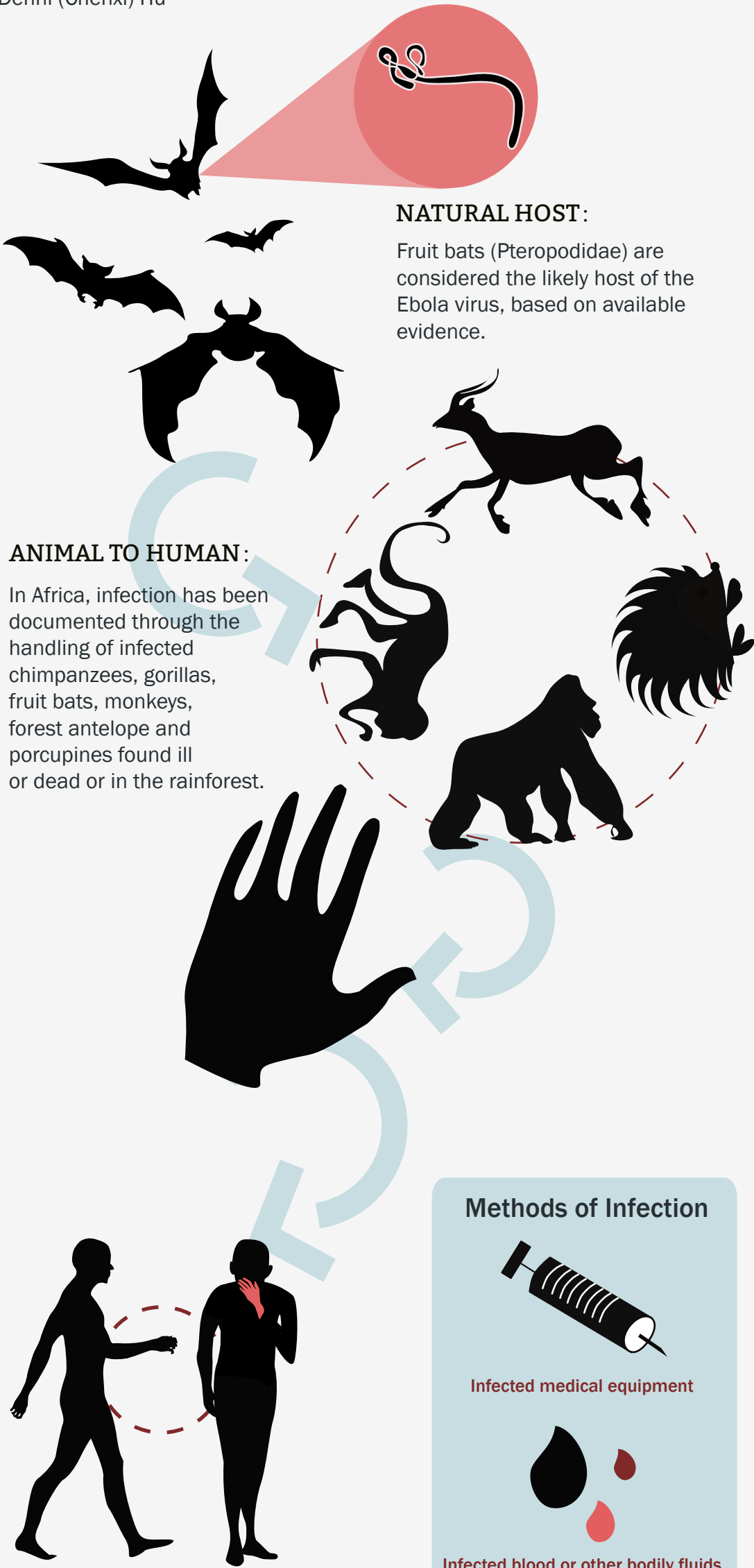


EBOLA: CHAINS OF TRANSMISSION

By Denni (Chenxi) Hu



NATURAL HOST:

Fruit bats (*Pteropodidae*) are considered the likely host of the Ebola virus, based on available evidence.

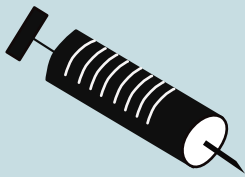
ANIMAL TO HUMAN:

In Africa, infection has been documented through the handling of infected chimpanzees, gorillas, fruit bats, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines found ill or dead or in the rainforest.

HUMAN TO HUMAN:

Infection occurs from **direct contact** through broken skin or mucous membranes with the blood, or other bodily fluids or secretions (stool, urine, saliva, semen) of infected people. Infection can also occur if broken skin or mucous membranes of a healthy person come into contact with environments that have become contaminated with an Ebola patient's infectious fluids such as soiled clothing, bed linen, or used needles. Ebola is **not spread in the air**.

Methods of Infection



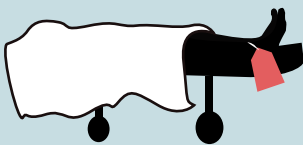
Infected medical equipment



Infected blood or other bodily fluids



Tainted meat



Contact with infected dead bodies

SOURCES:

World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention