

AUSTRALIA – BRAZIL

# VIRTUAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

2021 Edition on Covid-19 related research.



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment



CONFAP  
Conselho Nacional das Fundações  
Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa



## Australia-Brazil Research Collaboration: “One Health”

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Australian Government  
Australian Research Council



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



Australian Government  
National Health and  
Medical Research Council

N H M R C

# Yellow Fever in São Paulo, Brazil, 2017-2018

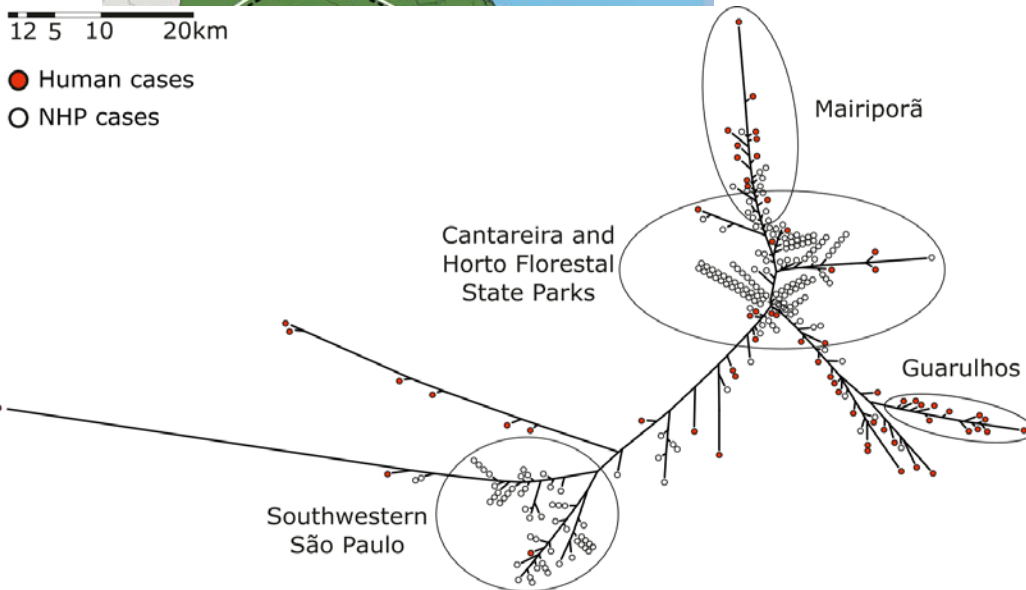
**Largest outbreak** of yellow fever of the 21st century in the Americas started in 2016, with intense circulation in southeastern Brazil, including São Paulo.



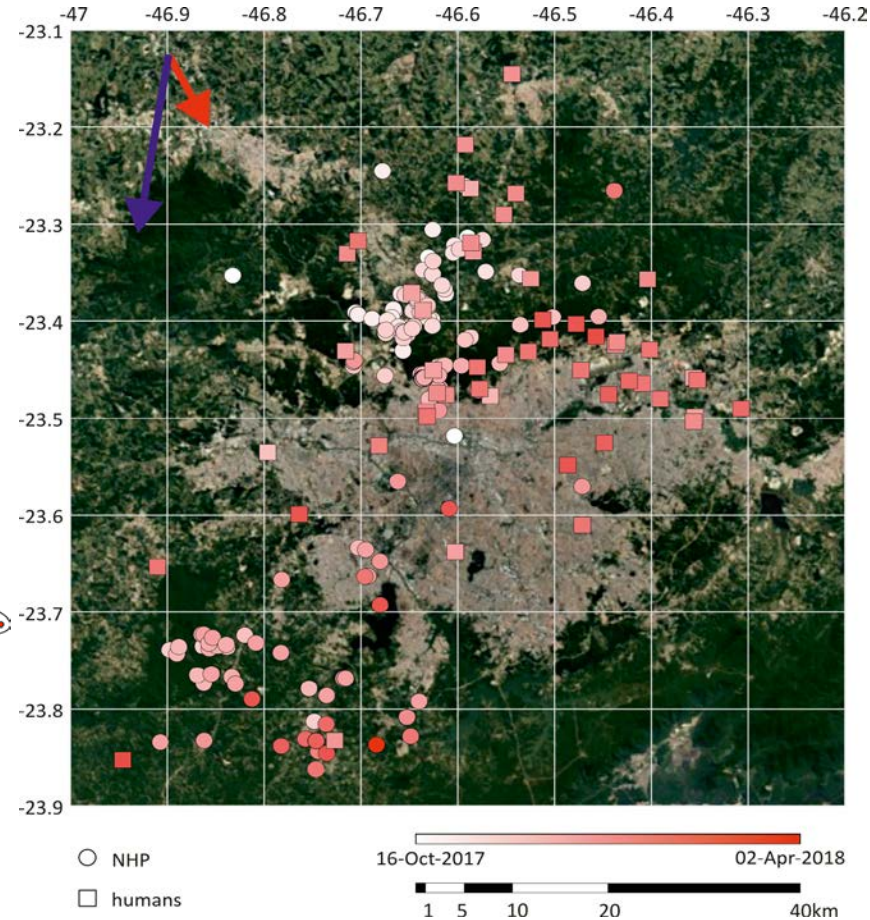
12 5 10 20km

● Human cases

○ NHP cases



area with little  
and towards the  
an spill-over

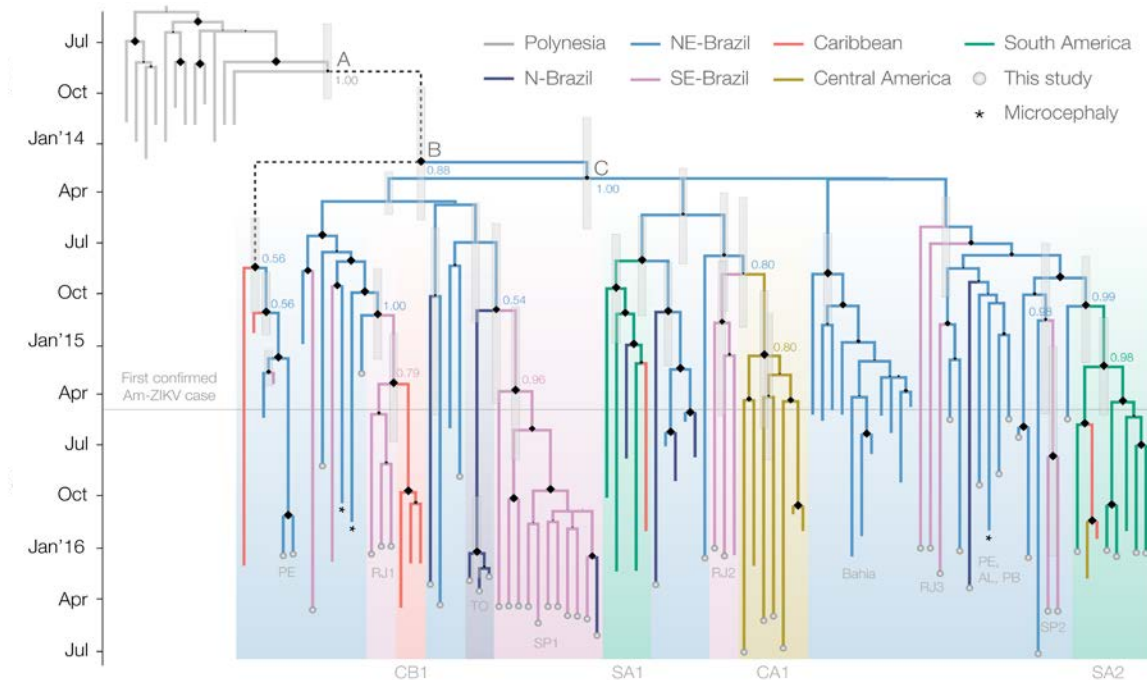
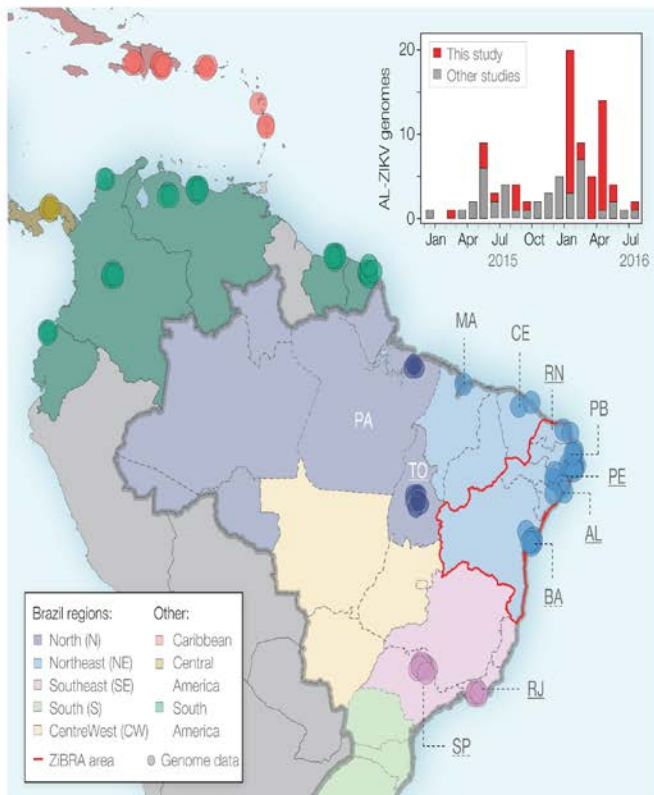


- Virus spread from NHP to human and towards the Atlantic
- Textbook zoonosis and a textbook example of the importance of **One Health**.

# Genomic Tracking of Zika Virus in Brazil



a.



- Phylogeny reveals the duration of pre-detection **cryptic virus transmission**
- Unknown animal reservoir

Faria *et al.* Nature  
**546**, 406-410; 2017.

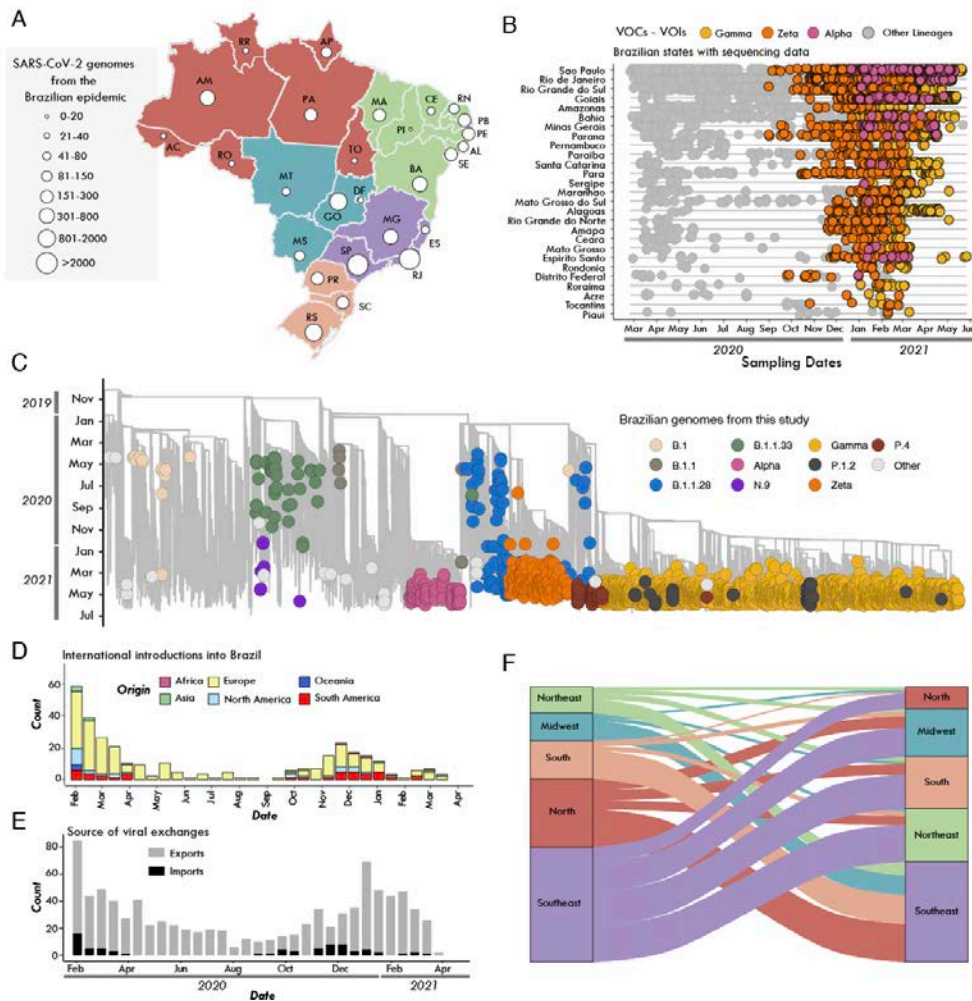


# COVID-19 in Australia and Brazil

## SARS-CoV-2 genomes sequenced (7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2021)

Australia: 180,361 cases; 39,896 virus genomes; 22.12% cases sequenced

Brazil: 21,874,324 cases; 69,522 virus genomes; 0.32% cases sequenced

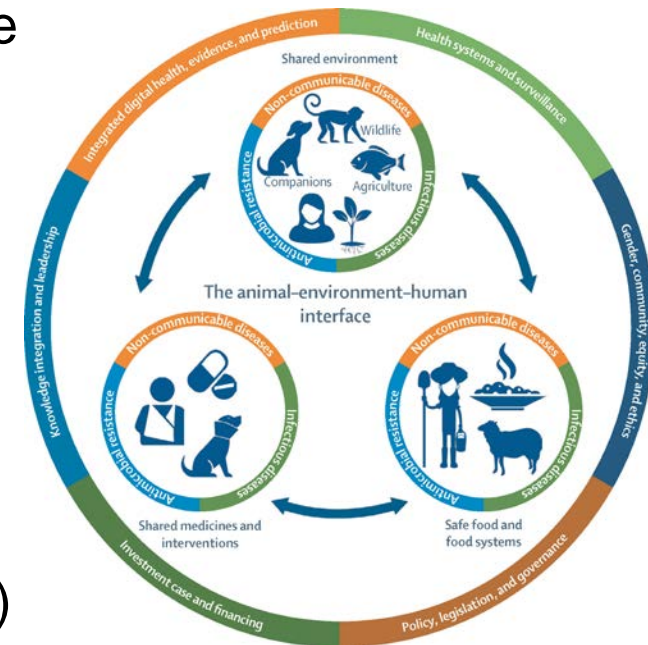


## Evolution of SARS-CoV-2 in Brazil

- Early COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil epidemic characterized by the co-circulation of multiple SARS-CoV-2 lineages, linked to importations predominantly from Europe.
- A lack of effective restriction measures led to the local emergence and international spread of Variants of Concern and of Interest, including Gamma (P.1) and Zeta (P.2).
- Spread from Brazil to other localities.
- Need for widespread and ongoing genomic surveillance in Brazil and the region for pandemic monitoring and following the real-time spread of emerging viruses.

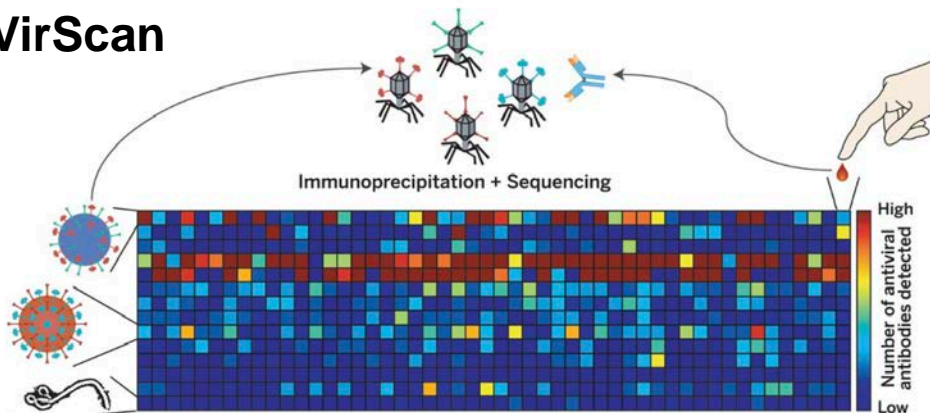
# A Global “Pandemic Radar”

- Active surveillance of people living/working at the **human-animal interface**: wildlife trade and fur farming, in animal production and slaughter, live animal markets, animal hunting/bushmeat, people living around bat roosts, animal carers and animal rescue centres etc.
- Active surveillance of animal mortality events
- Regular immunological surveillance (e.g. VirScan/GIO) and occasional metagenomic surveillance (may need new computational tools)
- Rapid and open data sharing



*The Lancet* 2020, DOI: (10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31027-8)  
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## VirScan



VirScan, or systematic viral epitope scanning, works by displaying bits of protein from more than 1,000 strains of virus. Antibodies in a blood sample latch onto the bits they recognize. Now, scientists have updated VirScan to include the novel coronavirus. Credit: G. Xu et al./*Science* 2015

## SCIENCE FORUM

# A Global Immunological Observatory to meet a time of pandemics

**Abstract** SARS-CoV-2 presents an unprecedented international challenge, but it will not be the last such threat. Here, we argue that the world needs to be much better prepared to rapidly detect, define and defeat future pandemics. We propose that a Global Immunological Observatory and associated developments in systems immunology, therapeutics and vaccine design should be at the heart of this enterprise.

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DANIEL C DOUEK, JEREMY FARRAR AND BRYAN T GRENFELL

# Collaborations:

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## **Zika in Brazil**

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- Nick Loman, Josh Quick (University of Birmingham)
- Luiz Carlos Junior de Alcantara (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz)
- Ester Sabino (University of São Paulo)
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## **SARS-CoV-2 in Brazil**

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