys and causes respiratory disease. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* 4: 329-332.

Cultural practices and feedback loops



"Interestingly, hunters in this area report using primate skulls and feces to treat cough (Friant et al., 2015). In interviews, hunters made reference to seeing monkeys in the area cough as justification for these traditional remedies (S. Friant, unpub. data), indicating an intriguing link between parasitism, clinical disease, local beliefs, and primate conservation."

Friant, S., K. Brown, M. T. Saari, N. H. Segel, J. Slezak and T. L. Goldberg (2015). Lung fluke (*Paragonimus africanus*) infects Nigerian red-capped mangabeys and causes respiratory disease. *International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* 4: 329-332.

"Cultural vectors"











Example 4: Vectors



12s rRNA



Hamer, S. A., A. B. Bernard, R. M. Donovan, J. A. Hartel, R. W. Wrangham, E. Otali and T. L. Goldberg (2013). Coincident tick infestations in the nostrils of wild chimpanzees and a human in Uganda. *AJTMH* 89: 924-927.



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October 05, 2013 12:00 PM

theguardian

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Series: Experience

Experience: I discovered a new species up my nose

'There it was, half a pinkie's length up, right where the cartilage meets the bone: the smooth, rounded backside of a fully engorged tick'

Tony Goldberg The Guardian, Friday 6 December 2013



'I used a pair of forceps to grasp the tick's mouth parts, which were buried deep in my flesh.' Photograph: David Jackson for the Guardian

It's your world. Jump in.

A scientific discovery falls out of this epidemiologist's nose

Producer Andrea Crossan October 15, 2013 - 3:30 PM EDT

My viral nose



Home + Weird World + 5 Animals People Found In Insanely Random Places

LOG

5 Animals People Found In Insanely Random Places #2. Mystery Nose Tick

Pathobiologist Tony Goldberg was on his way home from a 2012 research expedition in Uganda when he felt something horrible hiding in his nose: a stowaway tick.



We're not sure where the mucus ends and the horror begins.





Scientist Finds Tick WHERE?

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	Posted by Guest Blogger in Weird & Wild on October 8, 2013	
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By Jennifer S. Holland

Please forgive Tony Goldberg for picking his nose.

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Disrupting pathways

- Targeted education
- Mixing methods (biological and social science)
- "Disruptive" technologies





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Example: soil-transmitted helminths in Uganda



Ghai et al., PLoS NTD 8(1):e2641, and in prep

The Holoflop: a "pathway disruptor"









Why focus on pathways?

- Disrupting common pathways can block the transmission of all pathogens that traverse them, whether or not we have discovered them, or even if they have not yet evolved.
- Disrupting pathways can select for less "aggressive" pathogens, thus leading to the evolution of reduced virulence.



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http://svmweb.vetmed.wisc.edu/KibaleEcoHealth/