

**“...whoever wishes to pursue the science of medicine must first investigate the seasons of the year and what occurs in them.”**

Hippocrates, 4th Century B.C.

# Climate, Oceans, and Human Health: What Cholera Can Teach Us About COVID-19

February 16, 2021

California State University, San Bernadino

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Distinguished University Professor  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

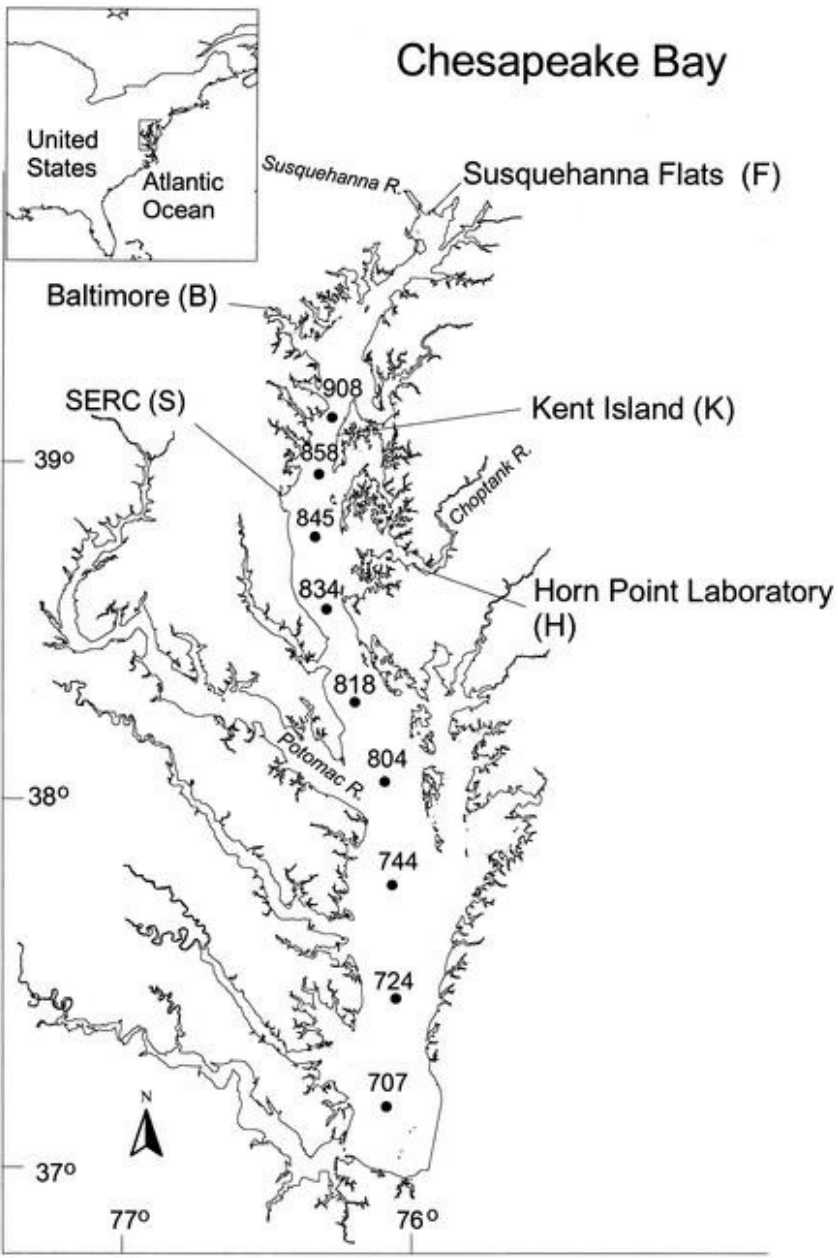
# Water-related diseases

	Cases per year	Deaths per year
Amoebiasis	48,000,000	110,000
Arsenic	28-35m exposed to drinking water with elevated levels	
Diarrhoeal disease, Including cholera	1.5 billion	1,800,000
Dracunculiasis (guinea worm)	> 5000	-
Fluorosis	26 million (China)	-
Giardiasis	500,000	Low
Hepatitis A	1,500,00	-
Intestinal helminths	133,000,000	9400
Malaria	396,000,000	1,300,000
Schistosomiasis	160,000,000	> 10,000
Trachoma	500,000,000	-
Typhoid	500,000	25,000

# Cholera: A Global Disease

- Acute water-related diarrheal disease
- Seventh pandemic started in 1960s
- Occurs in more than 50 countries affecting approximately 7 million people
- Bengal Delta is known as “native homeland” of cholera outbreaks
- Since cholera bacteria
  - exist naturally in aquatic habitats
  - evidence of new biotypes emerging, *it is highly unlikely that cholera will be eradicated but clearly can be controlled by provision of safe drinking water.*

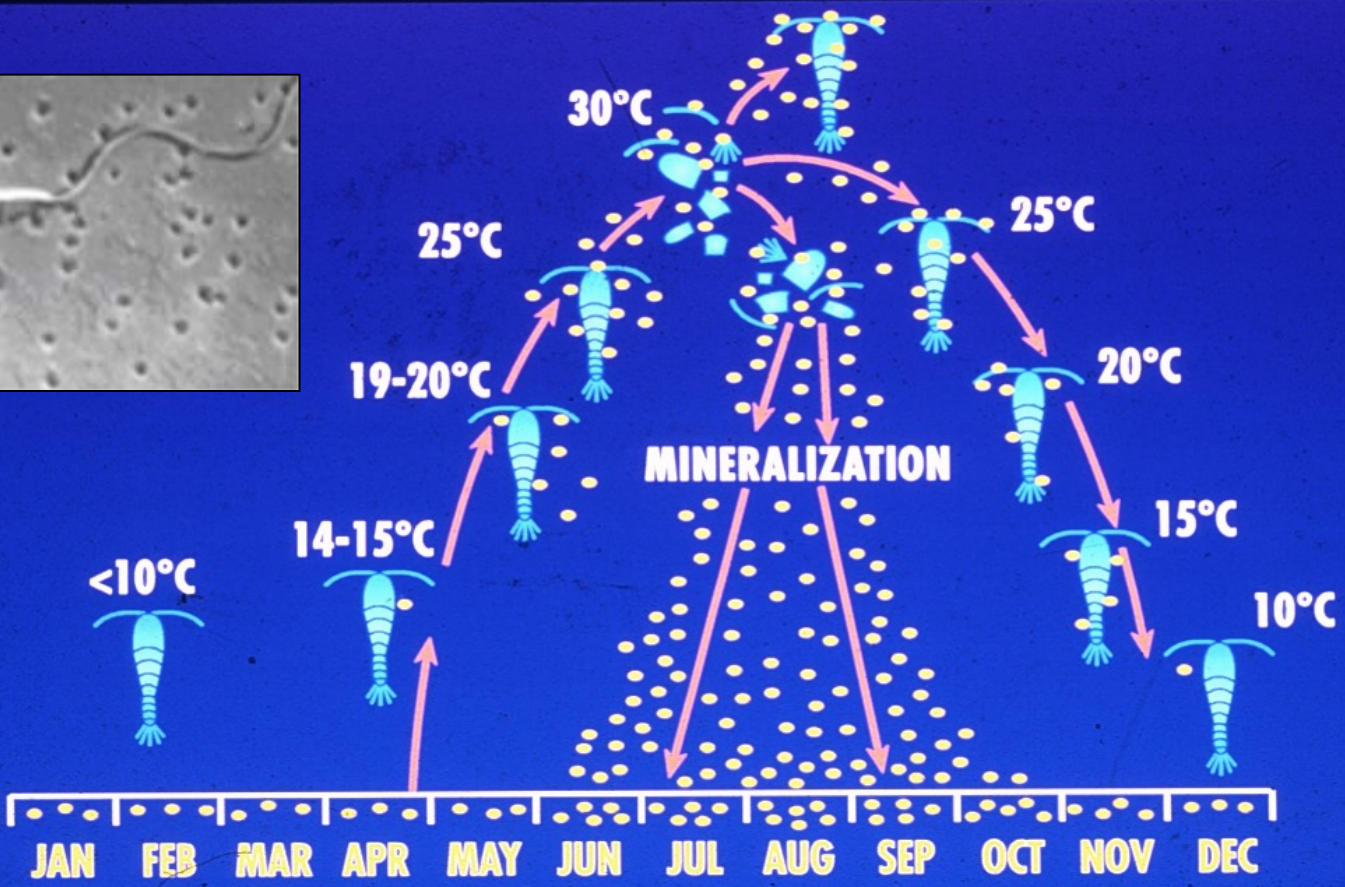




Map of Chesapeake Bay – beginning of the cholera chronicle

# 1965-1975 An early contribution of marine microbiology to human health: Determination of the *Vibrio cholerae* life cycle

## VIBRIO CHOLERAE – COPEPOD ANNUAL CYCLE IN THE ENVIRONMENT



# The culprit – *Calanus* copepod host



# MODEL FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF *VIBRIO CHOLERAE* FROM THE ENVIRONMENT TO HUMANS

## PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER

- temperature
- sunlight
- rainfall
- pH
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity & nutrients



## BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- algae bloom
- phytoplankton bloom



## ZOOPLANKTON BLOOM (enters into non-culturable state)



**FECAL SHEDDING**  
returns *V. cholerae*  
to the water.



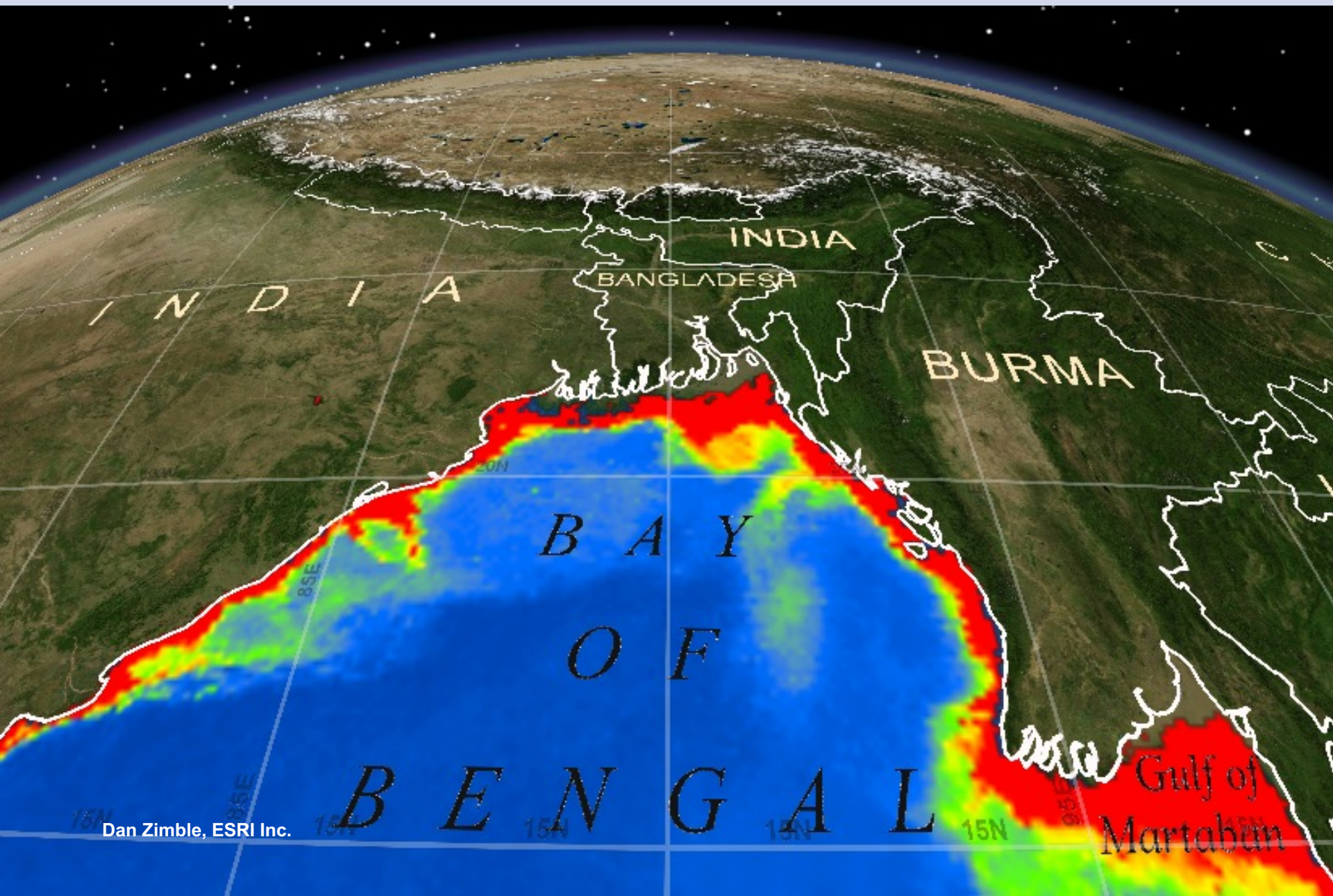
***V. CHOLERAE***  
viable but non-culturable state in the water  
column & attached to particulates. Commensal  
or symbiotic relationships.



**TRANSMISSION OF *V. CHOLERAE***  
to humans via ingested water containing  
colonized copepods or other vectors.



# Work begins in Bangladesh in 1975

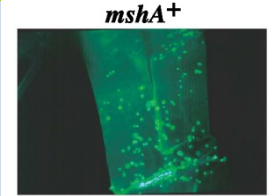
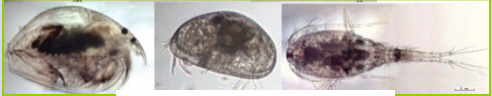
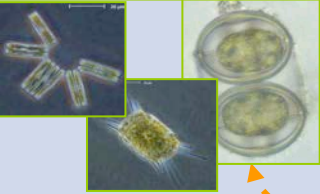
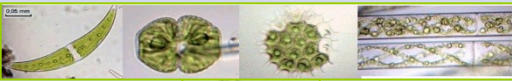
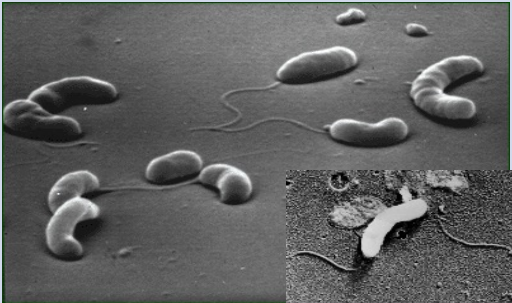






Villagers in Bangladesh collect filtered water in the same pond used for bathing

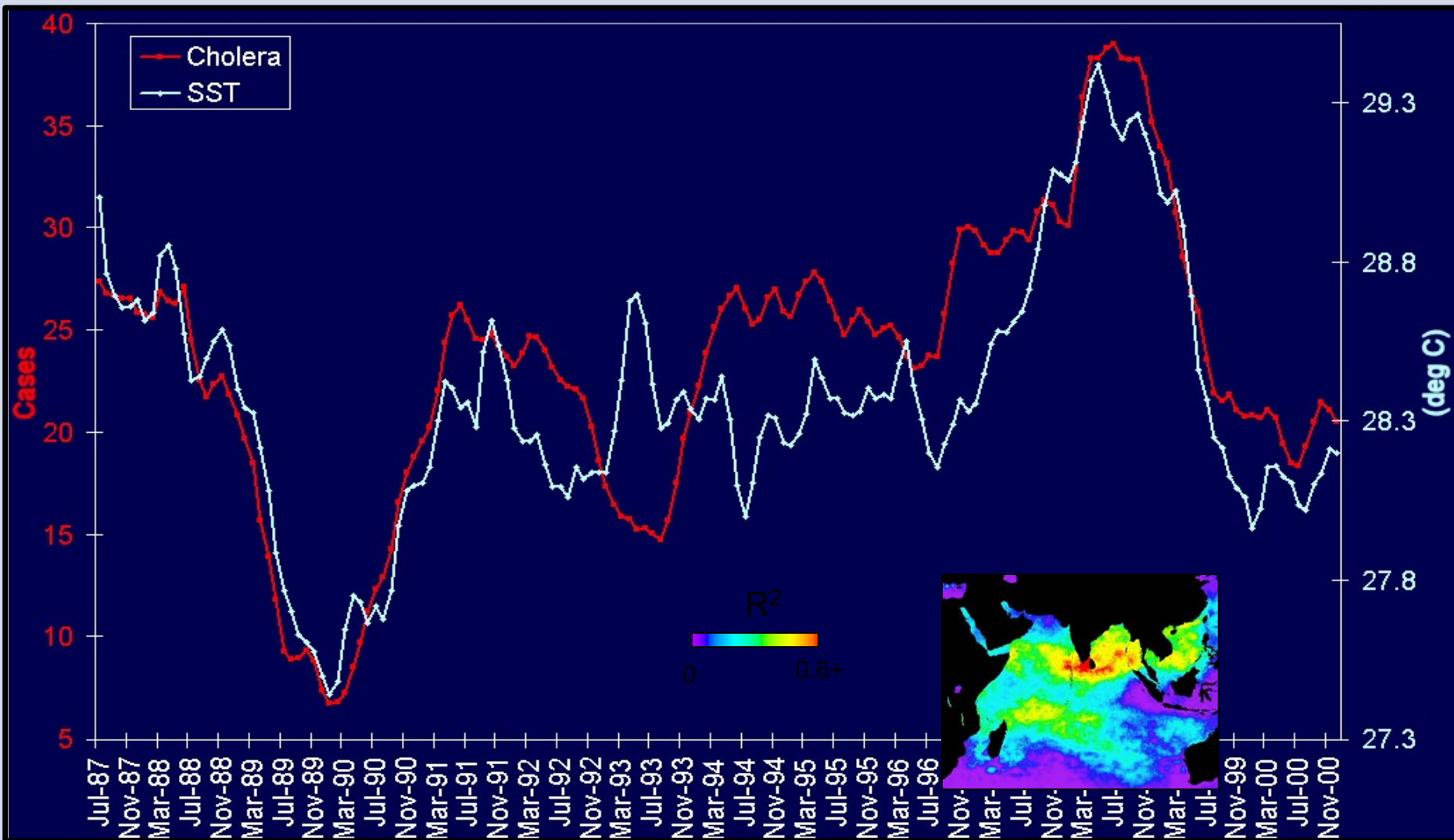
# Bangladesh Model of Cholera source and Transmission





# Cholera and SST in the Indian Ocean 1985 - 2000

Six-month SST lead:  $R^2 = 0.72$



# What is reported about cholera and macro-scale processes?

Cholera outbreaks have been linked to environmental and climate variables

precipitation (*Hashizume et al. 2008*)

floods (*Koelle et al., 2005*)

river level (*Emch et al., 2008*)

sea surface temperature (*Colwell, 1996; Lobitz et al., 2000*)

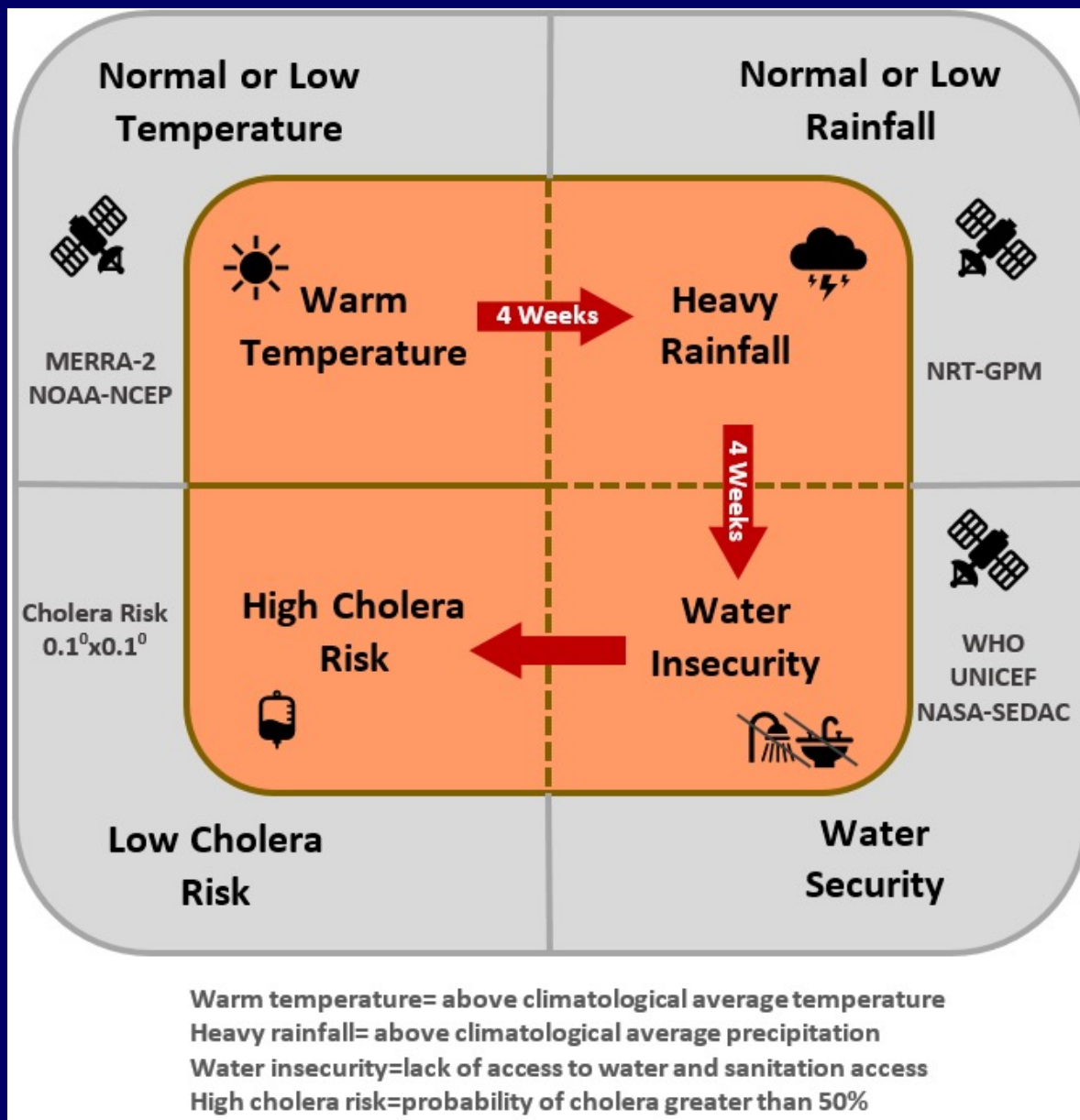
coastal salinity (*Miller et al., 1982*)

dissolved organic material (*Worden et al., 2005*)

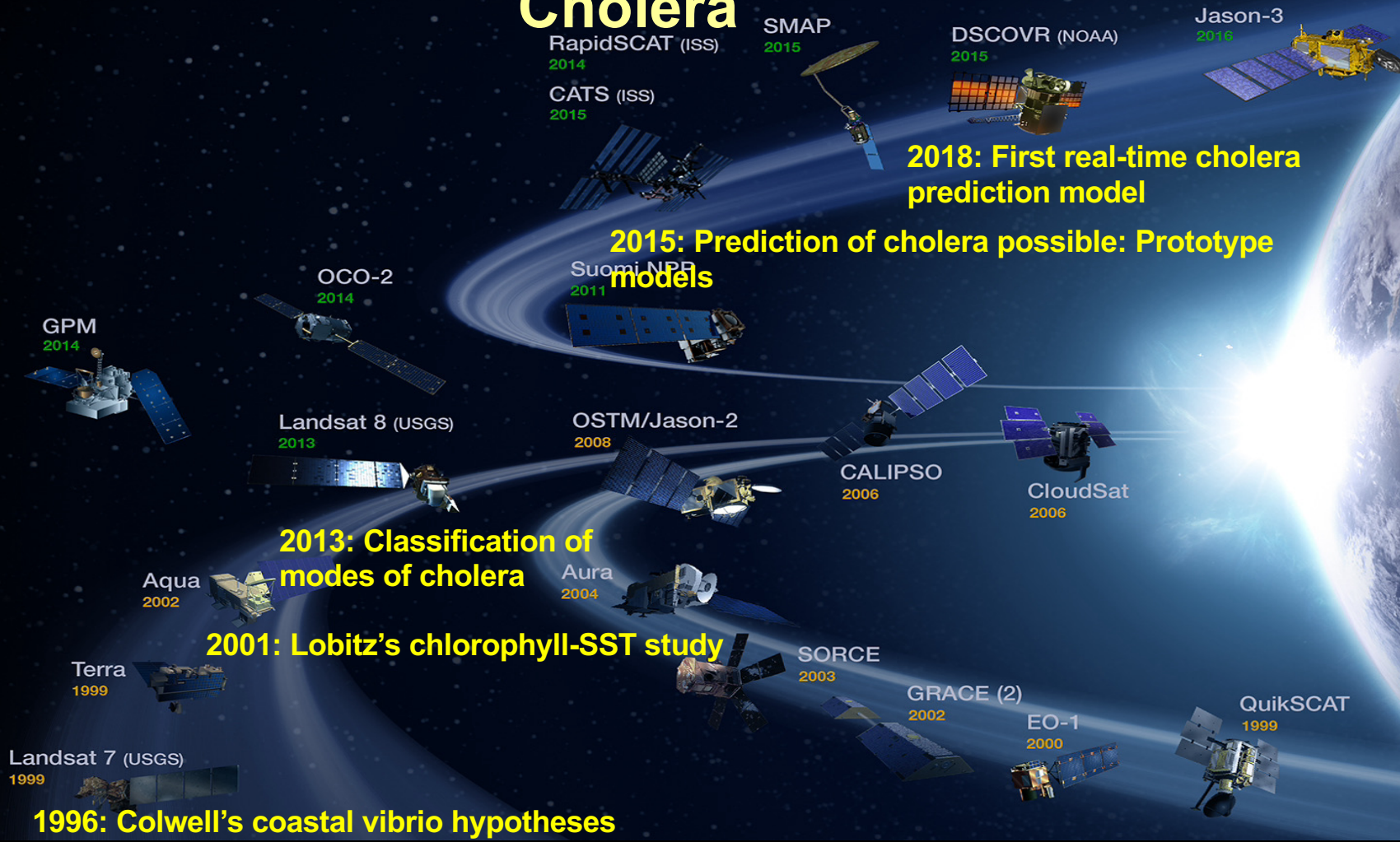
fecal contamination (*Islam et al., 2006*)

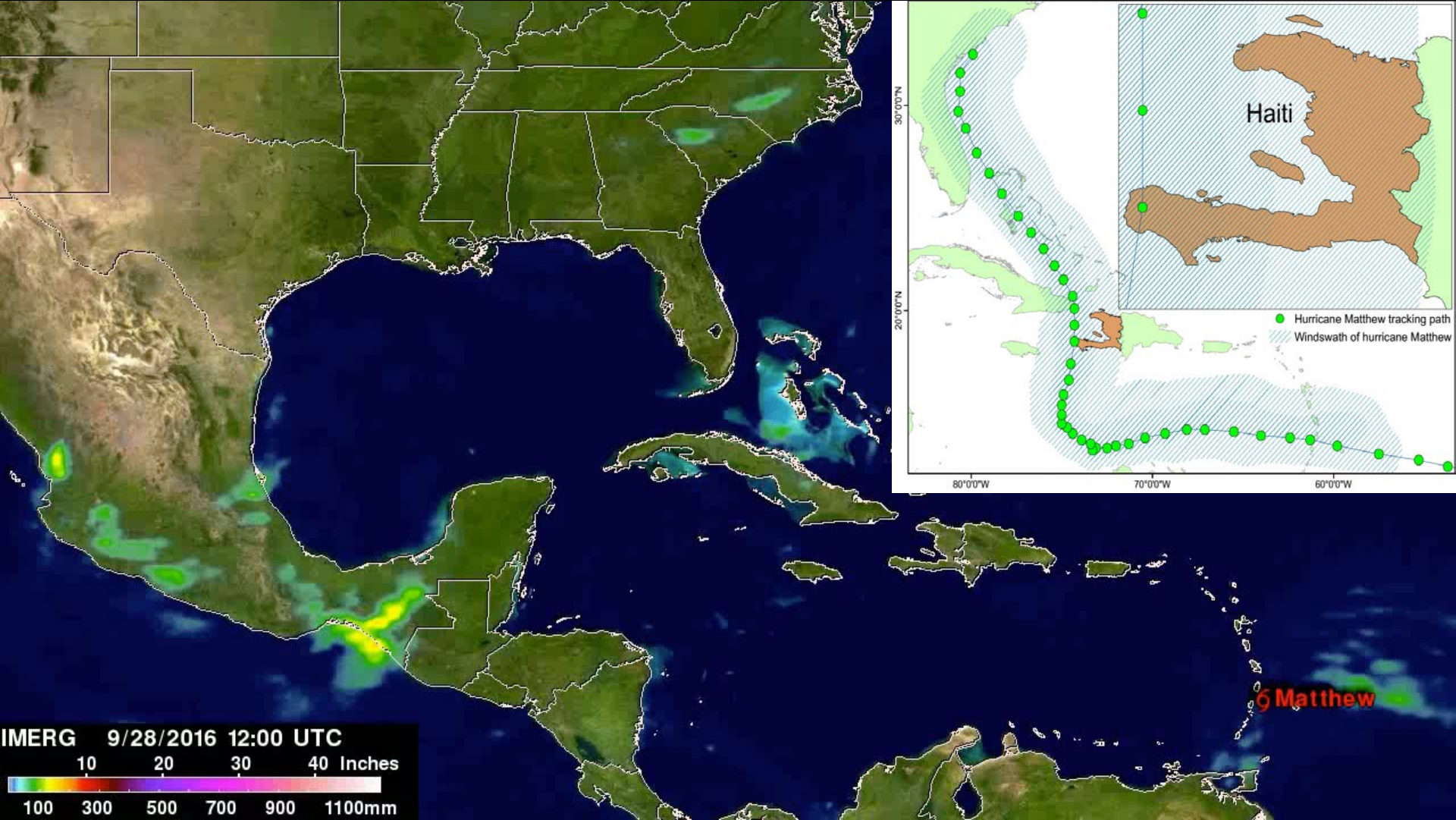
chlorophyll (*Lobitz et al., 2000, Magny et al., 2008*)

# Theoretical framework for predicting cholera outbreaks in epidemic regions



# Oceans and Human Health: Lessons from Cholera



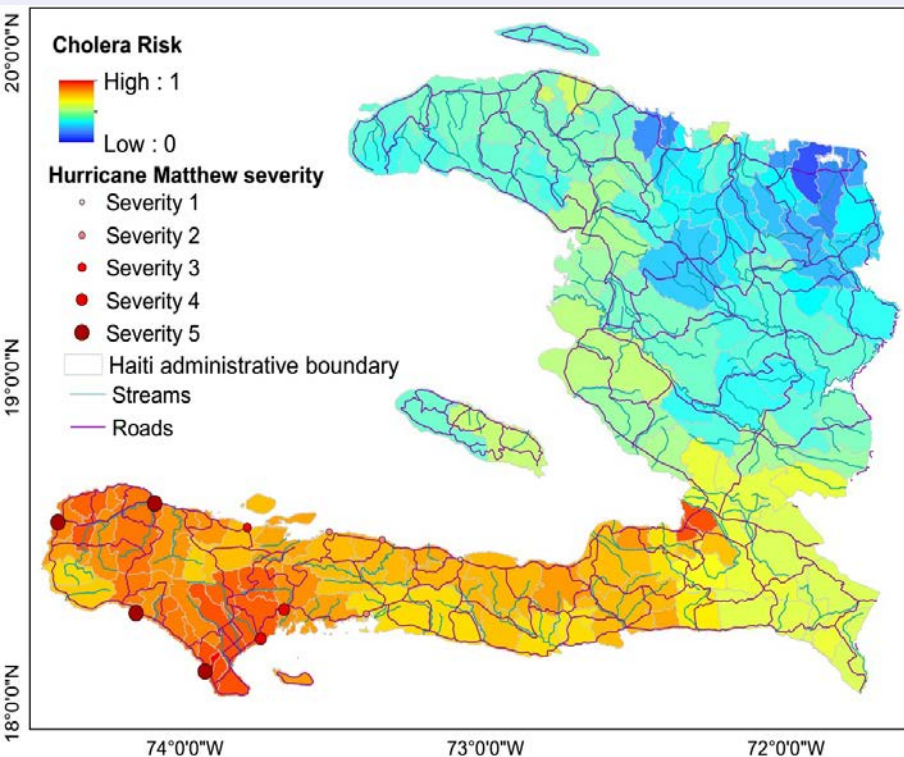


IMERG 9/28/2016 12:00 UTC  
10 20 30 40 Inches  
100 300 500 700 900 1100mm

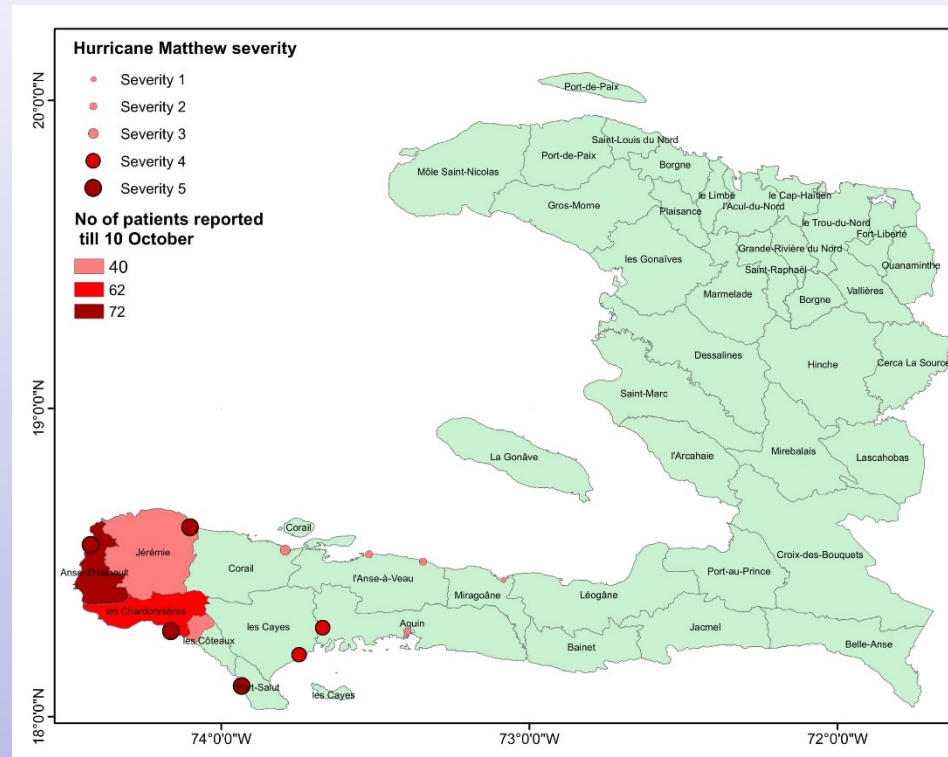
Matthew



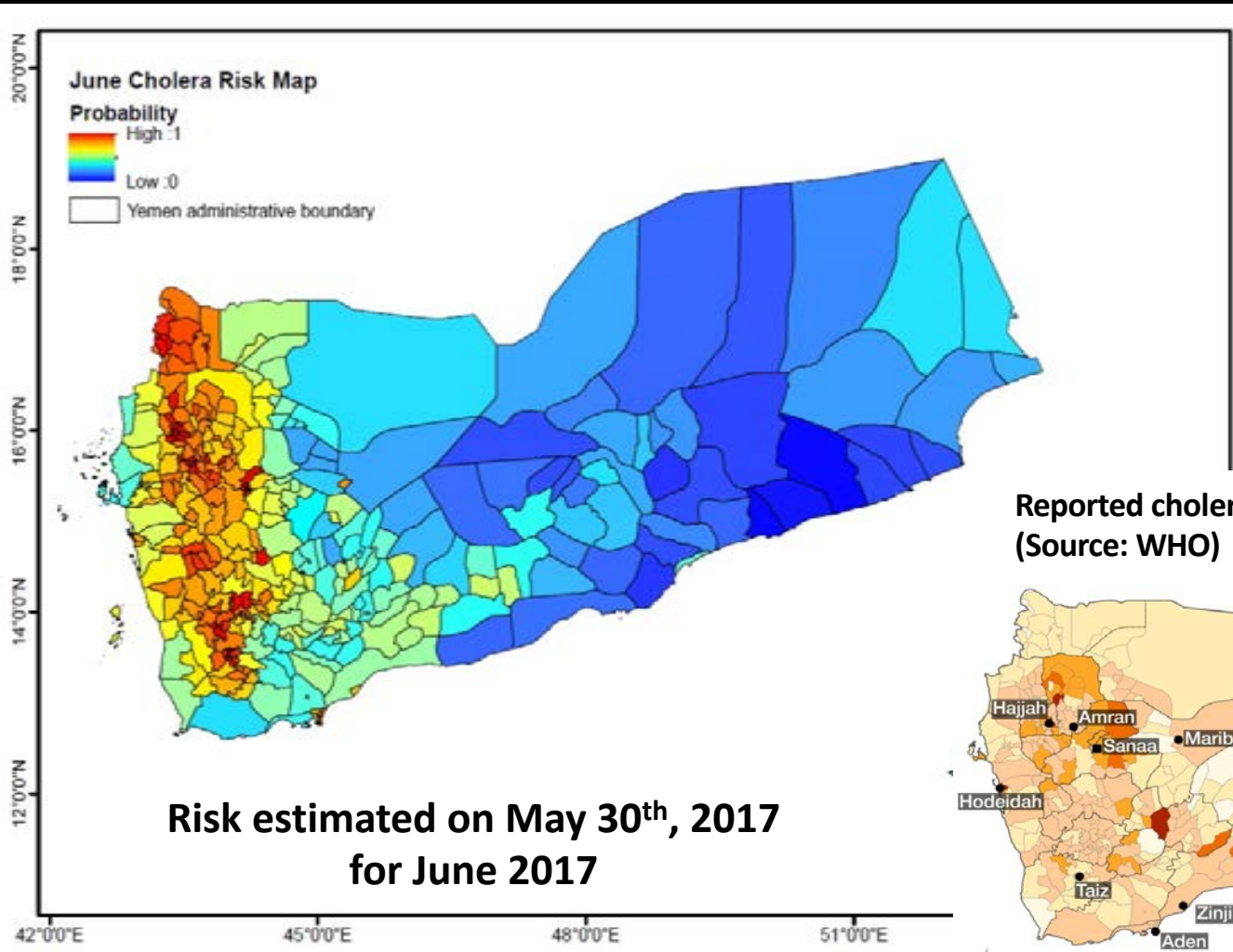
# Cholera in Haiti



**Prediction of October 2015 cholera depending on Hurricane Matthew severity**

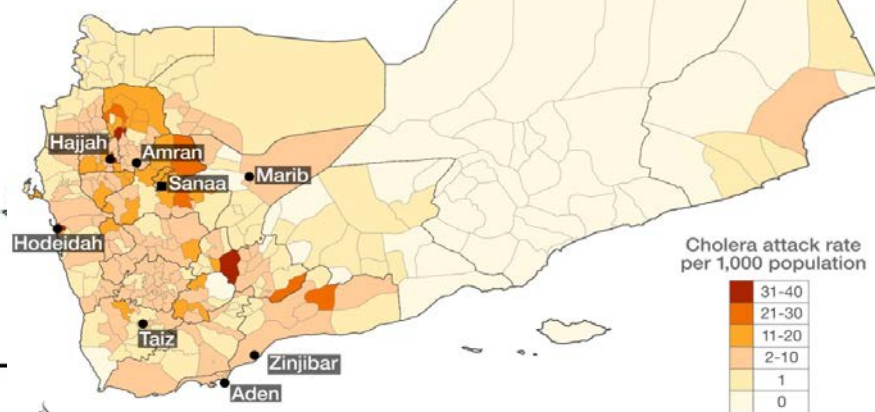


**Actual cholera in October 2015 following Hurricane Matthew**



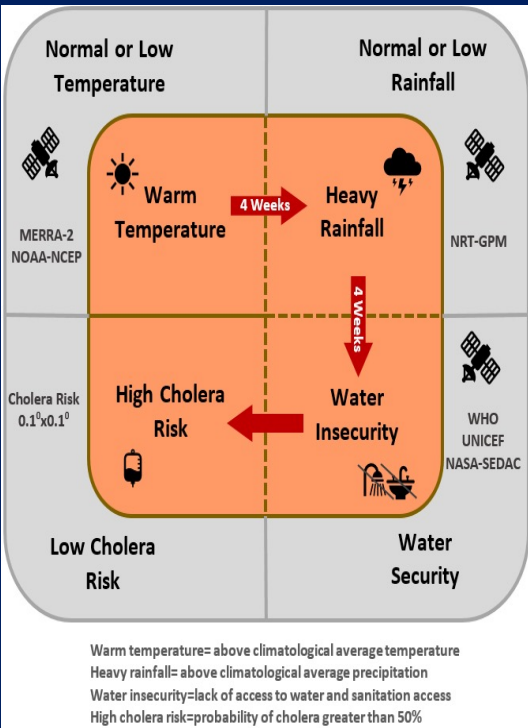
# Real-time cholera prediction for Yemen

Reported cholera cases for this month of June 2017  
(Source: WHO)

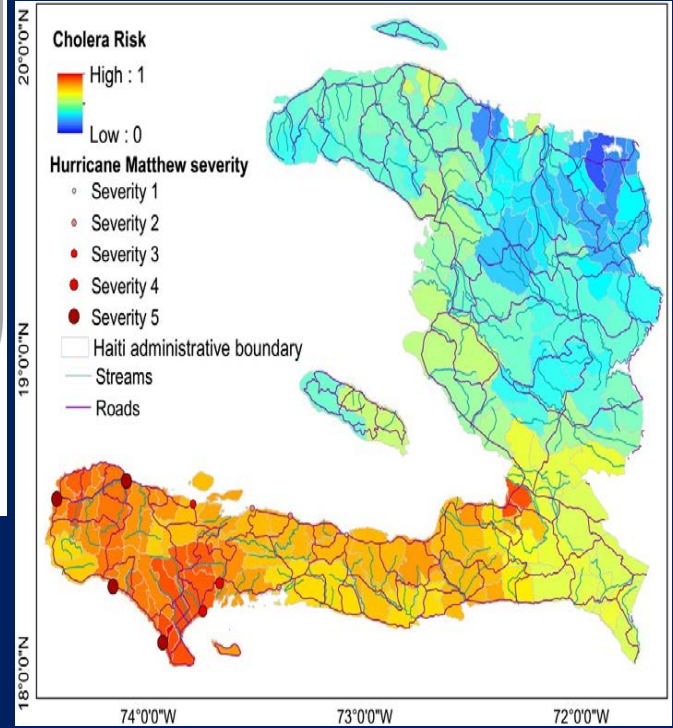


# Epidemic Cholera

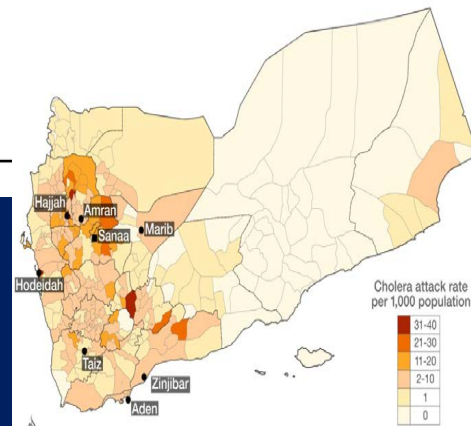
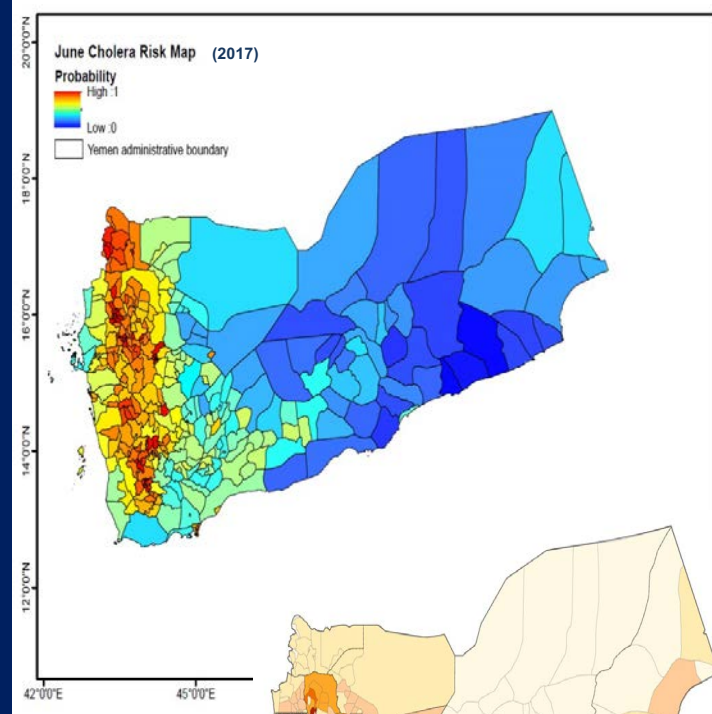
- Sporadic outbreak
- Usually occurs following floods or inundation of large landscapes
- Warm temperatures may increase growth of bacteria in aquatic bodies.

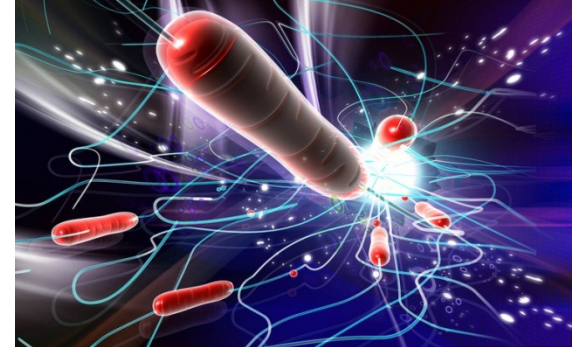
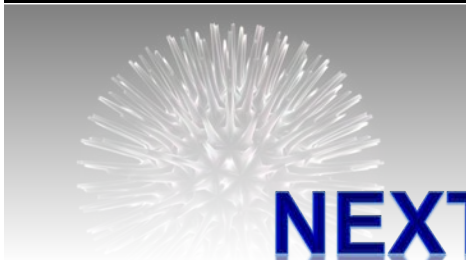
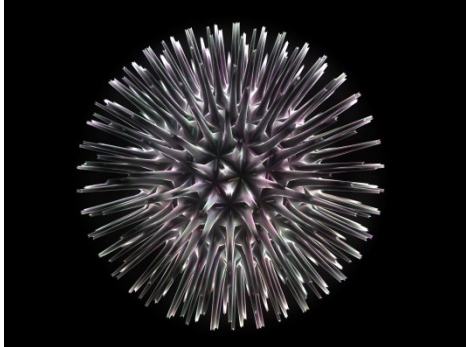


Prediction of October 2015 cholera depending on Hurricane Matthew severity



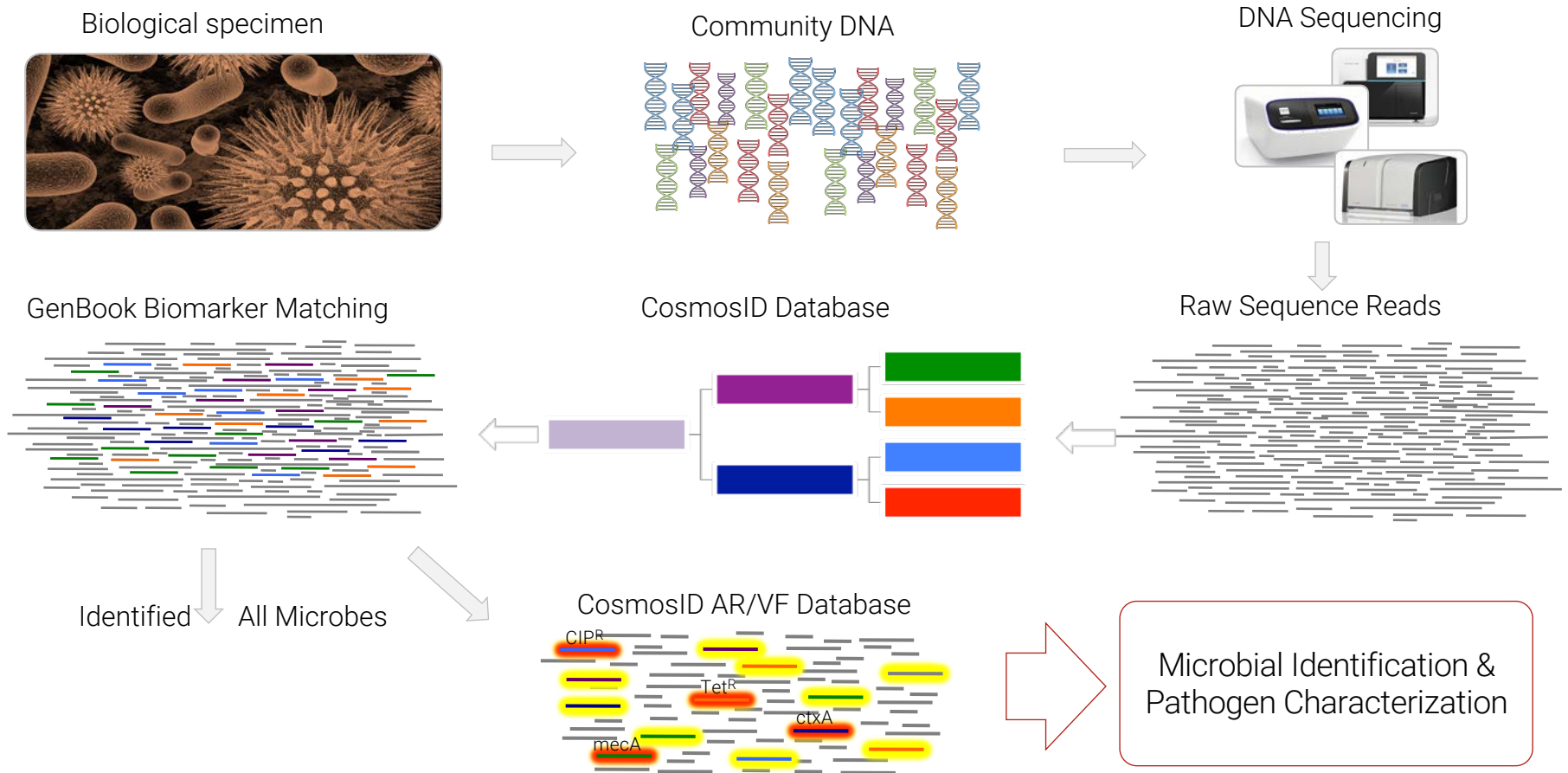
Real-time cholera prediction for Yemen



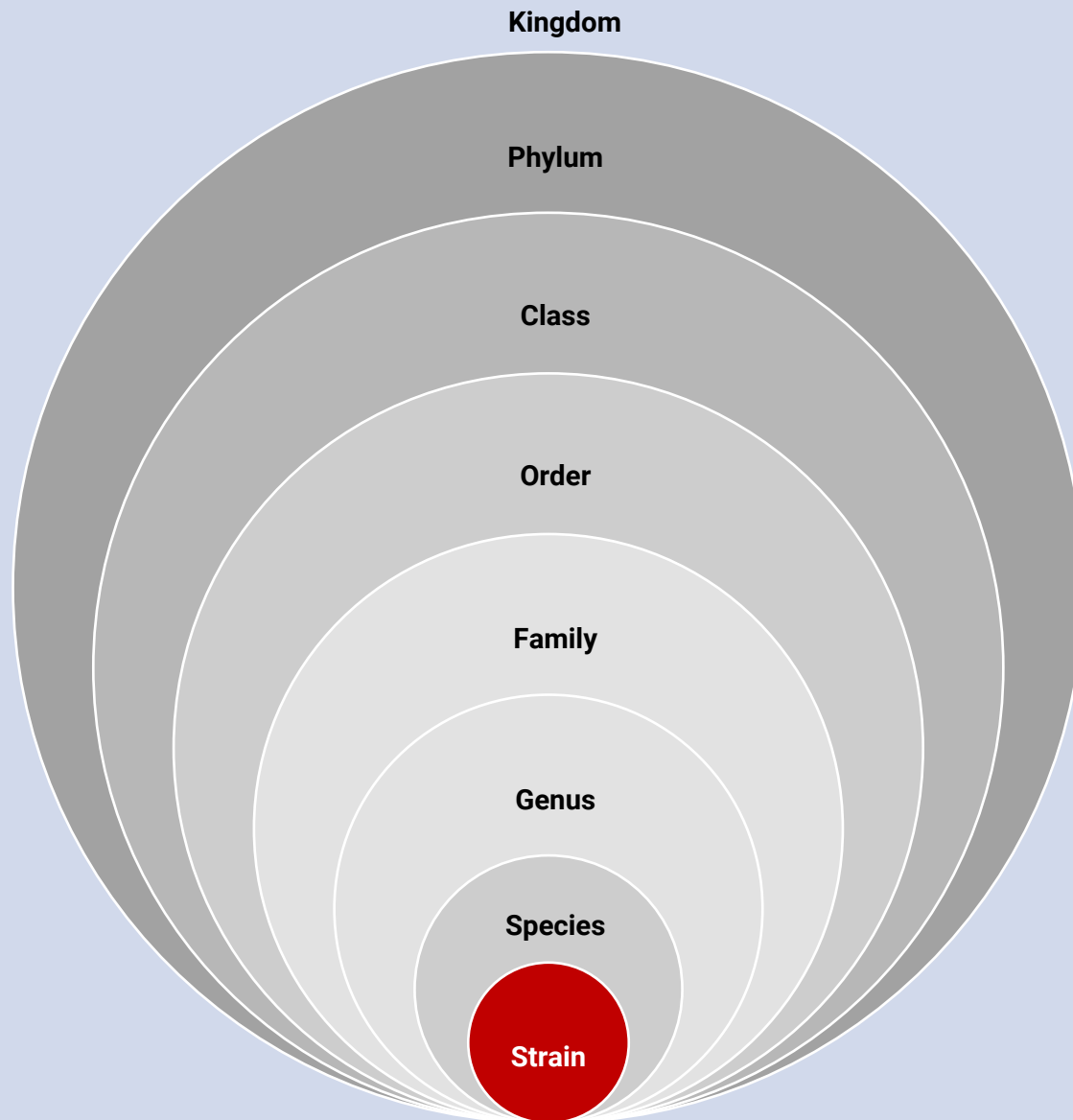


# **NEXT GEN SEQUENCING AND METAGENOMICS IDENTIFICATION**

# Shotgun whole (meta)genome sequencing



# Strain is the Clinically Informative and Actionable Unit



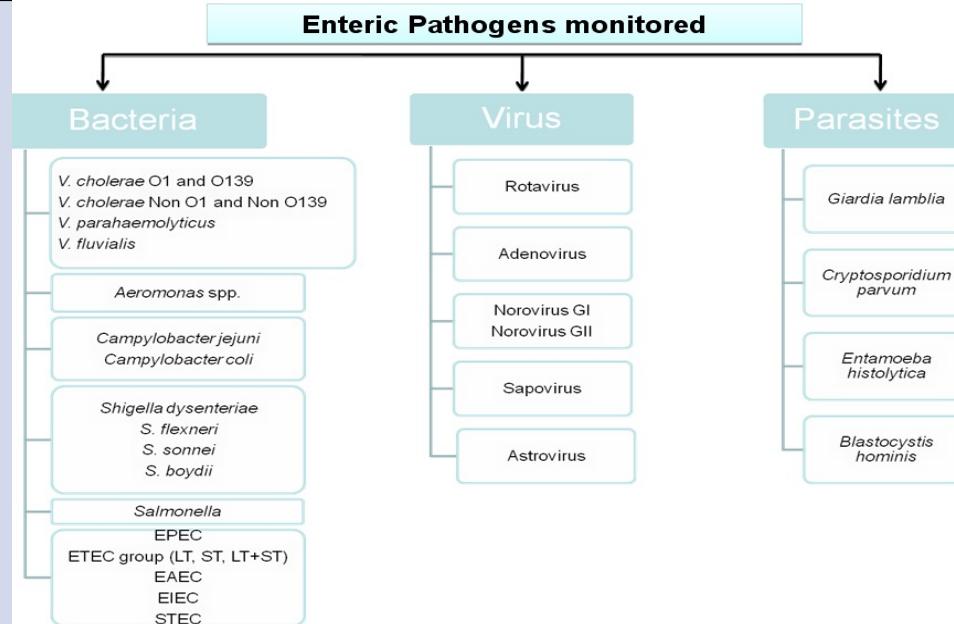
# Microbiome Analysis of Acute Diarrheal Patients Compared with Healthy Individuals

*pre-publication results*

# Study Cohort

@ 2% Surveillance (every 50<sup>th</sup> patient) at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Calcutta, India

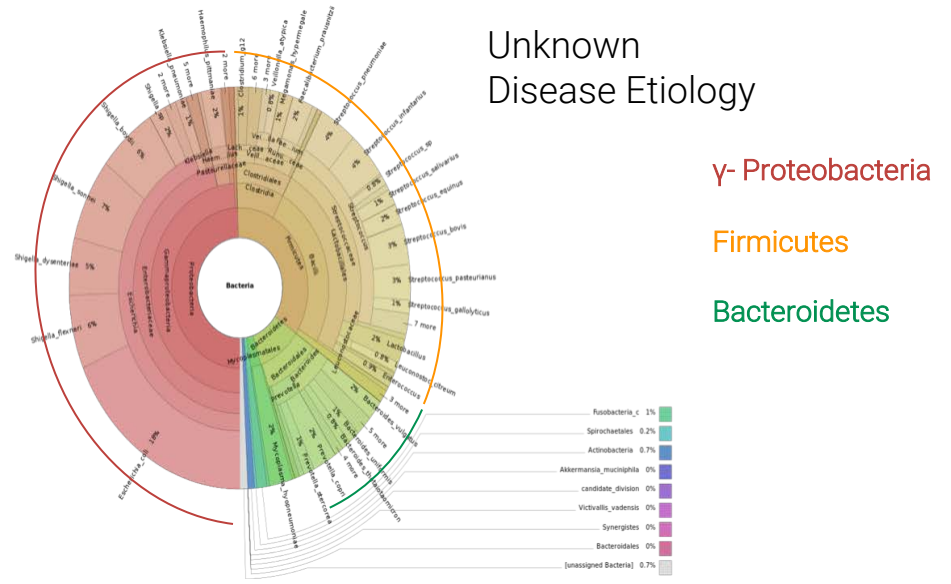
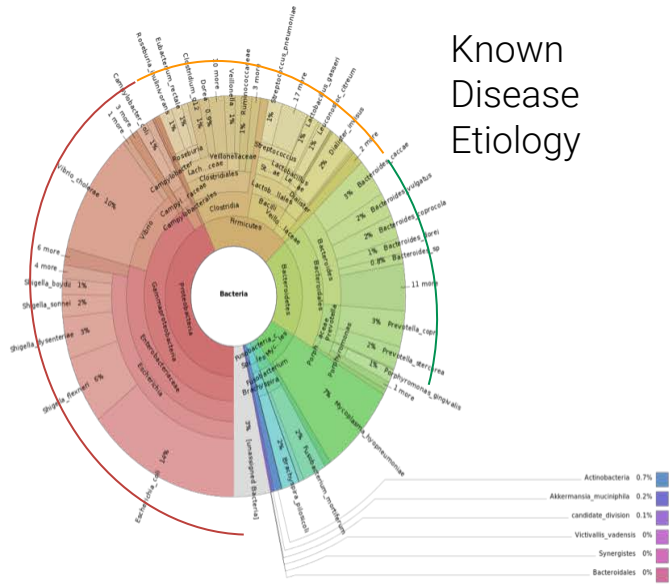
Study Phases	Total # of Samples	Known Etiology	Unknown Etiology	Healthy Control
PHASE I	9	9	0	0
PHASE II	28	0	18	10
PHASE III	37	17	10	10



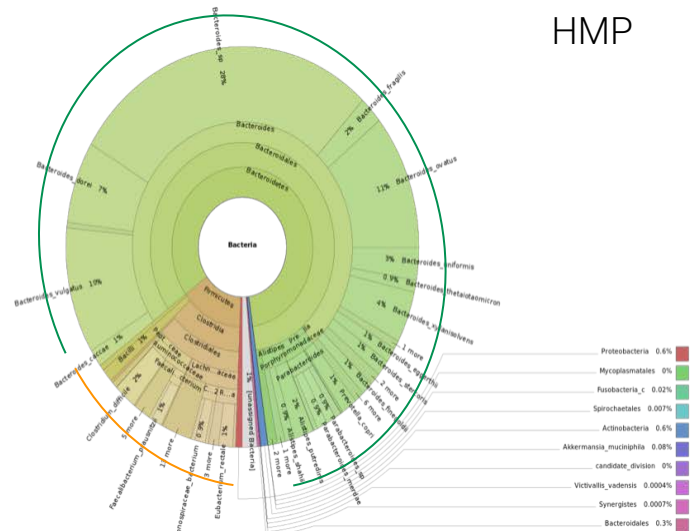
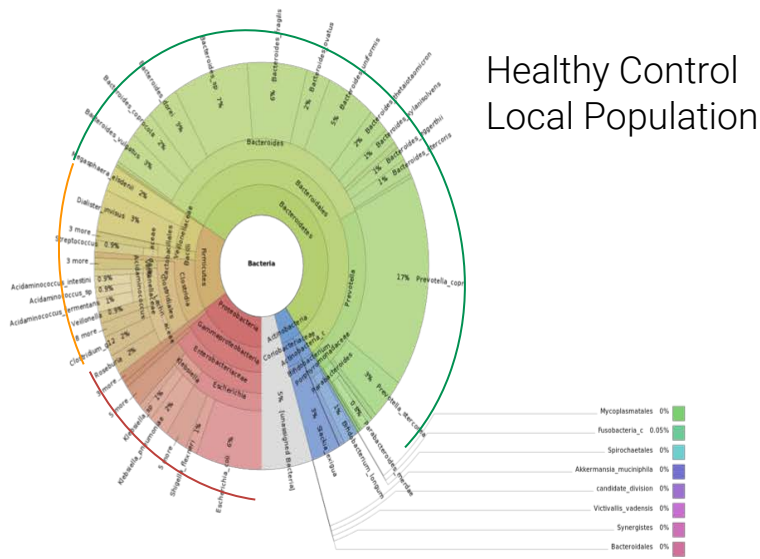


# Microbial Community in Healthy vs Diarrheal Patients

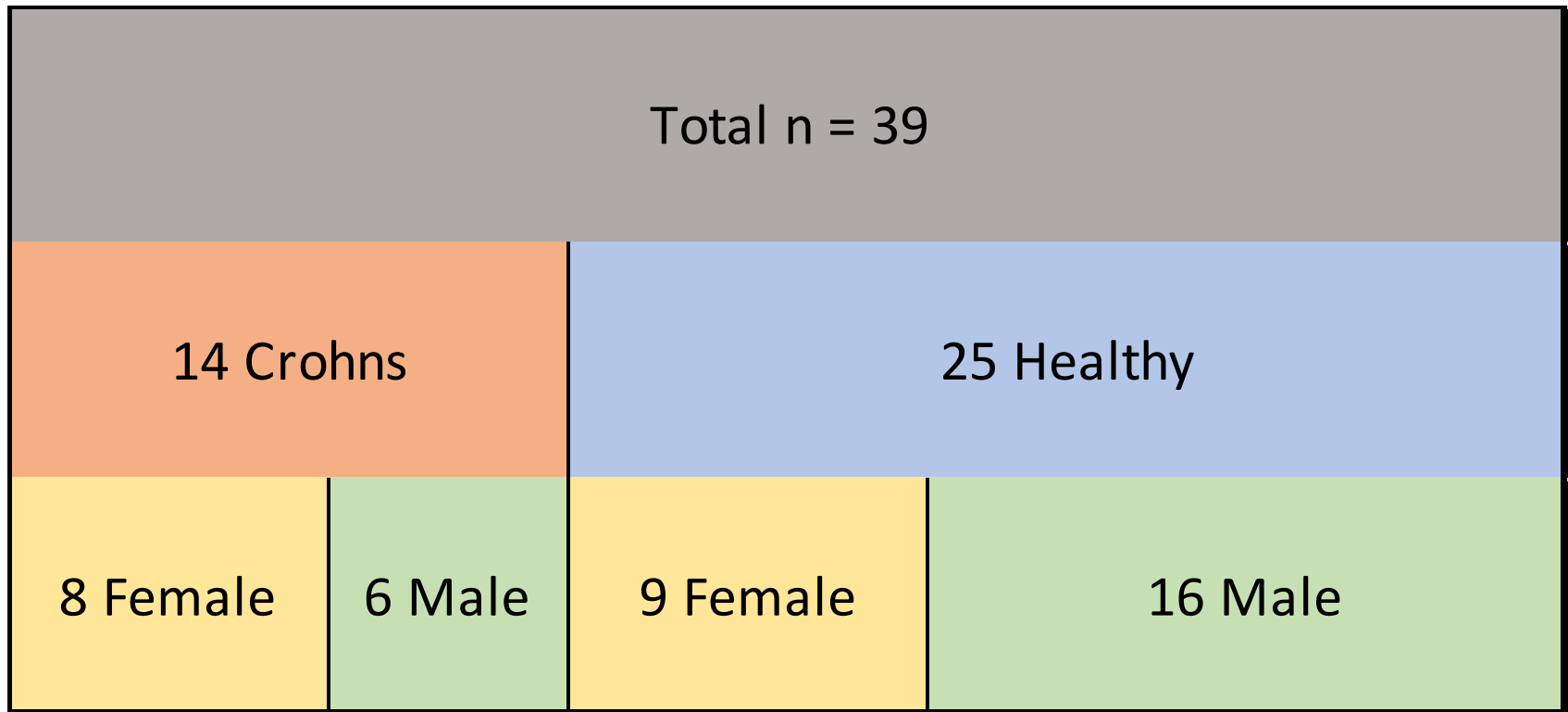
DIARRHEAL PATIENTS



HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS

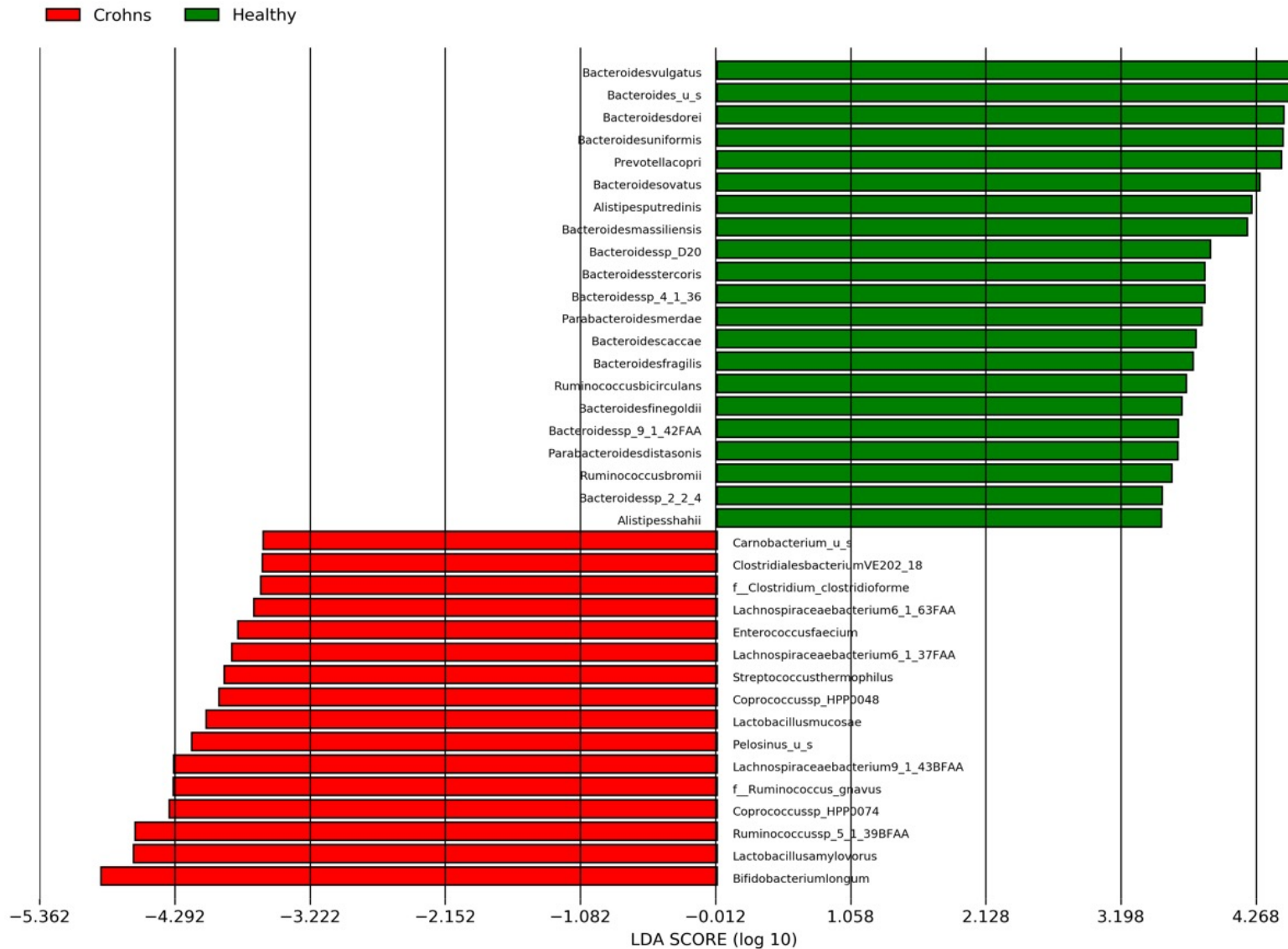


# Crohn's Disease and the Microbiome



- 1: Crohn's data come from SRA Bioproject PRJNA46321 "Metagenomic Analysis of the Structure and Function of the Human Gut Microbiota in Crohn's Disease"
- 2: Healthy data come from SRA Bioproject PRJNA48479 "Human Microbiome Project (HMP) Metagenomic WGS Projects, deeper sequencing of the human microbiome samples: Production Phase"

# Species Enrichment in Healthy vs Crohn's



# Water Safety



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## Characterization of Microbial Signatures From Advanced Treated Wastewater Biofilms

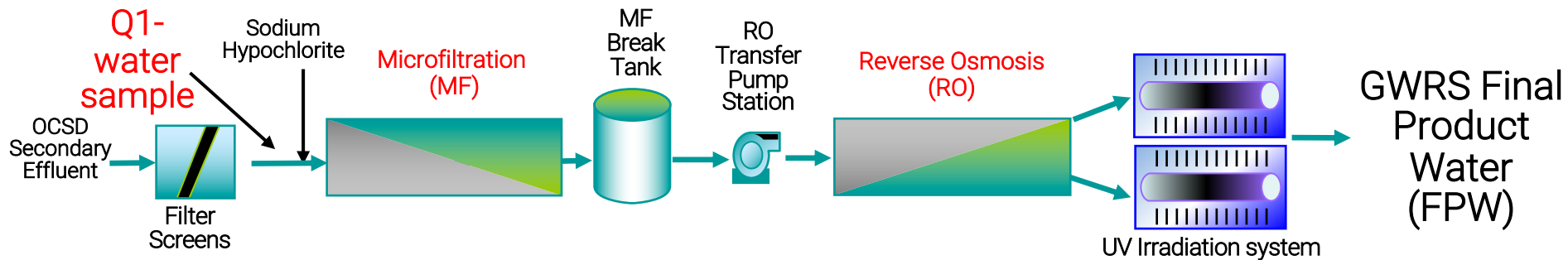
**Author(s):** Leddy, Menu B.; Hasan, Nur A.; Subramanian, Poorani; Heberling, Colin; Cotruvo, Joseph; Colwell, Rita R.

**Publications:** Journal - American Water Works Association

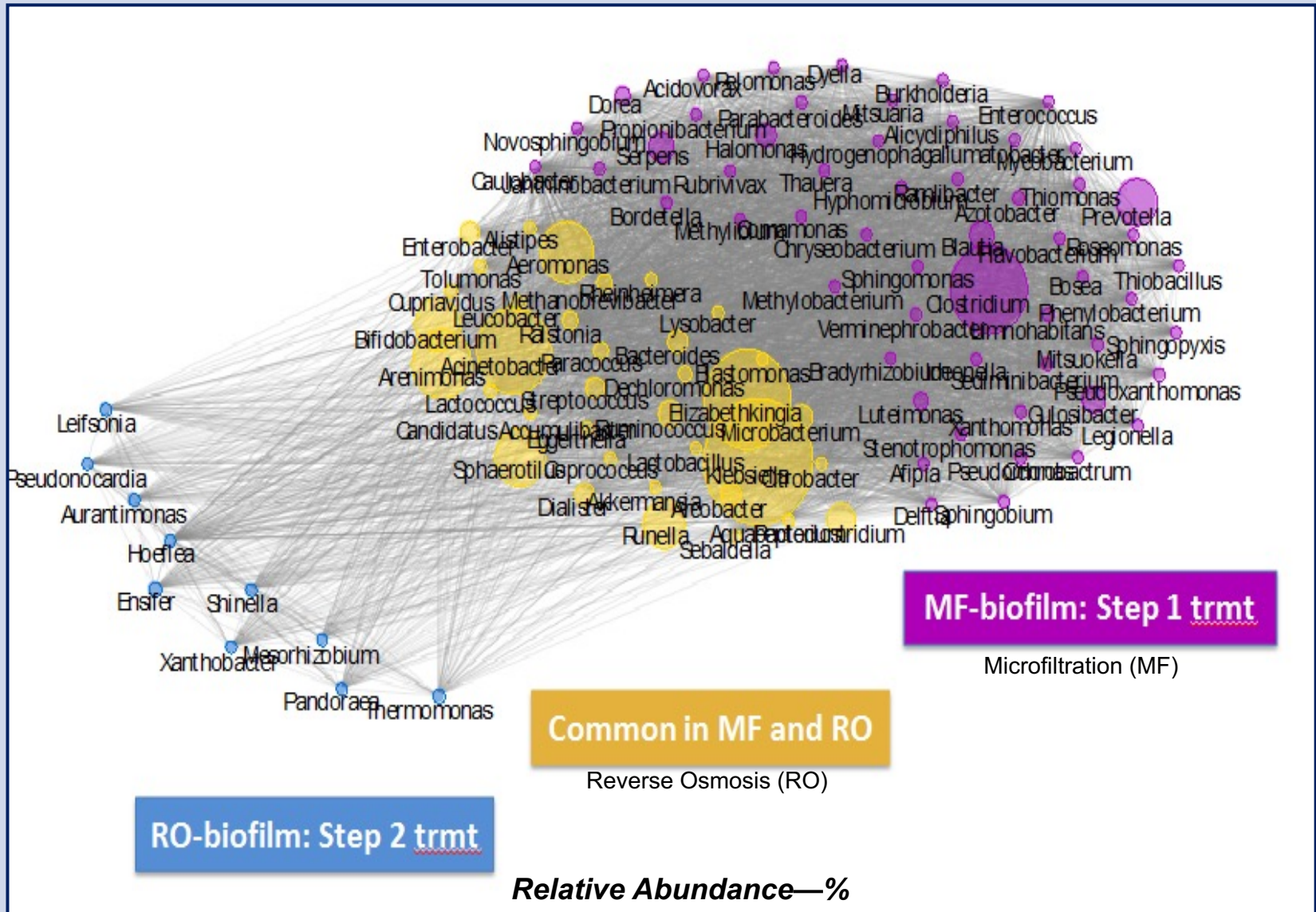
**Issue Date:** November 2017

**Volume / Number:** 109, Number 11

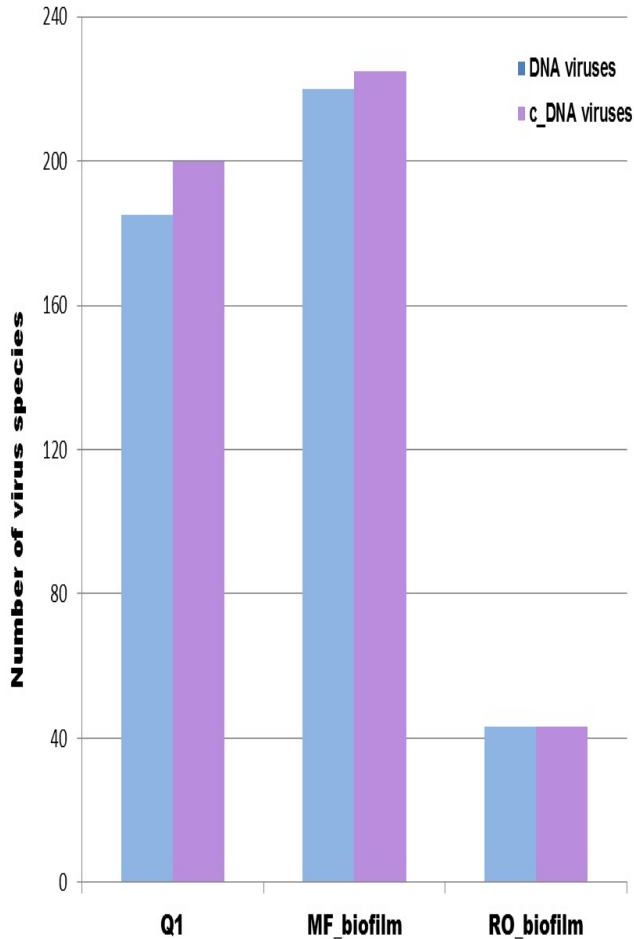
**Page(s):** E503-E512



# Stepwise reduction of bacterial genera from MF to RO

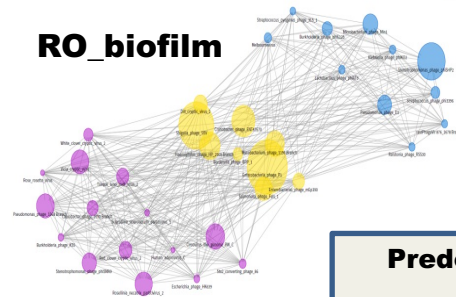
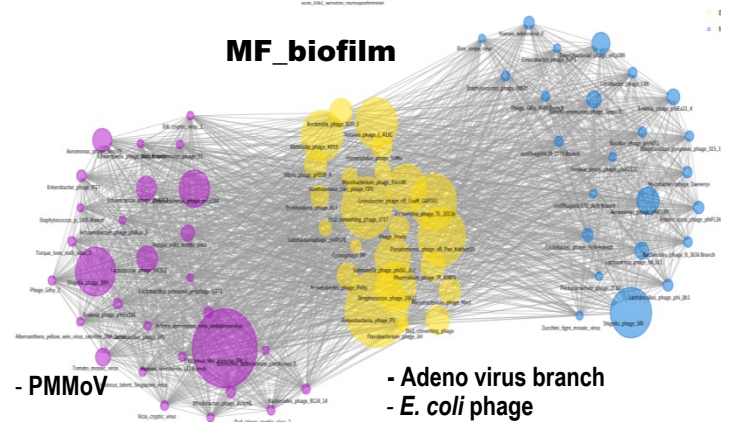
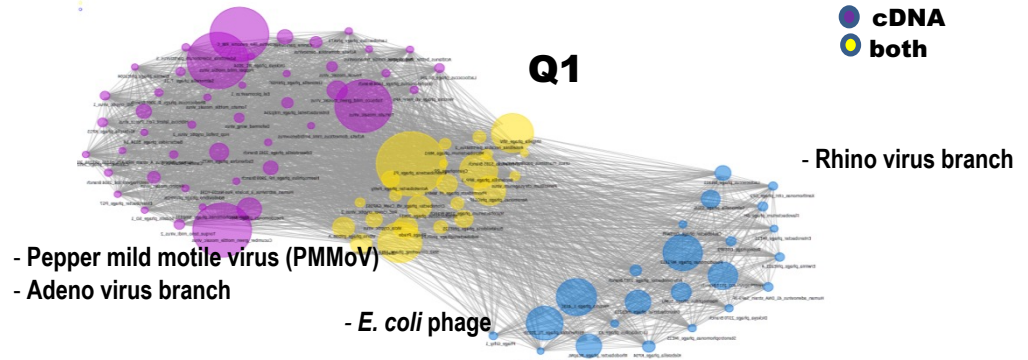


# Viral Diversity



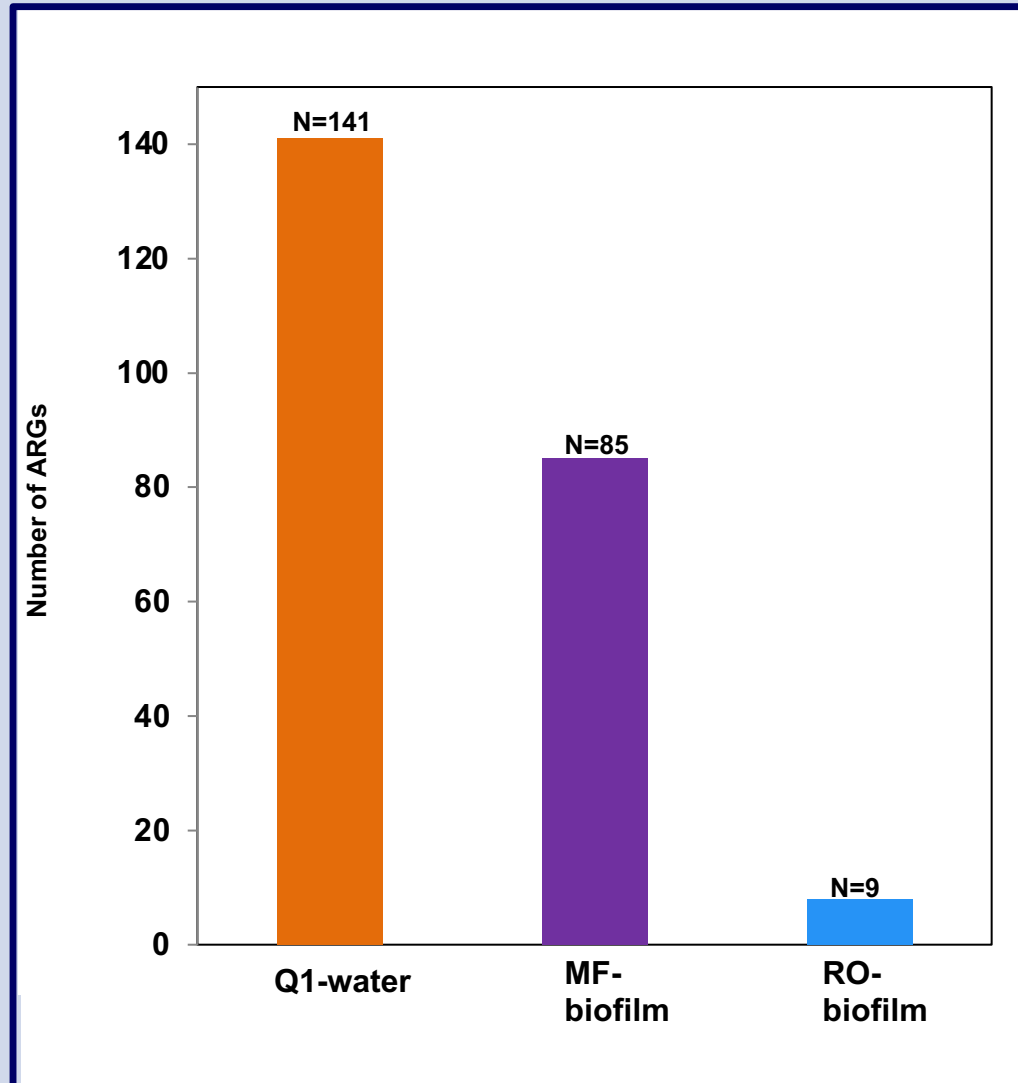
## Genera of virus and phage DNA & cDNA

- DNA
- cDNA
- both



**Predominately bacteriophage identified in all samples**

# Distribution of antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) and stepwise reduction of ARG's in MF and RO-biofilms





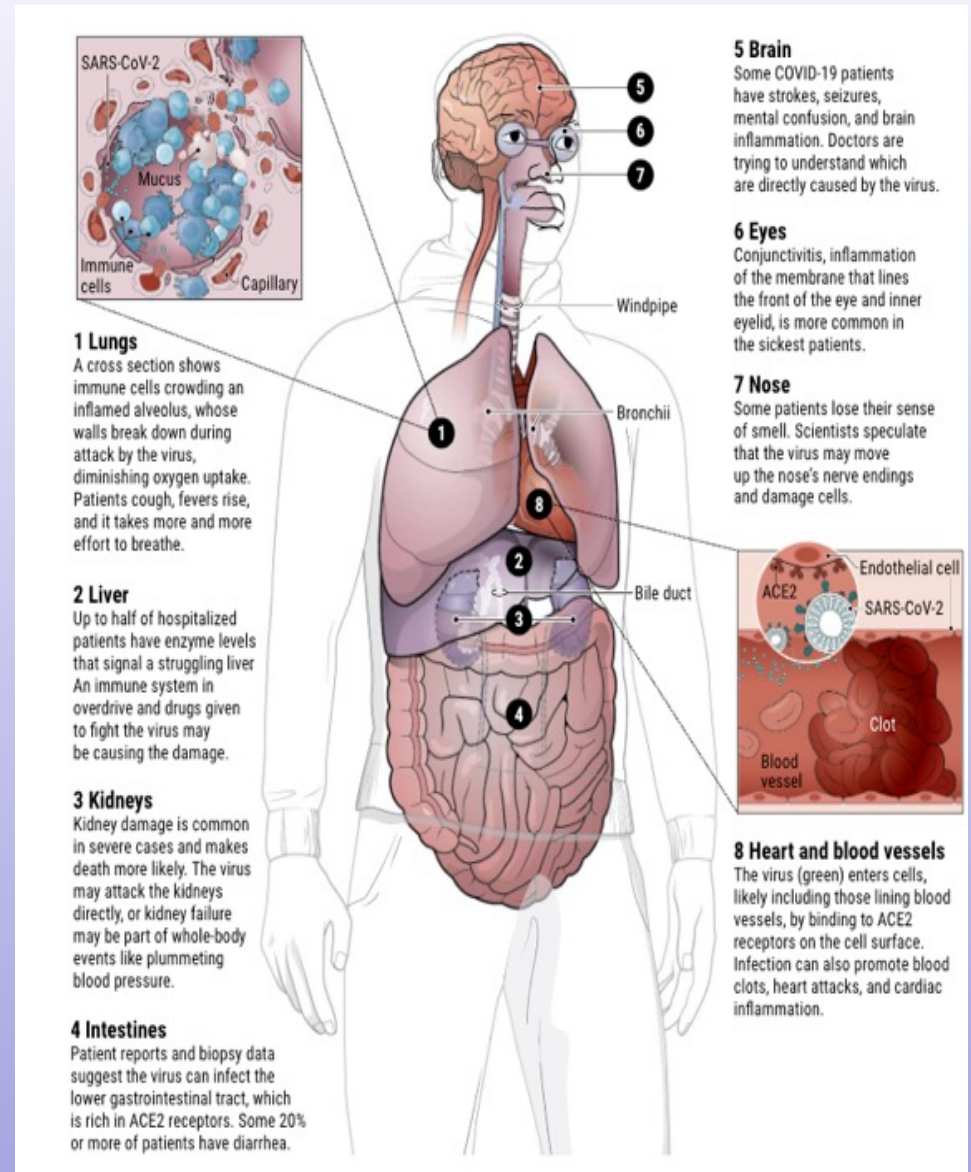
# Is COVID-19 polymicrobial and systemic?

How does coronavirus kill? Clinicians trace a ferocious rampage through the body, from brain to toes

By Meredith Wadman, Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, Jocelyn Kaiser, Catherine Maticic.

Science, Apr. 17, 2020 , 6:45 PM

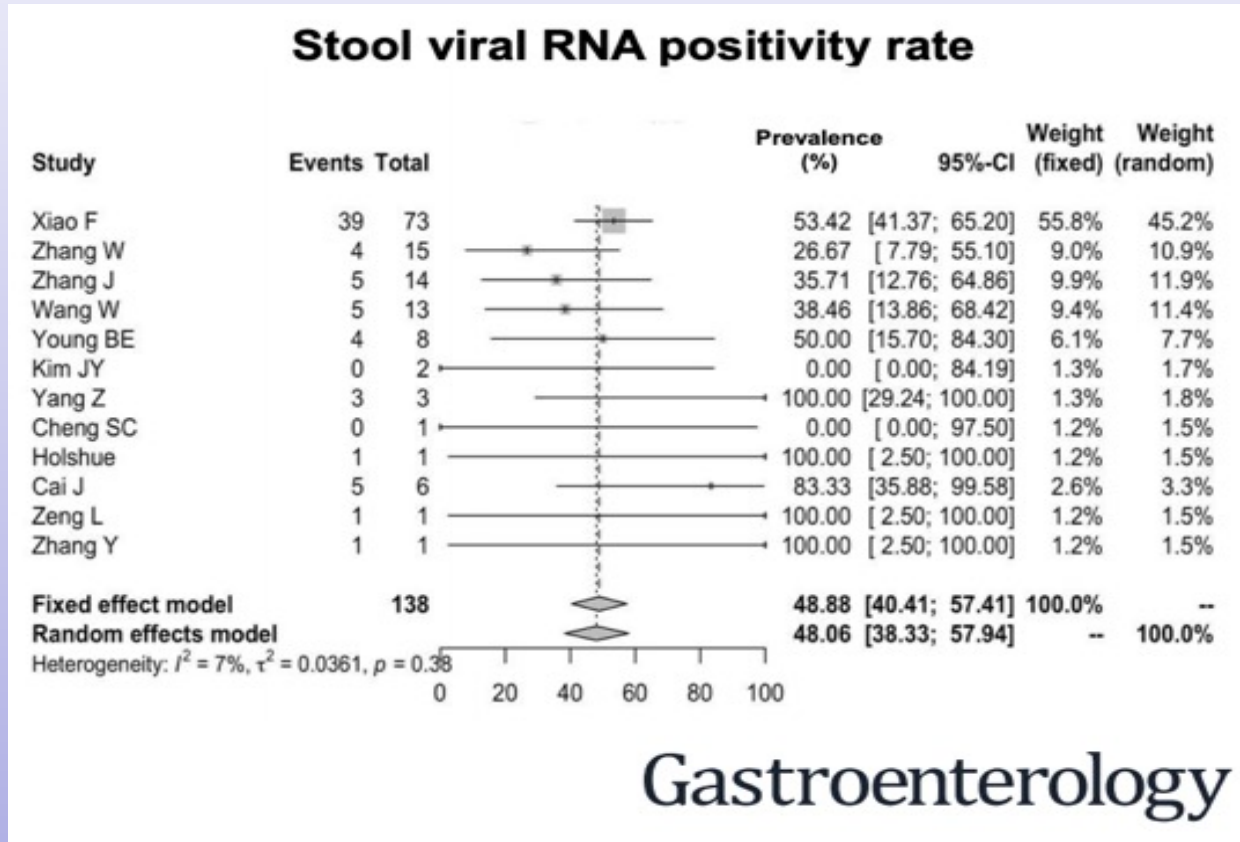
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/how-does-coronavirus-kill-clinicians-trace-ferocious-rampage-through-body-brain-toes>



# Identification of Bacteria and Viruses Present in Respiratory Samples in which SARS-CoV-2 has been Detected

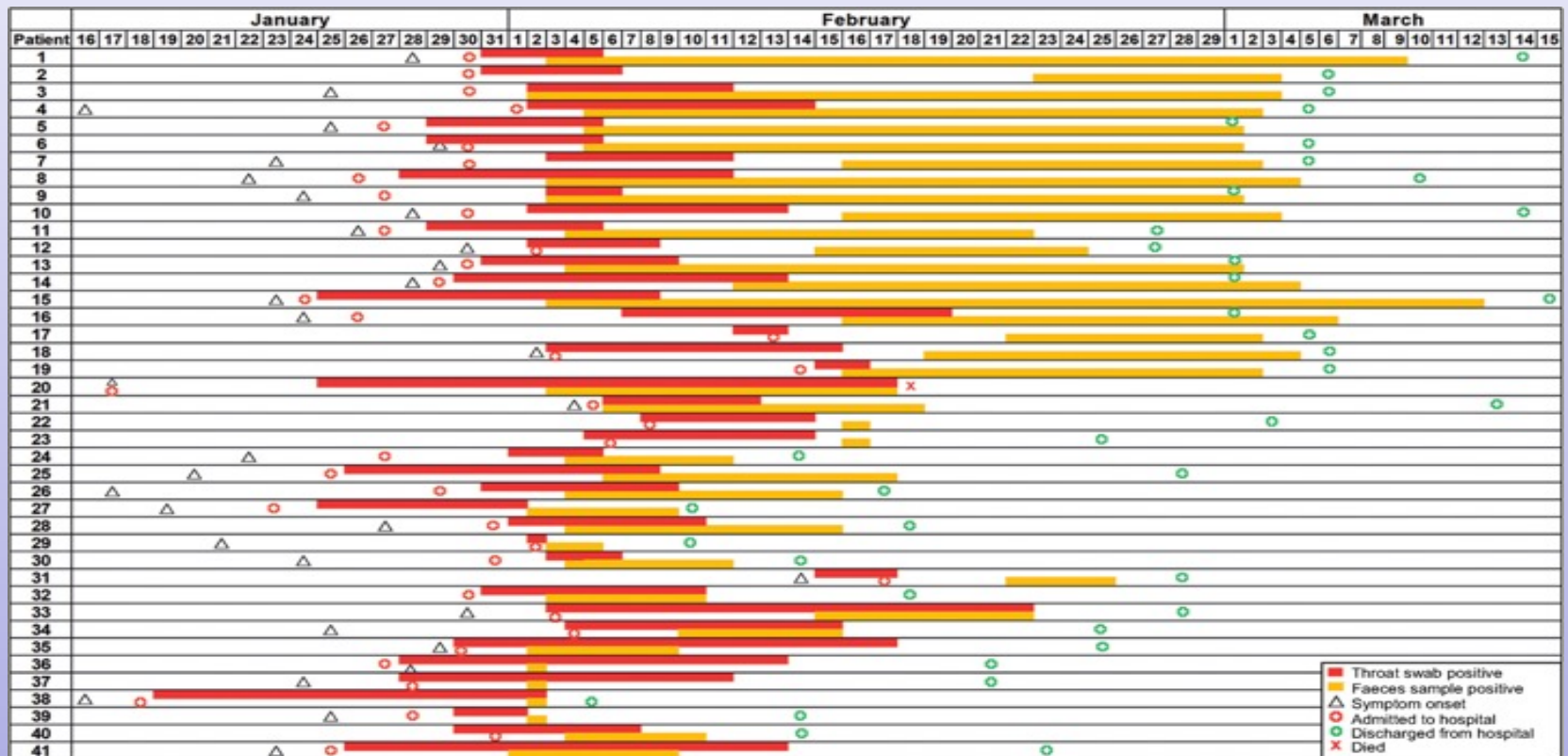


# SARS Cov-2 viral RNA has been detected in 48.1% of stool samples



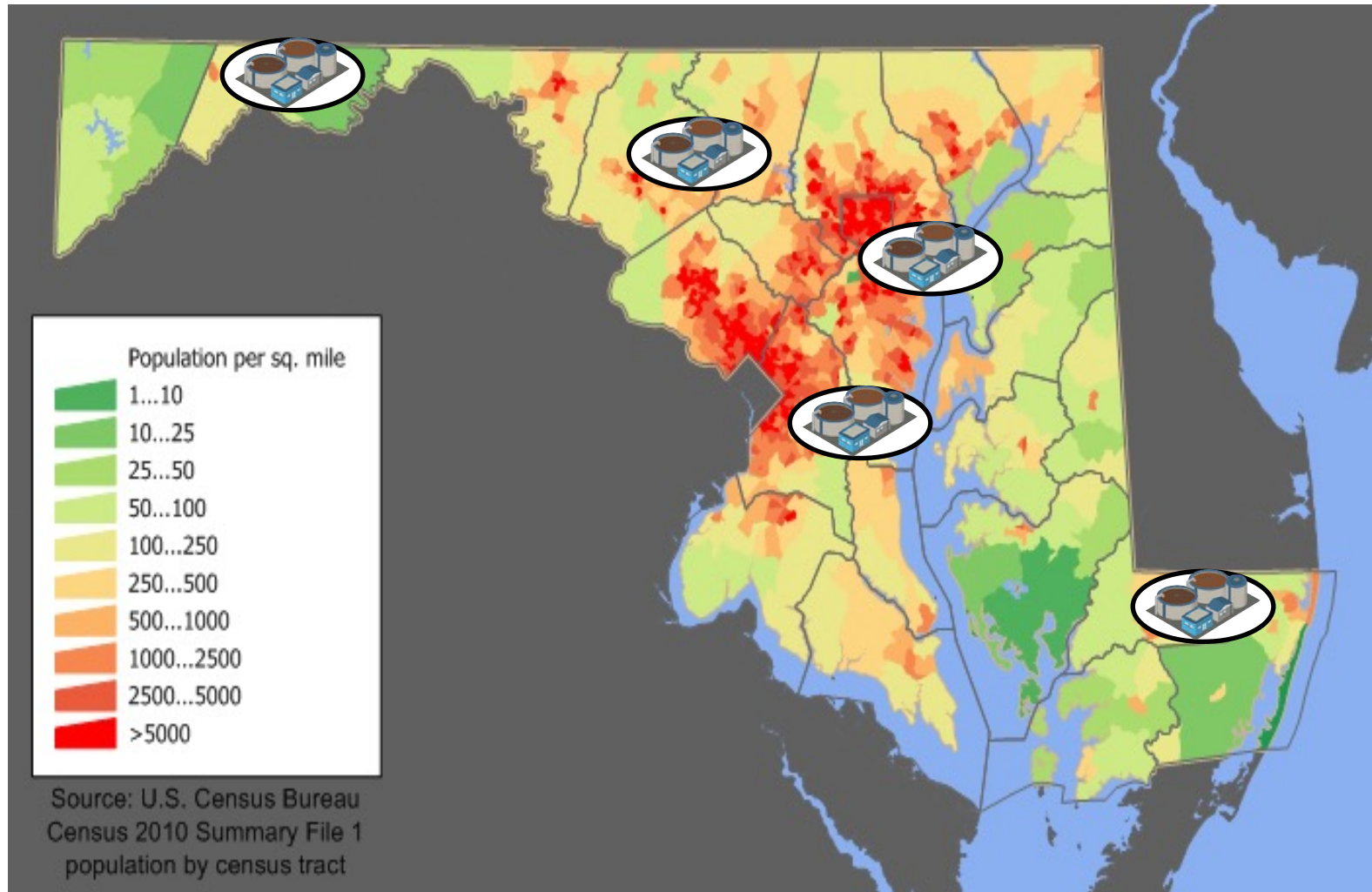
Cheung et al., (2020). Gastrointestinal Manifestations of SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Virus Load in Fecal Samples from the Hong Kong Cohort and Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Gastroenterology*. Pre-Proof

# Positive Stool Samples Detected After Respiratory Sample Tested Negative During Recovery

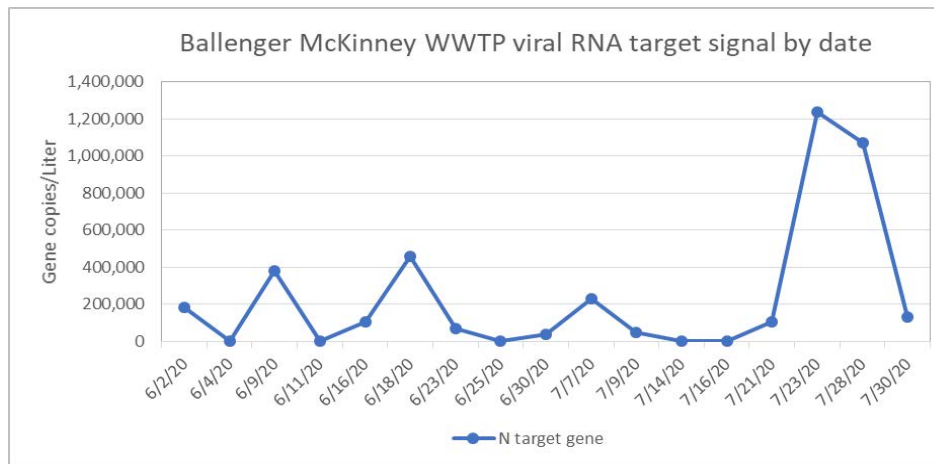
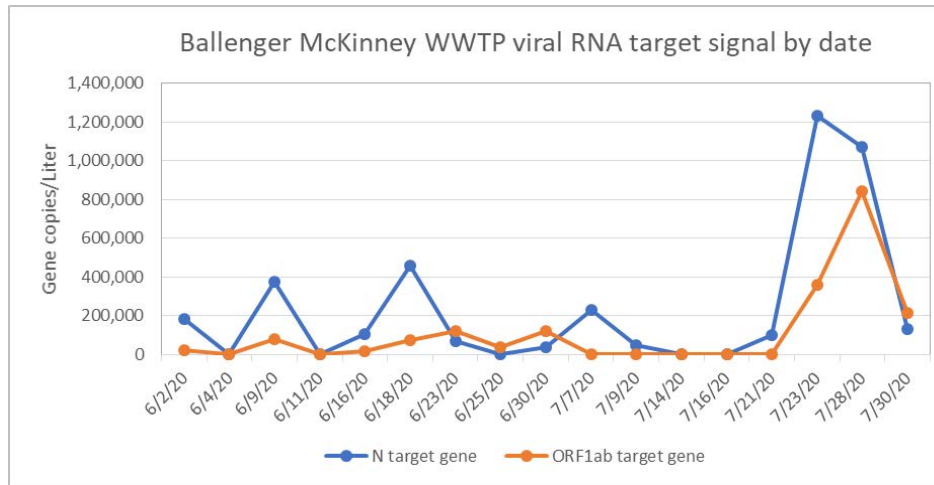


Wu Y, Guo C, Tang L, et al. Prolonged presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA in faecal samples. 2020 *The Lancet Gastroenterology – hepatology*. Volume 5, Issue 5, 434 - 435

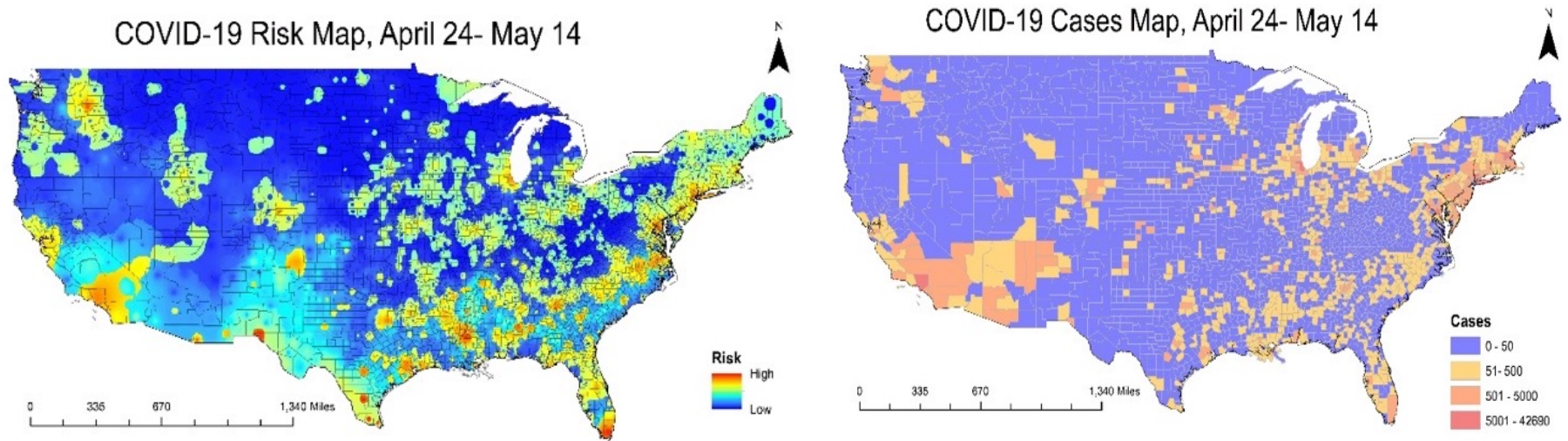
# COVID-19 tracking in wastewater underway



# Results from Frederick, Maryland sites



# Prediction of coronavirus risk



Left panel: **Prediction** made on April 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 and valid until May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Right panel: **Actual number** of COVID19 cases during those three weeks: a heuristic prediction model developed in GeoHLab



A Simple, Sustainable  
Method for  
Reducing Cholera







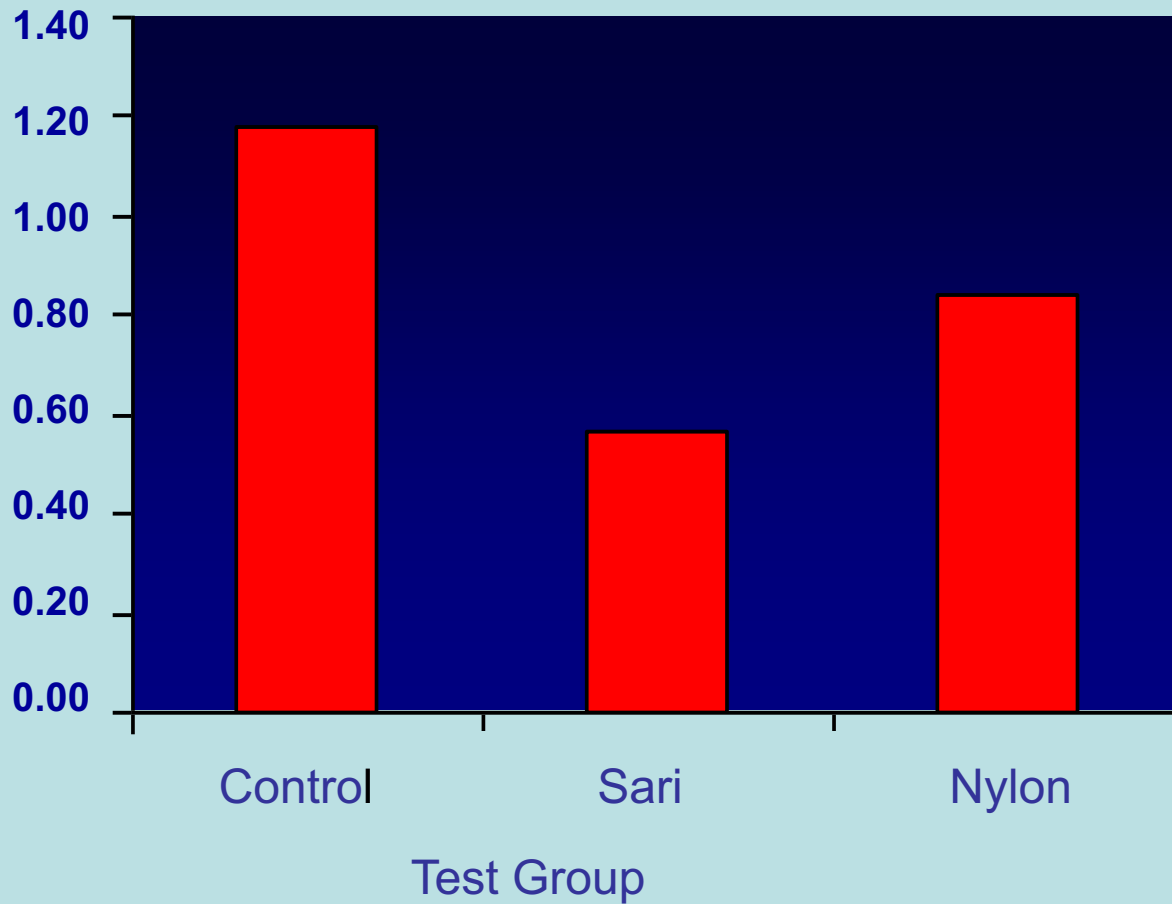
***Vibrio cholerae***





## Full Study

Cases of Cholera Per 1000 Population



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# Safe water is a global challenge







# A Lab of One's Own

— — — — —  
One Woman's  
Personal Journey  
Through Sexism  
in Science

Former Director of the National Science Foundation

**RITA COLWELL, PhD**

and

SHARON BERTSCH McGRAYNE

