



[Dr. Nathan Wolfe](#)
Founder [Global Viral](#)
Stanford Visiting Professor
Issue Area: Viral Pandemics

- Mission: Global Viral's mission is to promote understanding, exploration and stewardship of the microbial world.
- 2008 Seed money to start Global Viral provided by The Skoll Foundation and Google
- 2011 Time Magazine [100 Most Influential People in the World](#)
- 2013 National Geographic Emerging Explorer

Armed with blood samples, high-tech tools and a small army of fieldworkers, Nathan Wolfe hopes to re-invent pandemic control – and reveal hidden secrets of the planet's dominant life form: the virus. Using genetic sequencing, needle-haystack research, and dogged persistence (crucial to getting spoilage-susceptible samples through the jungle and to the lab), Nathan Wolfe has proven what was science-fiction conjecture only a few decades ago – not only do viruses jump from animals to humans, but they do so all the time. Along the way Wolfe has discovered several new viruses, and is poised to discover many more.

Wolfe's research has turned the field of epidemiology on its head, and attracted interest from philanthropists at Google.org and the Skoll foundation. Better still, the research opens the door to preventing epidemics before they happen, sidelining them via early-warning systems and alleviating the poverty from which easy transmission emerges. Wolfe has been awarded more than \$40 million dollars in funding from a diverse array of sources including The U.S. Department of Defense, Google.org and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He is a Fulbright fellow and was awarded the prestigious NIH Director's Pioneer Award. Wolfe is currently a National Geographic Emerging Explorer and was named one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders. He was recognized as one of Popular Science's 'Brilliant 10' and Rolling Stone's 'Top 100 Agents of Change.' He serves on the editorial board of EcoHealth, Scientific American, and is a member of DARPA's Defense Science Research Council.

Book authored by Wolfe: [The Viral Storm: The Dawn of a New Pandemic Age](#)

“Many people on our planet right now, despair, and they think we've reached a point where we've discovered most of the things. I'm telling you right now: please don't despair”

Nathan Wolfe

[Read more](#)

More about Dr. Nathan Wolfe and Global Viral

- National Geographic Traveler [interview](#) with Wolfe
- TED Talk 5/12 “[What's Left to Explore](#)”
- The Stanford Daily “[Exterminator of Viruses](#)”
- Wolfe's 2013 National Geographic Article on “[Microbes](#)”
- Wolfe's [website](#)
- NPR Interview 2/13 with “[The Indiana Jones of Virus Hunting](#)”
- [Twitter](#)