S2 | Methods used to analyse articles

Supporting Information

Methods

In order to assess the research emphasis and approaches used for studying viral host jumps, we focused on four specific viruses: Influenza A (IAV), Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-coV), canine parvovirus (CPV) and Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (VEEV) because these viruses have been: 1) among the most researched on the topic of host jumps, or 2) studied using approaches that we deemed to be extremely fruitful for understanding evolutionary mechanisms of host jumps. We acknowledge that other viruses (e.g., HIV) fall into these categories, and thus emphasize that our goal is not to be comprehensive but to use a few strong examples to point out methodological strengths and weaknesses, data gaps and biases and effective future directions.

Search methodology. We used the Web of Science (WofS) to search for studies that addressed host jumps or changes in host range for each of the four viruses. All searches were conducted on Jan. 20th, 2010 meaning that publications after this date were excluded. Our search query (see below) contained a set of terms that are commonly used in addressing host jumps as well as the name of the specific virus (and variants of this name where necessary). We required that the host jump terms and virus name be in the WofS "Topic" category which includes titles, abstracts and keywords. We refined each search by only selecting journal articles. We emphasize that our search results are not meant to be absolutely quantitative but should be regarded as a sample of the studies that address host jumps. This approach allows us to draw conclusions about the relative effort dedicated towards collecting different types of data and addressing evolutionary hypotheses, which are our goals. Our search query was: (TS=("host jump*" OR "host switch*" OR ("host species" SAME (different OR novel OR new OR alternat*)) OR ("host range" SAME (expan* OR decreas* OR increas* OR change* OR shift)) OR "host specialization" OR "host specificity" OR "cross-species" OR "host transfer" OR "cross-host" OR "species barriers" OR "species tropism" OR "animal-to-human" OR "interspecies trans*" OR "inter-species trans*" OR "zoonotic transm*" OR "host radiation" OR spillover OR "spill over" OR xenotrop*) AND TS=(virus name)).

Criteria for paper selection. We screened the final set of host jump papers for each virus to eliminate inappropriate hits and to subdivide the relevant papers into 3 categories for further analysis. The following papers were eliminated: review articles, book chapters, papers that did not address host range change or host jumps, papers that did not address the specified virus or papers that were in languages other than English, French or German (languages in which the authors are competent). Papers in the final set were scored as (see column Supp. Table 1, column 3): 1) 0 for papers that address host range change or host jumps but do not collect data that would be relevant for testing evolutionary hypotheses, 2) 1 for papers that collect relevant data for addressing evolutionary hypotheses but they do not explicitly test an evolutionary hypothesis nor mention evolutionary processes in the abstract, and 3) 2 for papers that collect data that address evolutionary mechanisms of host range change or host jumps. We classified data as being relevant to addressing evolutionary hypotheses if the study included genetic or phenotypic viral data.

Paper review. Papers in the 0 category were not analyzed further except for being tallied as part of the denominator representing the total set of papers addressing host range change or host jumps. For 1 papers, only the virus type, broad scope of the sampling, type of data and approach were recorded (first 4 sections of Supp. Table 1) abstracts were recorded from information in the abstracts. For 2 papers, the entire paper was used to fill out the data in all of Supp. Table 1. By tallying the number of papers in each category, we calculated the effort on addressing evolutionary hypotheses relative to total effort on host

jumps (2 / 0 + 1 + 2), the effort on addressing evolutionary hypotheses out of total data that are relevant to evolutionary hypotheses (2 / 1 + 2), and the effort on collecting evolutionary-type data relative to total host jump data (2 + 1 / 0 + 1 + 2).

References

Influenza^{1-49,50-72,2,44,63,73-152}; SARS-coV^{66,87,153-188}, CPV¹⁸⁹⁻²¹³; VEEV²¹⁴⁻²²⁸

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