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## VIE ET MORT DES ÉPIDÉMIES





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## The Life Cycle of the Epidemic

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The emergence of infectious diseases is a phenomenon that is part of the very logic of life itself.

"New diseases" seem to keep arising out of nowhere to threaten humanity. But actually, as the authors show us, the emergence of diseases (parasite-borne, plagues) is simply one of the logical outcomes of life itself. While their total eradication may be impossible, we can make sure we are well prepared for a struggle unlikely to disappear. Professor Patrice Debré is head of immunology at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. Virologist Jean-Paul Gonzalez is Director general of the International Medical Research Centre of Franceville, Gabon.