

Molecular Epidemiology of HCV among PWID: New Insights into HCV Transmission

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BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

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- Research contracts/grants
 - Roche
 - Siemens
 - Merck
 - Hologic (Gen-Probe)
 - Boehringer Ingelheim
- Honoraria donated to the BCCDC Foundation for Population & Public Health

- Many HCV epidemiological tools
 - Social and sexual networks
 - Require lots of data collection
- Sintonen & Holmes (BMJ 2015) – posit that whole genome sequencing (WGS) will transform molecular epidemiology:
 1. High-throughput, rapid, accurate and affordable,
 2. Compare data locally/nationally/internationally,
 3. Link genomics with clinical and epidemiological metadata.

Transform outbreak management!

Sacks-Davis et al. PloS One 2012

- Phylogenetic clustering is associated with social networks and injecting relationships

Jacka et al. Hepatology 2014

- 1/3 of PWID in the VIDUS cohort demonstrated phylogenetic clustering

Sacks-Davis et al. PLoS One 2013 and JID 2015

- Reinfections and spontaneous clearance

Bretana et al. 2015

- Ongoing HCV transmissions amongst high-risk prisoners (HITS-p team)

Lamoury et al. 2015

- Genomic region used is important for transmission cluster discrimination

Jacka et al. submitted 2015

- Young injectors are seeded from many transmission events between HCV-infected older and younger injectors



7 Things Molecular Epidemiology Can do for You!

1. Recreate the transmission dynamics of an outbreak without fully knowing the traditional surveillance epidemiology
2. Determine if infection is incident or prevalent & time the infection
3. Determine transmission directionality: privacy implications
4. Determine if a transmission cluster is expanding or stable
5. Identify: mixed infection; treatment relapse vs reinfection
6. Detect Resistance Associated Variants (RAVs)
7. Study early infection events – vaccine design?

Cloning – precise – labour intensive

GACTGACT
 GACT**TTT**ACT

PCR-based – average sequence – miss admixtures if <20%

GACTGACT
 GACT**TTT**ACT
 GACTGACT

NGS of a single PCR product – detect “all” the variants in the sample + artifacts

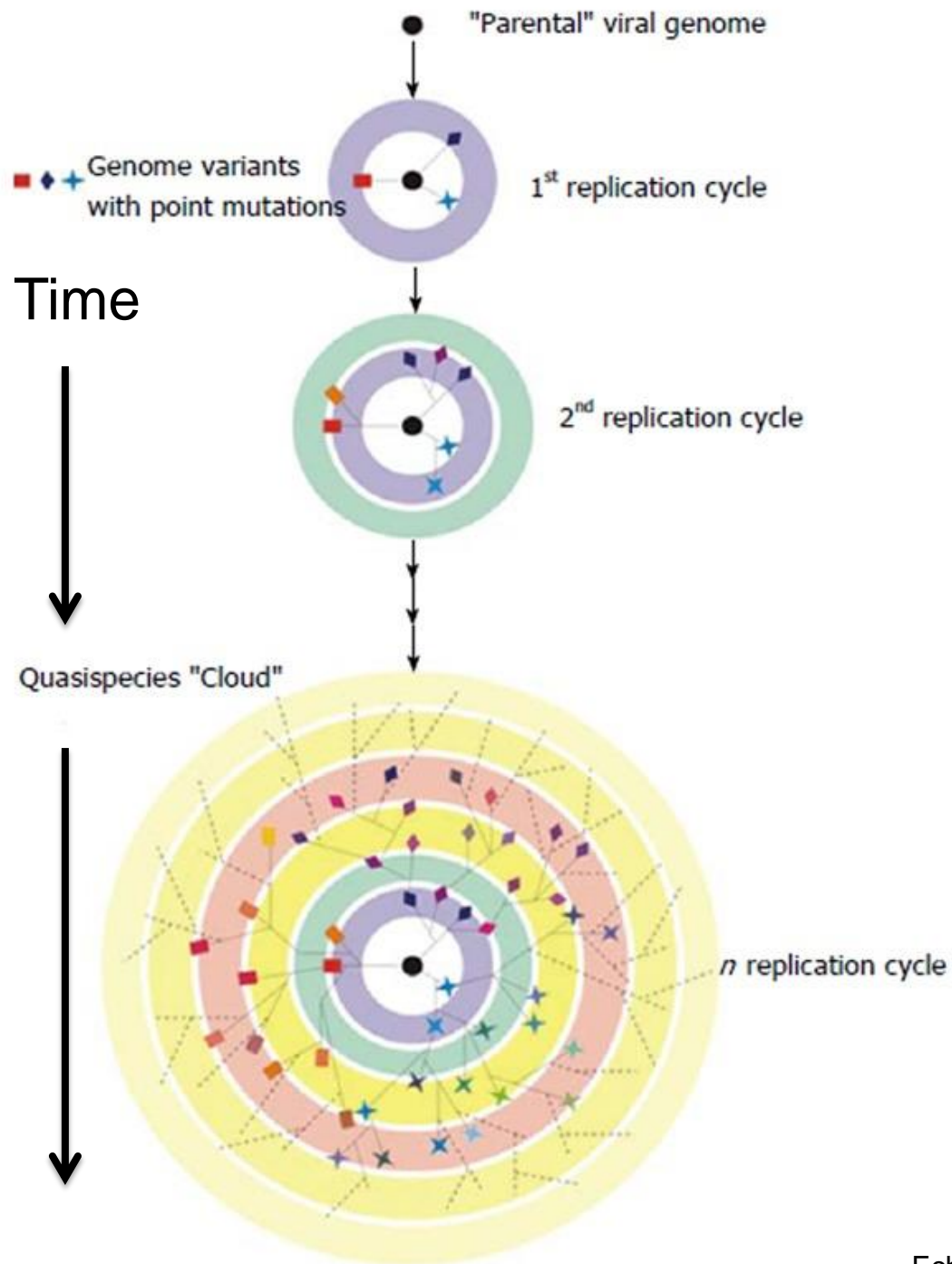
GACTGACT
 GACT**TTT**ACT
 GACTGACT
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 GACT**TTT**ACT
 GACTGACT

WGS (NGS) – sequencing multiple fragments – assembled by computer – “all” variants + artifacts

GACTG ACT
 GACT**TTT**A T
 GAC TGACT
 GACT GACT
 GACT**TTT** ACT
 GACTGAC T

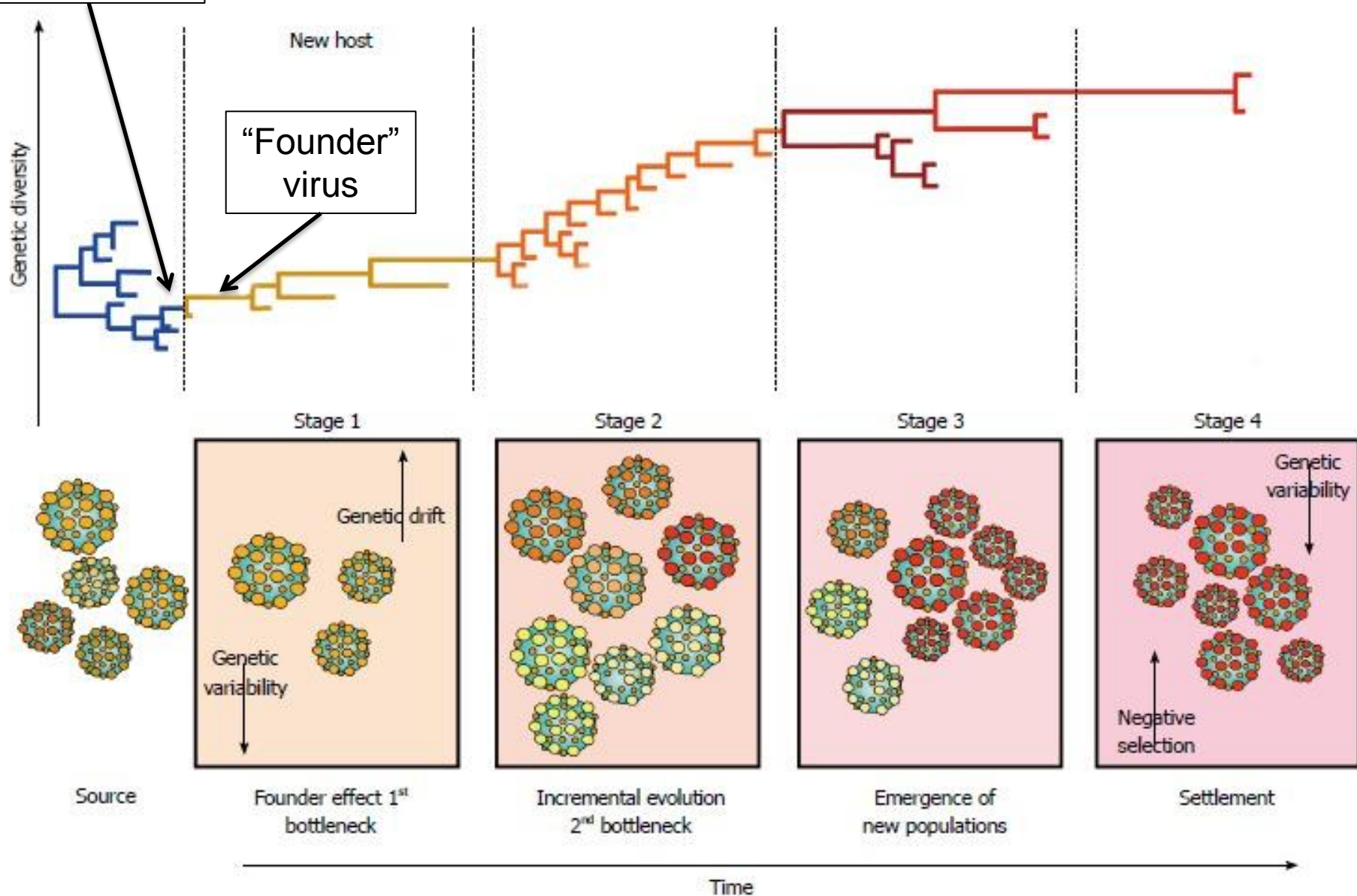
Long read whole genome – early days - errors

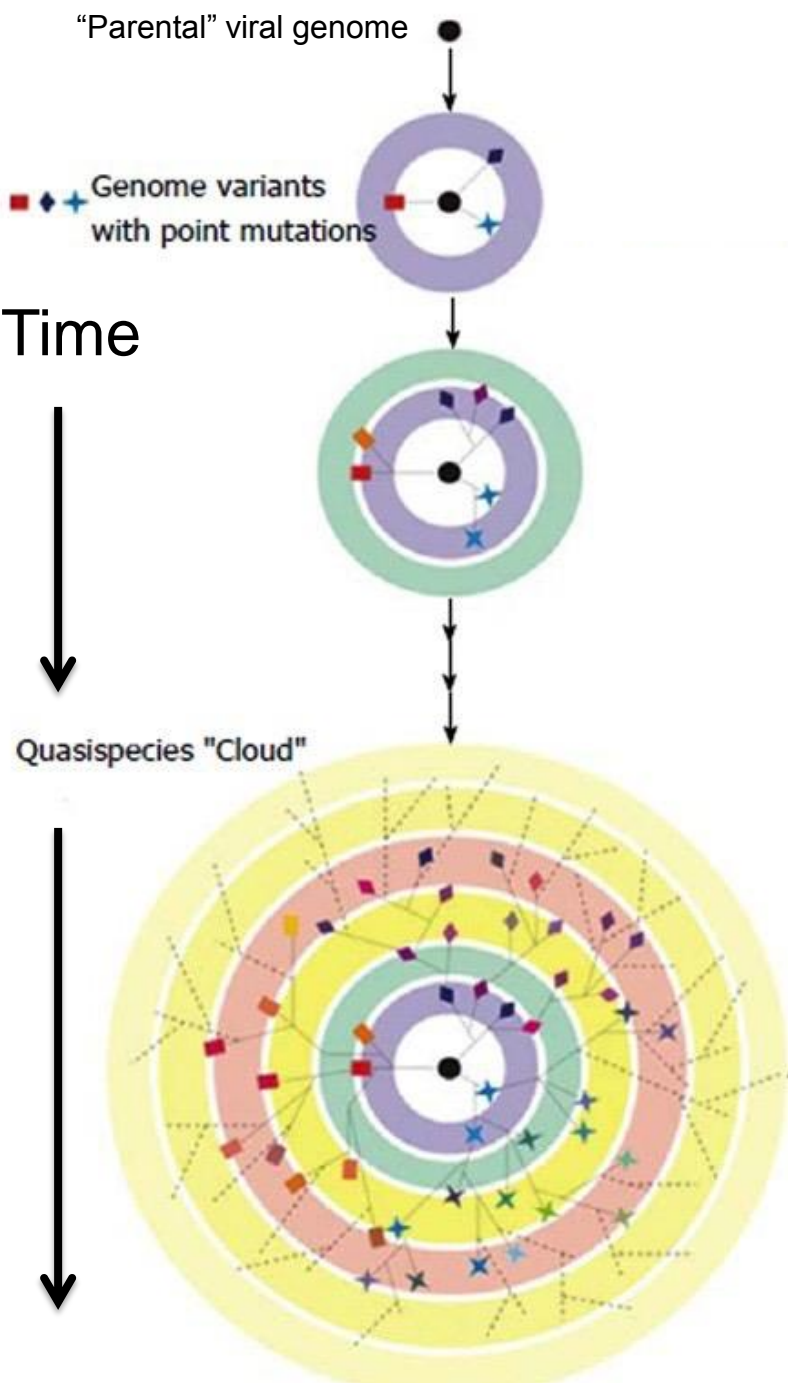
GACTGACT
 GACT**TTT**ACT



Molecular evolution of HCV within a given host

Source
"Transmitter"

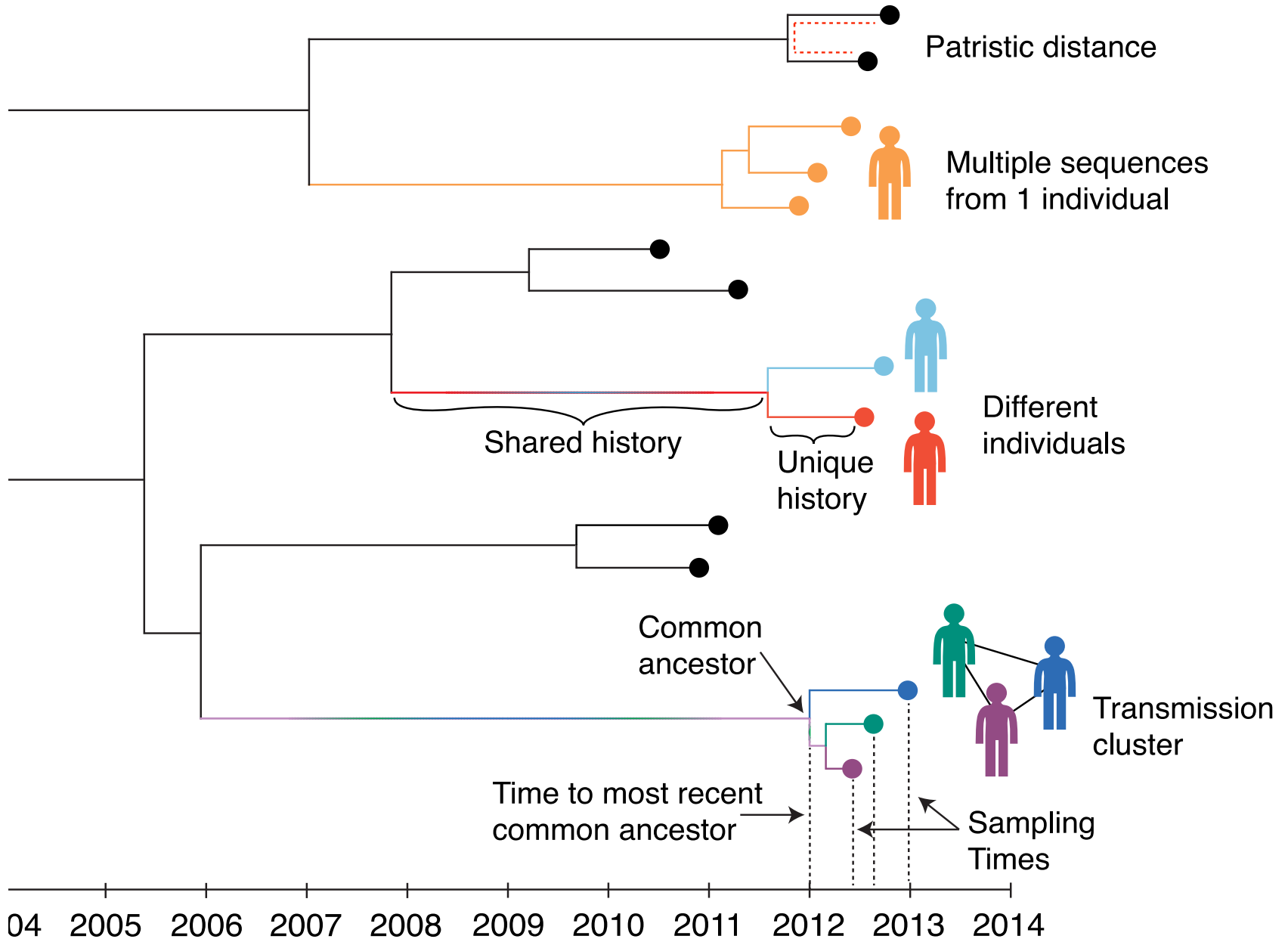




- Molecular epidemiology can characterize the transmission history of an epidemic
- Genetic diversity and transmissions unfold at the same time
- People → similar sequences → transmission cluster

Phylogenetics is the study of phylogeny

For viruses – understanding evolutionary history and relationships



Anti-D cohort HCV contaminated Rhogram plasma - Ireland

18-20 years

3-7 years

Time A

(Inoculation)

1977-1978

>500 women

received Anti-D immunoglobulin
from a single acutely
HCV-infected source

B

Time B

1995-1997

Cohort subject

plasma

isolated

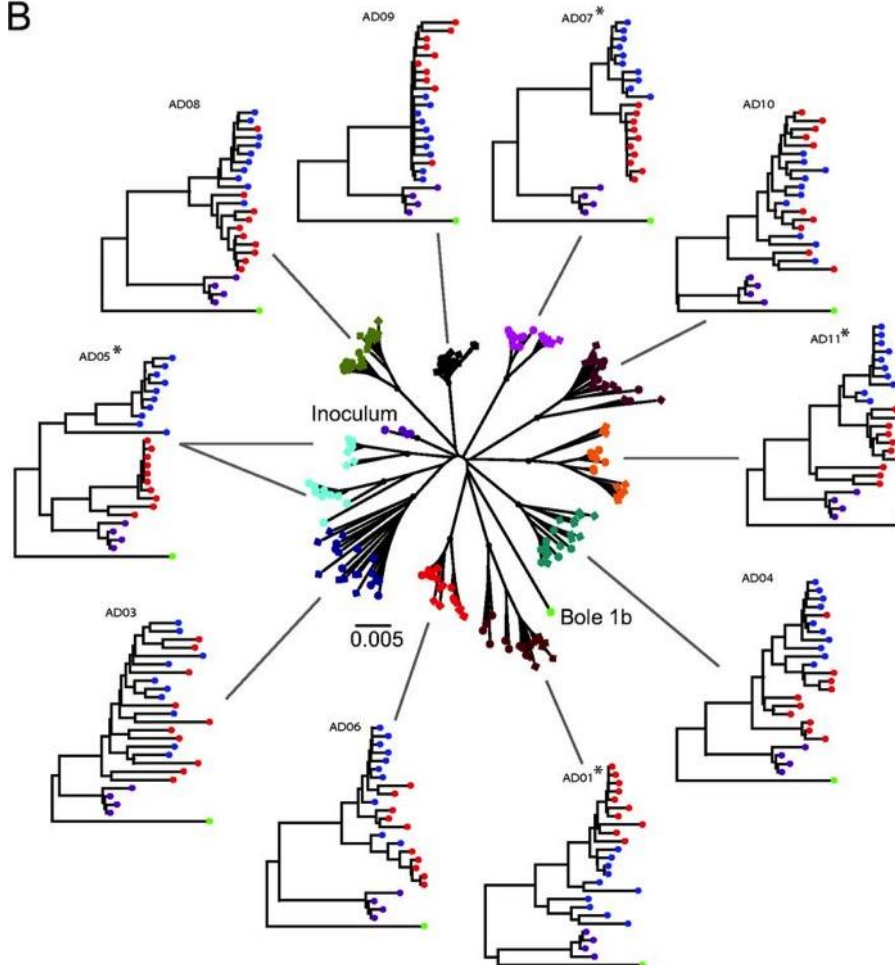
Time C

1999-2002

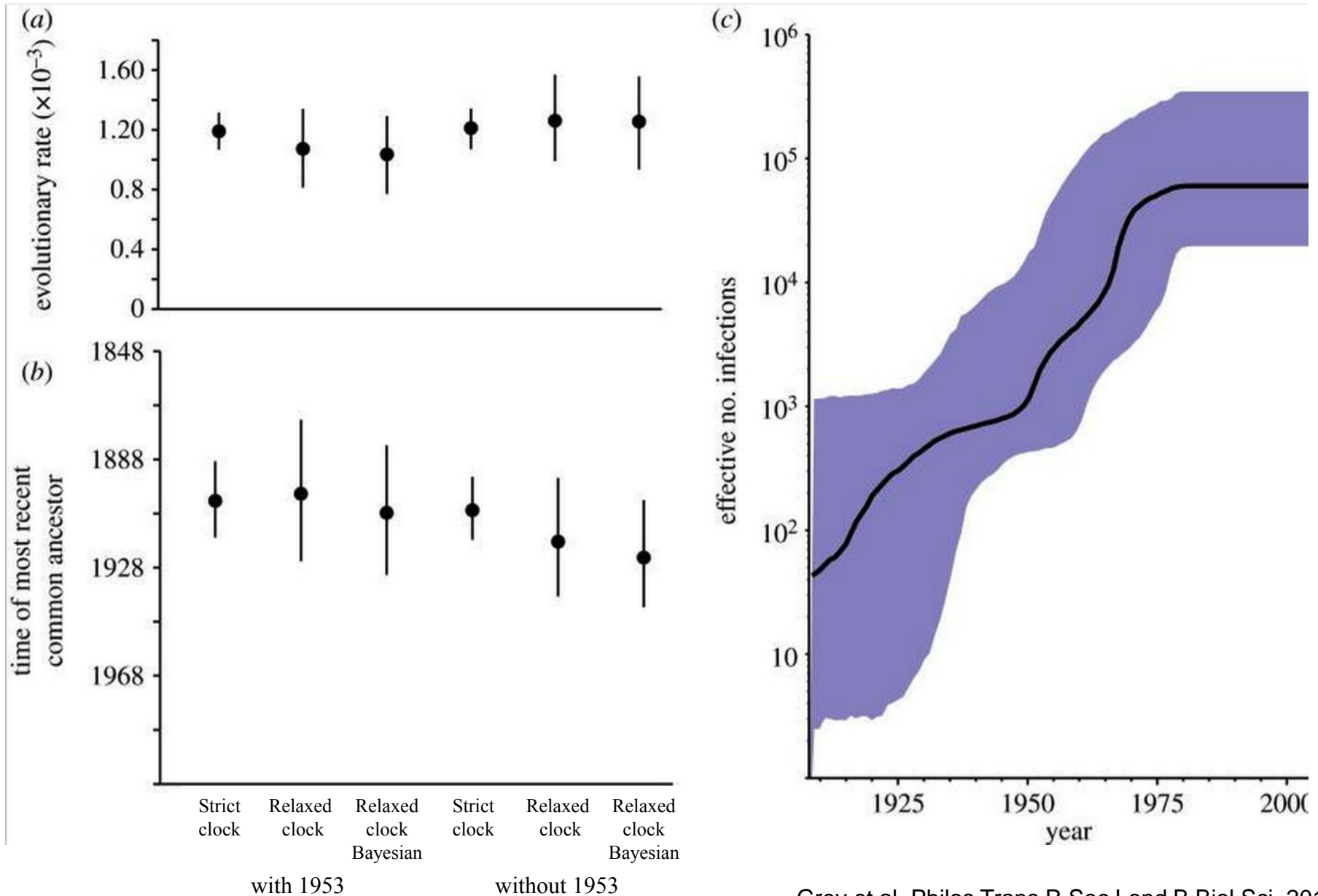
Cohort subject

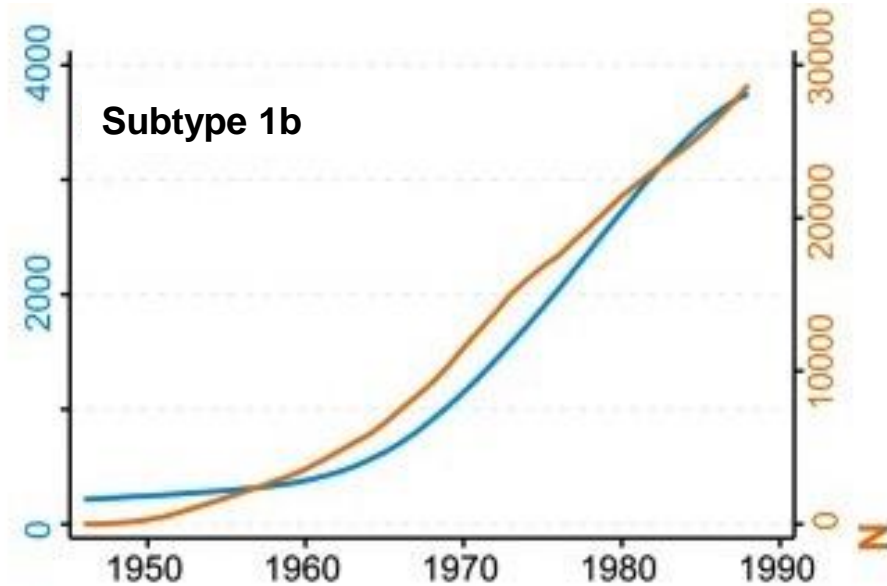
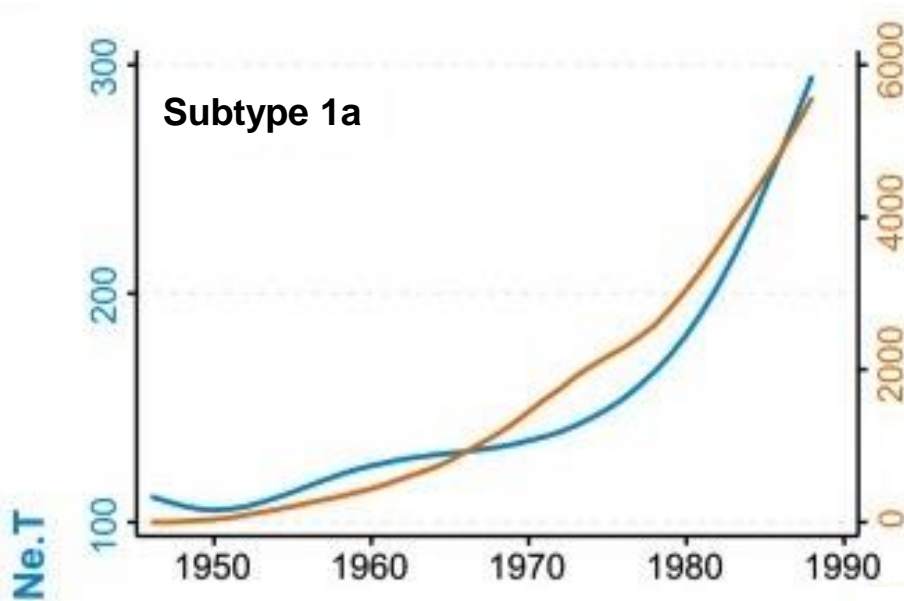
plasma

isolated



1. Recreate the transmission dynamics of an outbreak without fully knowing the traditional surveillance epidemiology





Magiorkinis et al. (PloS PLoS Comput Biol 2013)

- Molecular phylodynamics can be integrated with traditional epidemiology to estimate transmission dynamics in a HCV viral epidemic
- NeT using genetic data (Bayesian skyline plot) versus N (estimated from surveillance data using back calculation)
- Plots were truncated after 1990 - to characterize HCV transmission prior the virus' discovery in 1989

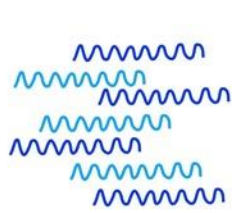


Cohort vs population samples?

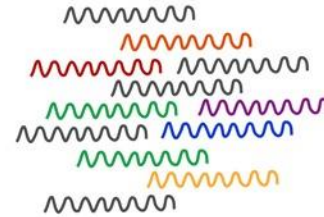
As of August 9, 2015 at the BCCDC, Vancouver, Canada:

- 1,472,830 individuals tested for anti-HCV
- 77,010 anti-HCV+
 - Includes 8,736 seroconverters
 - 4,314 within 24 months

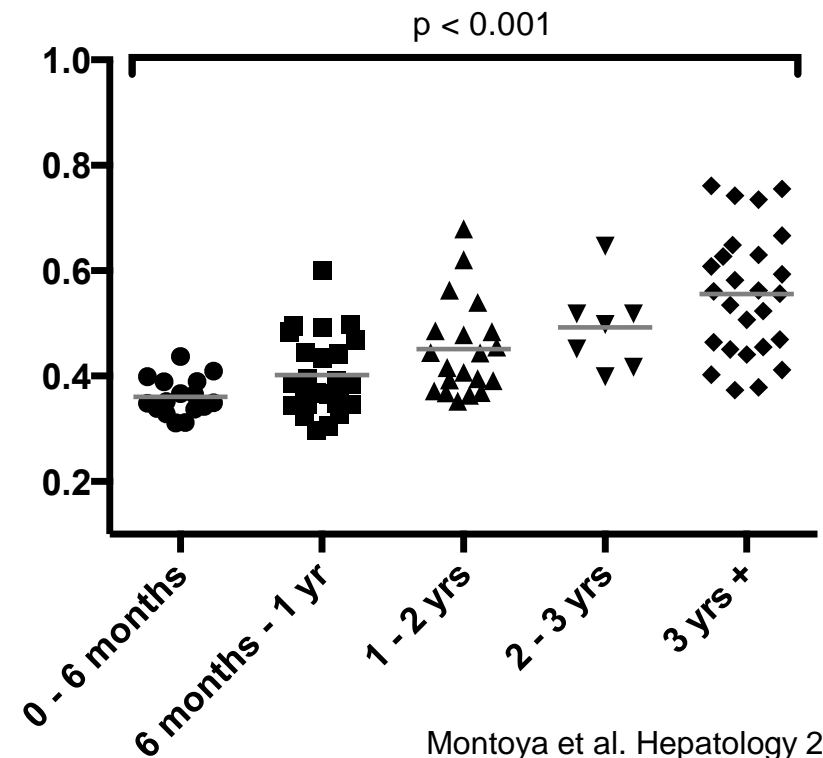
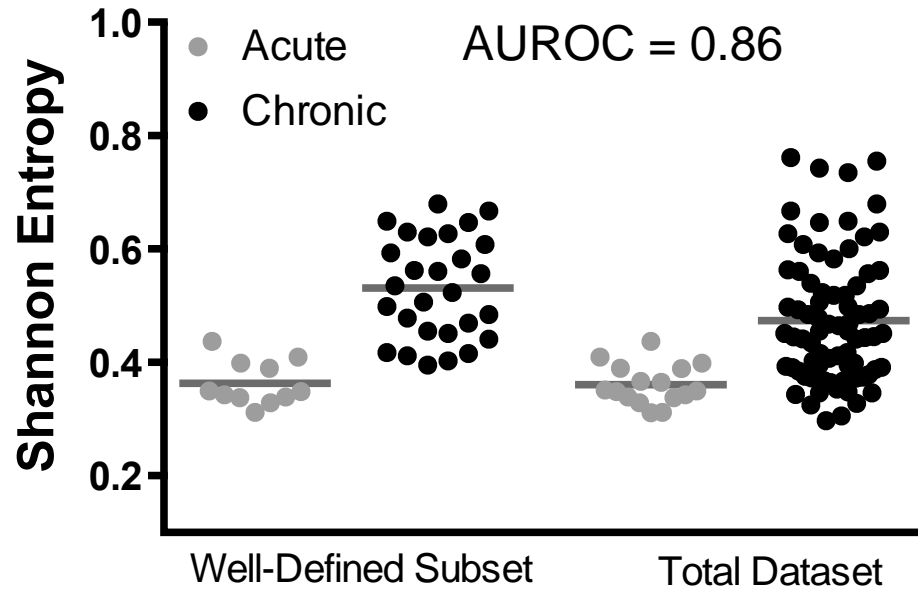
2. Determine if Infection is Incident or Prevalent & Time the Infection - Diversity



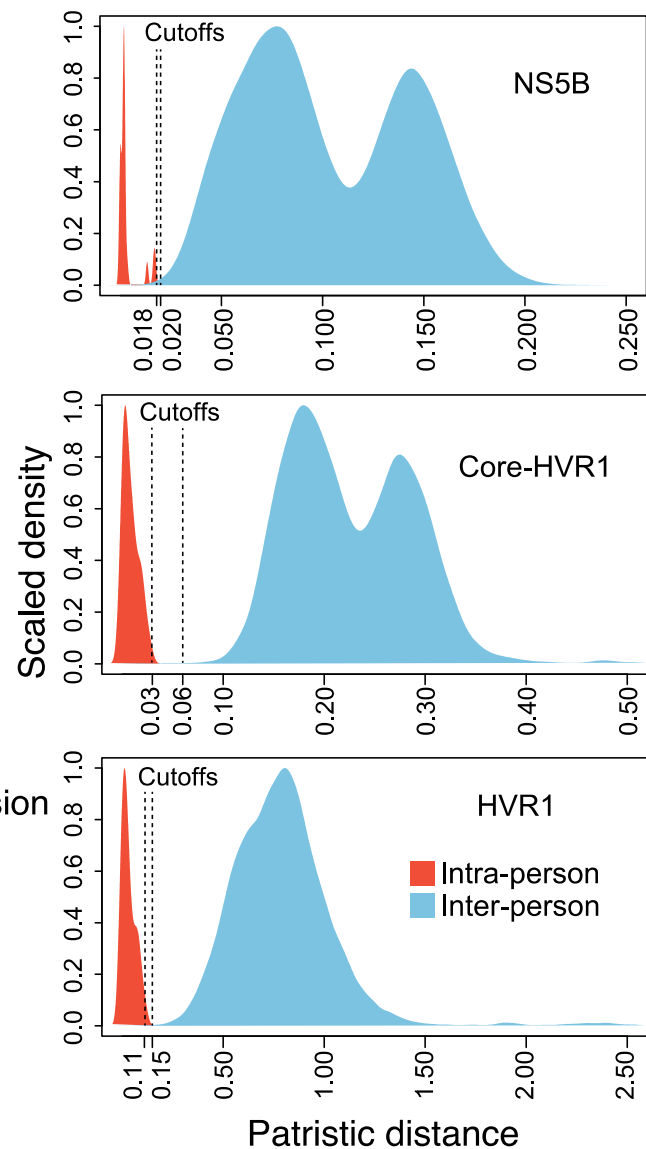
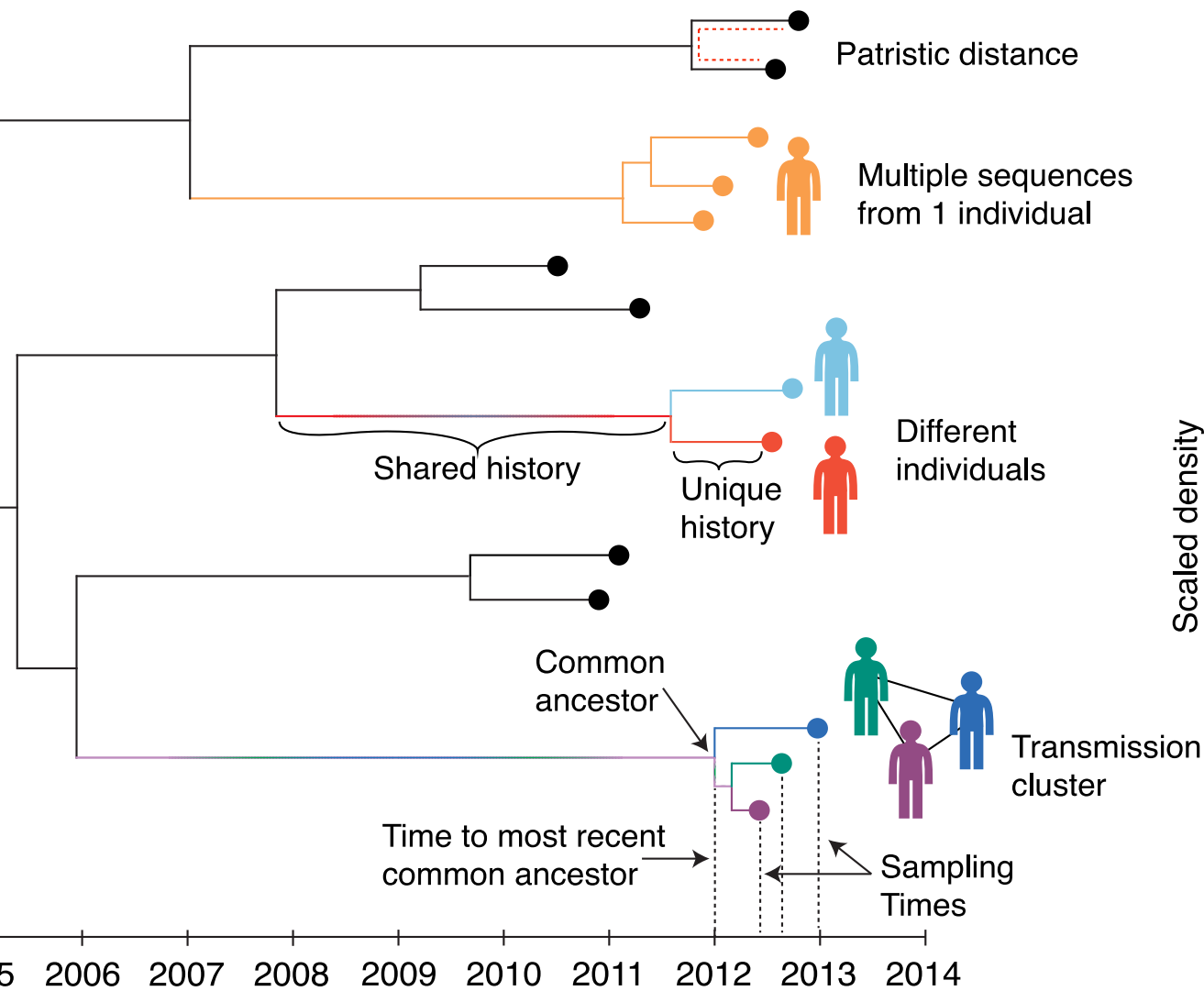
Low diversity → New Infection



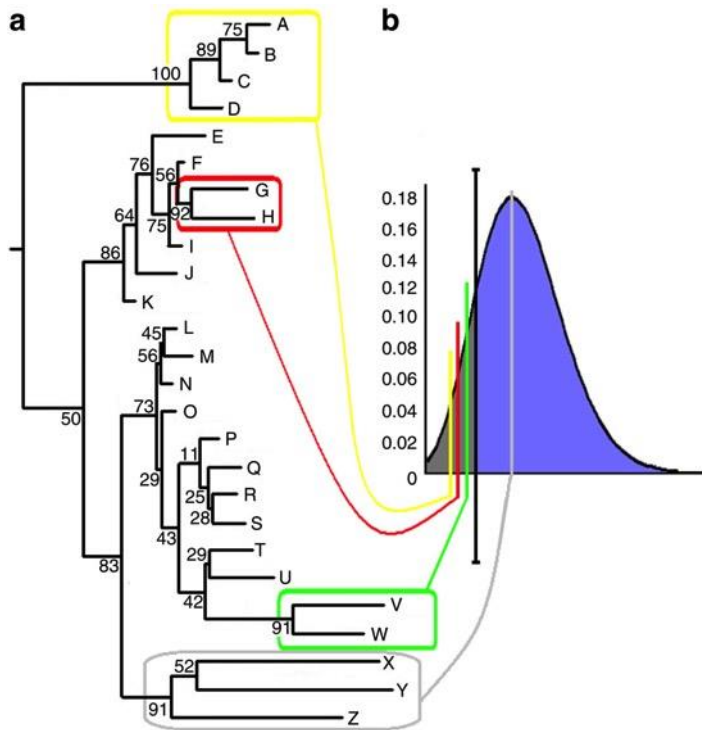
High diversity → Old infection



Determine if the Infection is Incident or Prevalent: Use Temporal Sequence Relatedness to Time the Infection

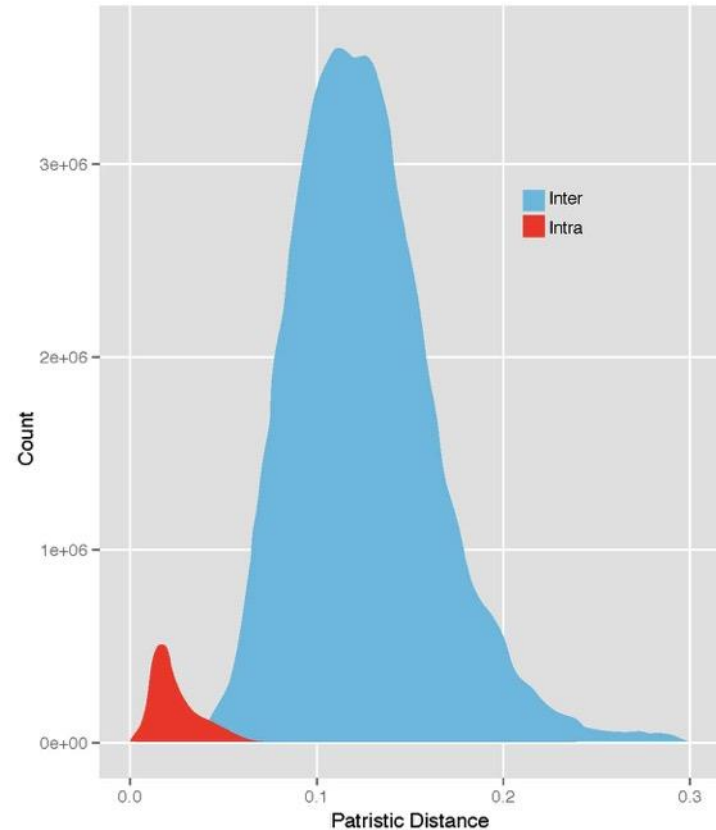


Greater the Depth of Sequencing = Better Characterization of Sequence Relatedness Over Time



Looks at a distribution of cluster relatedness - cloning

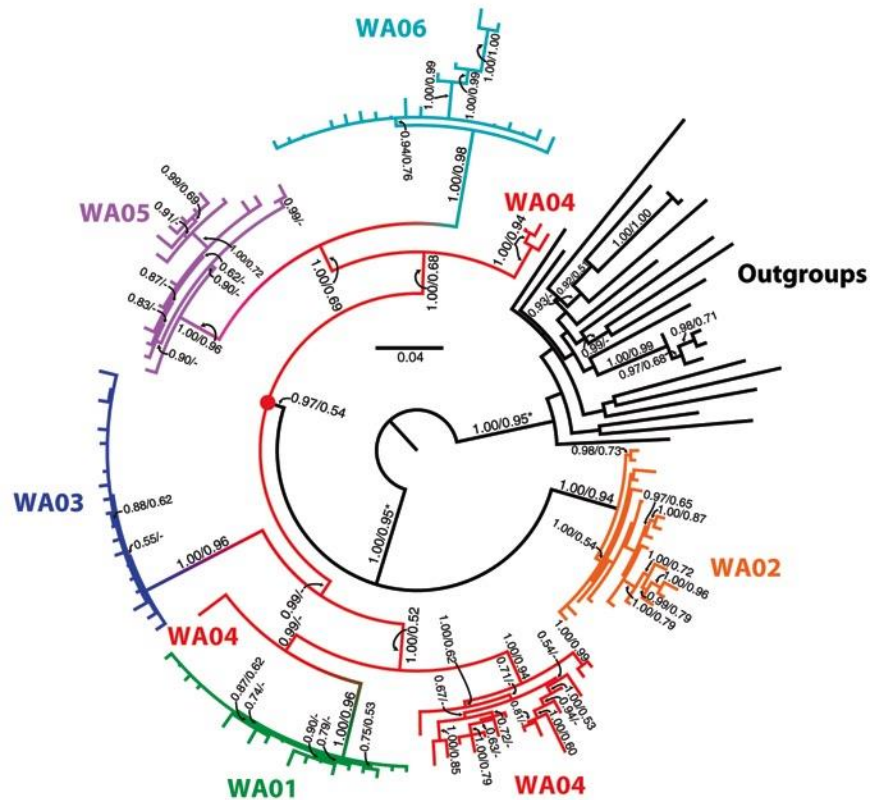
Prosperi et al. Nat Com 2011



Distribution of pairwise patristic distances for PCR product NGS from the NS5b derived from 32,641 reads (n=93). The intra-individual patristic distances are shown in red and the inter-individual patristic distances in blue.

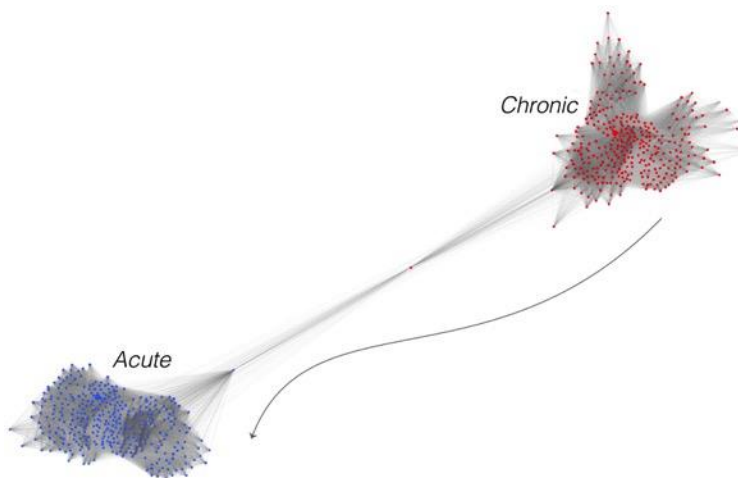
(Montoya – unpublished data)

3. Determine Transmission Directionality: Implications on Privacy?



- Superior Court of the State of Washington ruled transmission direction can be established from blinded case samples
- The close paraphyly relationship of viral sequences was used to convict an HIV index case for 17 counts of first degree assault
 - paraphyletic relationships - source viral sequences are more closely related to all recipient sequences than to other source sequences
- Sentenced to 2,137 months

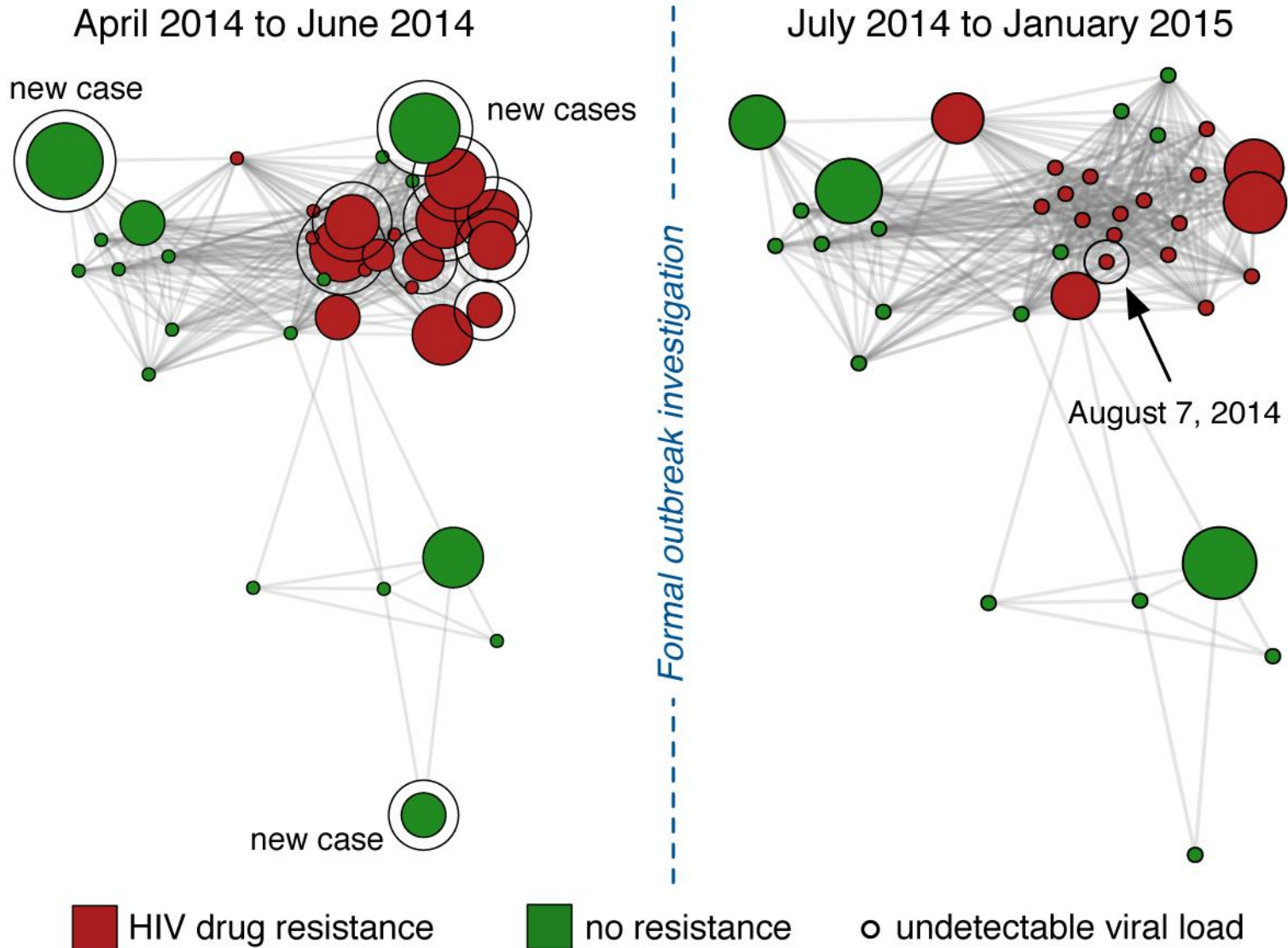
Scadutoa et al., PNAS, 2010



- Use a combination of sequence diversity in the sample to determine if the infection is acute or chronic
- Combine with sequence relationship to demonstrate directionality (Montoya – unpublished data)

4. Determine if a transmission cluster is expanding or stable

Cluster 55: an 'actionable' cluster



Sequence Ebola in real time?

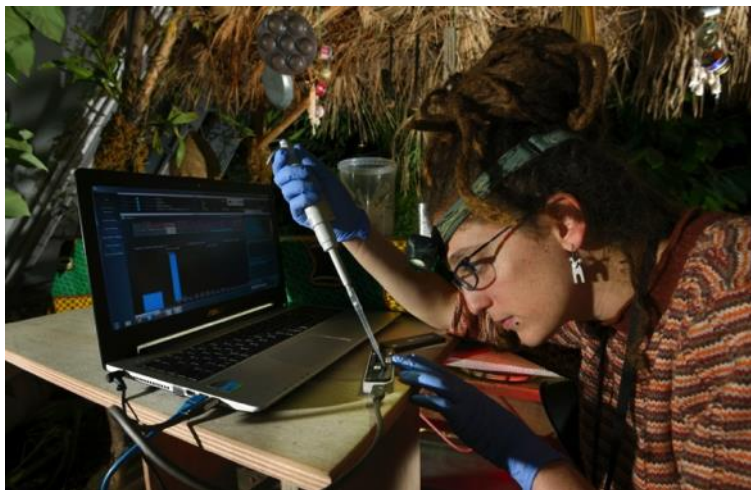
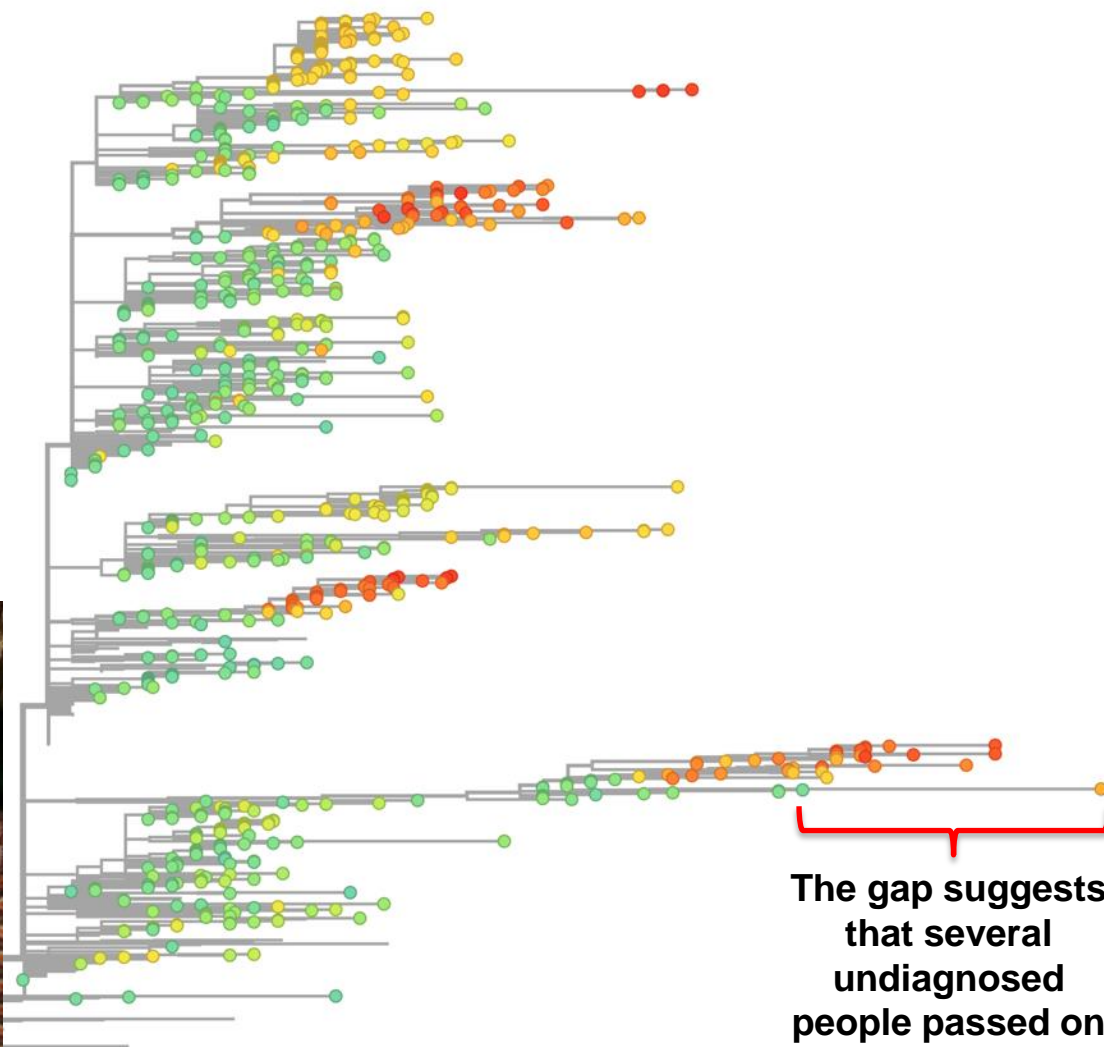
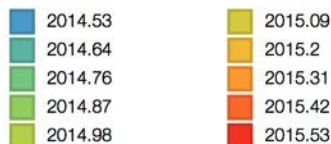
There's an app for that!

<http://ebola.nextflu.org>

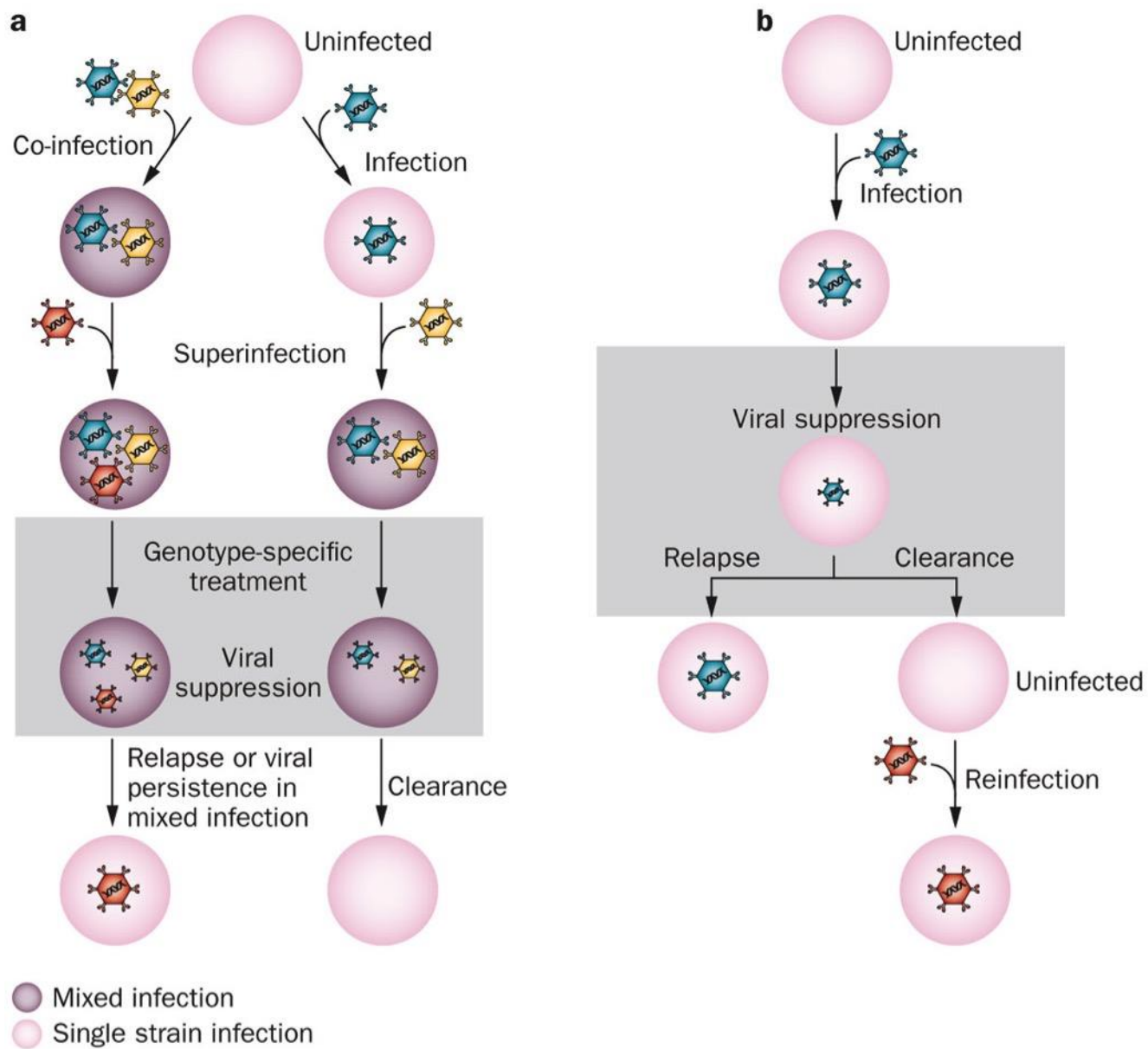
Real-time analysis of Ebola virus evolution



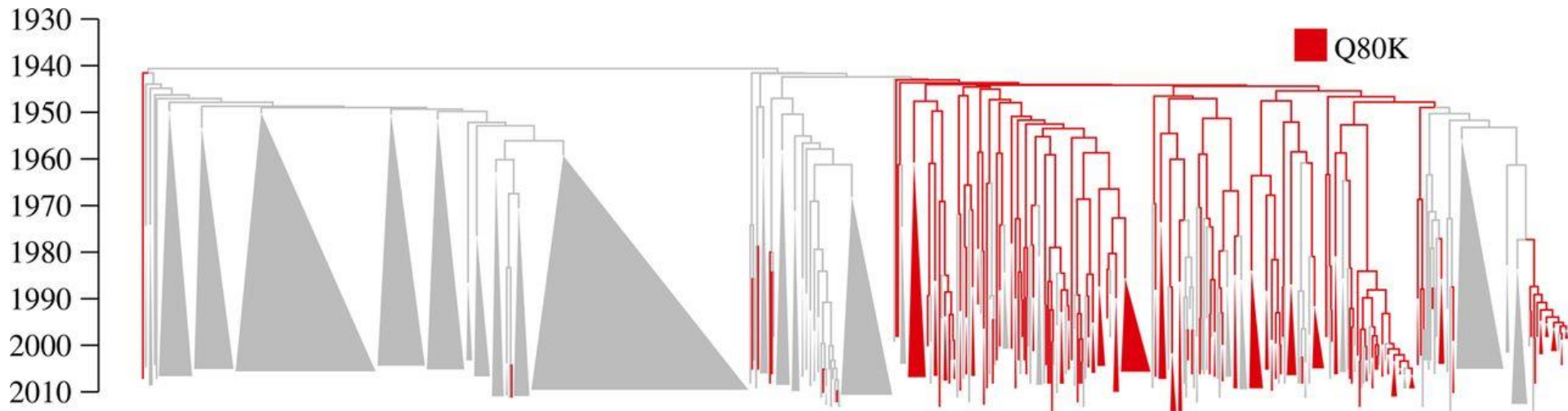
Date



5. Identify: Mixed Infection; Treatment Relapse vs Reinfection



6. Detect Resistance Associated Variants (RAVs)



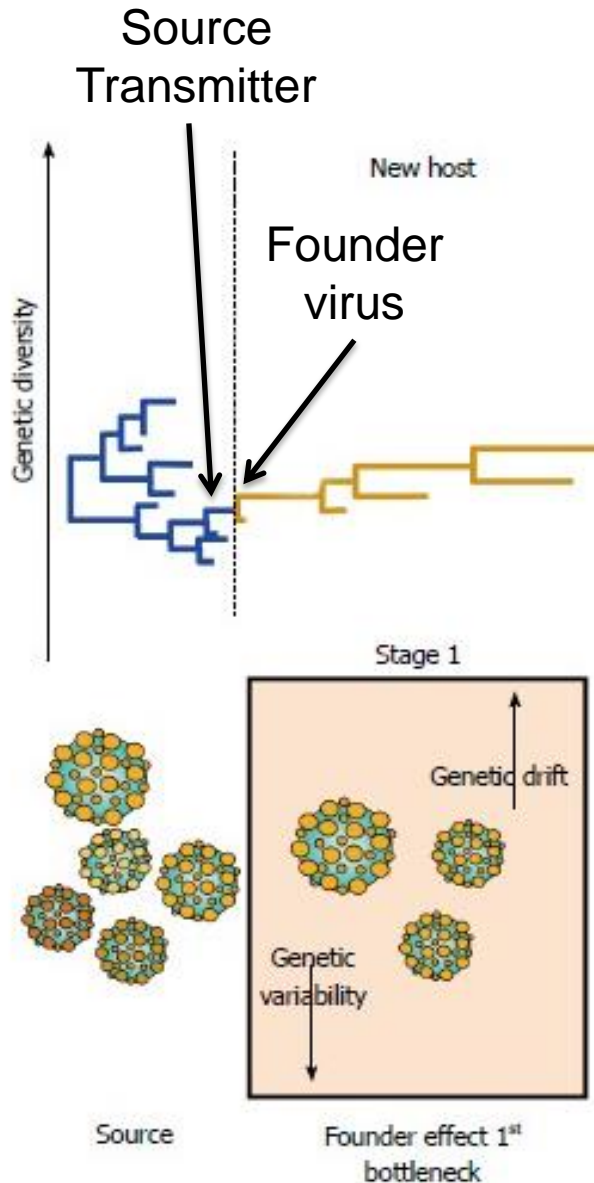
- Global phylogeny of hepatitis C virus showing lineages possessing the Q80K polymorphism in nonstructural protein 3 (NS3)
 - The Q80K polymorphism has been associated with reduced susceptibility to the direct acting antiviral inhibitor simeprevir
 - Occurs predominantly in HCV geno 1a, high prevalence in the United States
 - 96% of HCV infections carrying Q80K descend from a single lineage which occurred around the 1940s in the United States, implying that this polymorphism is highly transmissible

Position	Variant	HCV region	EC50 [fold-change] ¹ (subtype)	Resistance Level	DAA	References
Q80	K	NS3	9.3 (1a), 7.7 (1b)	low	SMV	[31]
			3 (1a), 6.5 (1b)		ASV	[32]
			3 (1a)		PTV	[34]
	R	NS3	13 (1a), 6.9 (1b)	low-intermediate	SMV	[31]
			4 (1b)		ASV	[32]
			2 (1a)		PTV	[34]
D168	E	NS3	26 (1a), 43 (1b)	low-intermediate	SMV	[31]
			58 (1a), 78 (1b)		ASV	[32]
			14 (1a), 4 (1b)		PTV	[34]
M28	V	NS5A	1.3 (1a)	intermediate	DCV	[19]
			n.d.		LDV	n.d.
			58 (1a)		OMV	[18]
Q30	H	NS5A	1477 (1a)	low-high	DCV	[19]
			73 (1a)		LDV	[21]
			3 (1a)		OMV	[36]
L31	M	NS5A	341 (1a), 3 (1b)	low-high	DCV	[19]
			140 (1a), 2.5–100 (1b)		LDV	[21, 22]
			2 (1a), 0.9 (1b)		OMV	[33]
	F	NS5A	5 (1b)	low	DCV	[20]
			n.d.		LDV	n.d.
			10 (1b)		OMV	[18]
Y93	C	NS5A	1864 (1a)	high	DCV	[19]
			327 (1a)		LDV	[21]
			1675 (1a)		OMV	[18]
	F	NS5A	n.d.	low-intermediate	DCV	n.d.
			2.5–100 (1a)		LDV	[22]
			n.d.		OMV	n.d.
	H	NS5A	5432 (1a), 24 (1b)	intermediate-high	DCV	[19]
			3309 (1a), 1319 (1b)		LDV	[21]
			41383 (1a), 77 (1b)		OMV	[36]
N	NS5A	47477 (1a)	high	DCV	[19]	
		>100 (1a)		LDV	[22]	
		66739-fold (1a)		OMV	[18]	
C316	H	NS5B	229 (1b)	high	DSV	[33]
	N	NS5B	5 (1b)	low	DSV	[35]
	Y	NS5B	1472 (1a), 1569 (1b)	high	DSV	[35]
Y448	H	NS5B	975 (1a), 46 (1b)	intermediate-high	DSV	[35]
S556	G	NS5B	30 (1a), 11 (1b)	intermediate	DSV	[35]
	N	NS5B	29 (1a)	intermediate	DSV	[35]
	R	NS5B	261 (1a)	high	DSV	[33]
C316N+S556G		NS5B	38 (1b)	intermediate	DSV	[33]

Personalized medicine based on pathogen genome

EC50 values of baseline RAVs within NS3, NS5A and NS5B

7) Study Early Infection Events – Vaccine Design?



- Characterize ‘transmitter/founder’ viruses at the earliest infection time points
- Full length molecular clones responsible for initiating hepatocyte infection and eliciting the initial immune responses
- Strategy to identify drivers of the early immune response & potential conserved epitopes for vaccine development

Molecular Epidemiology of the Future

1st Generation "Dore-Bot"

Not only what virus you have, but:

- 1) Determines the transmission dynamics with incomplete surveillance data
- 2) Determines if infection is incident or prevalent and times the infection
- 3) Determines infection directionality - serious privacy implications?
- 4) Identifies transmission clusters needing attention
- 5) Identifies treatment relapses or a reinfection and mixed infections
- 6) Enables personalized drug selections for patients harbouring RAVs
- 7) Determines early infection events and informs vaccine design

188 CM
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INSANE PRICE!
\$1298

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