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To
Editor,
Scientific Reports,

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Initial submission of manuscript titled: “Unifying the communicable disease spreading paradigm with Gompertzian growth”

Respected Editor,

We hereby submit a manuscript where we seek to connect the communicable disease paradigm with the recently observed mortality patterns of the initial Coronavirus pandemic in March-April 2020 that have been shown by many to exhibit Gompertzian growth. In the manuscript, we show that this type of growth pattern is incompatible with traditional communicable disease spreading models, i.e. the SIR (Susceptible-Infected-Recovered) model family of Kermack and McKendrick. Instead, the observed patterns can be explained by a simpler model without the need for a disease propagating stage, but rather through a ubiquitous stressor which elicits an instantaneous and mutual stress response, amounting to a 2-parameter model. The mathematical thesis is based on a simple Stochastic Differential Equation where the stress response is a random process, interpretable both at the macroscopic and the microscopic level. We also show a remarkable connection between coherent behavior previously relegated to microscopic quantum domains, now exhibited in national mortality patterns. In light of this, we equate one of the model parameters in the traditional disease models with the level of *coherency* of growth, where coherency has been rigorously defined in the physics literature (see manuscript).

The findings of this paper call for a fundamental and interdisciplinary discussion of our accepted knowledge on communicable diseases, as the observations constitute a classic Kuhnian "anomaly" suggesting a paradigm shift away from that of a purely communicable paradigm to a hybrid where the environment plays a bigger role.

If you do decide to review this paper you may find the enclosed list of possible referees helpful. Some of them are listed in the references of the manuscript. Due to the conclusions of our paper, I request that this paper receives more reviews than your average, and at least 3 reviews. Some reviewers will probably have their scientific “beliefs” challenged. I would ask them to discern between dogma and observation. Science is only at the mercy of the latter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Matz Andreas Haugen

Enclosed :
List of referees

List of possible referees

1. Nicola Cufaro Petroni, cufaro@ba.infn.it, Dipartimento di Matematica and TIRES, University of Bari (Ret). Has done extensive work on the Gompertz model in relation to the Richard's model, connecting it with stochastic growth models and the Logistic (Lotka-Volterra) model. We use their concept of growth rooted in stochastic phenomena.
2. Salvatore De Martino, demartino247@gmail.com, Dipartimento di Ingegneria dell'Informazione ed Elettrica. Same as above
3. Marcin Molski, mamolski@amu.edu.pl, Adam Mickiewicz University, physics, Gompertz and quantum systems. Has done work on connecting the gompertz model to quantum coherent systems.
4. Francesco Piazza, Francesco.Piazza@cns-orleans.fr, Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, physics, SIR models. Has written one of the central papers modeling covid disease propagation from the SIR perspective. We have based our methods on their paper.
5. Ernesto Estrada, estrada@ifisc.uib-csic.es, Institute of Interdisciplinary Physics and Complex Systems, mathematics, graph theory, SIR models. Has written a recent paper on the Gompertz model in relation to communicable disease modelling including close connections with graph theoretical concepts used in our paper.
6. K. Rypdal, kristoffer.rypdal@uit.no, University of Tromsø, mathematics, SIR models. Has written a paper showing that SIR models become Gompertz in the extreme of the Richard's parameter. We also follow this paper's arguments in our paper.
7. Michael Levitt (NAS Member), michael.levitt@stanford.edu, Stanford University, computational biology, Gompertz models. Has a preprint on the gompertz model in relation to covid where they leave the explanation of why mortality follows gompertz as an open question.
8. Chris G. Antonopoulos, canton@essex.ac.uk, U. of Essex, physics, chaos and SIR models. Has written on the SIR model and chaotic dynamics.
9. Constantino Tsallis, tsallis@cbpf.br, Complexity Science Hub Vienna, Austria. Has done extensive work on long-range interaction and statistical mechanics. He might be able to see connections with his famous Tsallis entropy.