SPEAKER 1: So that what we see in America, for example, are relative differences in the frequency of some of these nontuberculous mycobacterial species. And some notable examples are the background prevalence of mycobacterium avium complex organisms throughout the US. So, not surprising to recover these pathogens anywhere in the continental and extra continental US.

In contrast, organisms like mycobacterium kansasii or mycobacterium xenopi have more regional differences-- they being found more in the Midwest and southeastern states, than would be found in other locations.

Another notable feature is the-- and this is a tough sell for all of the people who like to vacation in Hawaii, but unfortunately, Hawaii has amongst the highest prevalence of some of these pathogens, including mycobacterium abscessus. So the reasons for, and environmental features that result in these higher hot spots of organisms, are not entirely sure. There's some work going on, on the part of a variety of investigators, to try to understand that.

But what we can say is that there are areas where the background prevalence of the organisms probably leads to some of the risk and some of the increased incidence and prevalence of these infections in the human populations there.