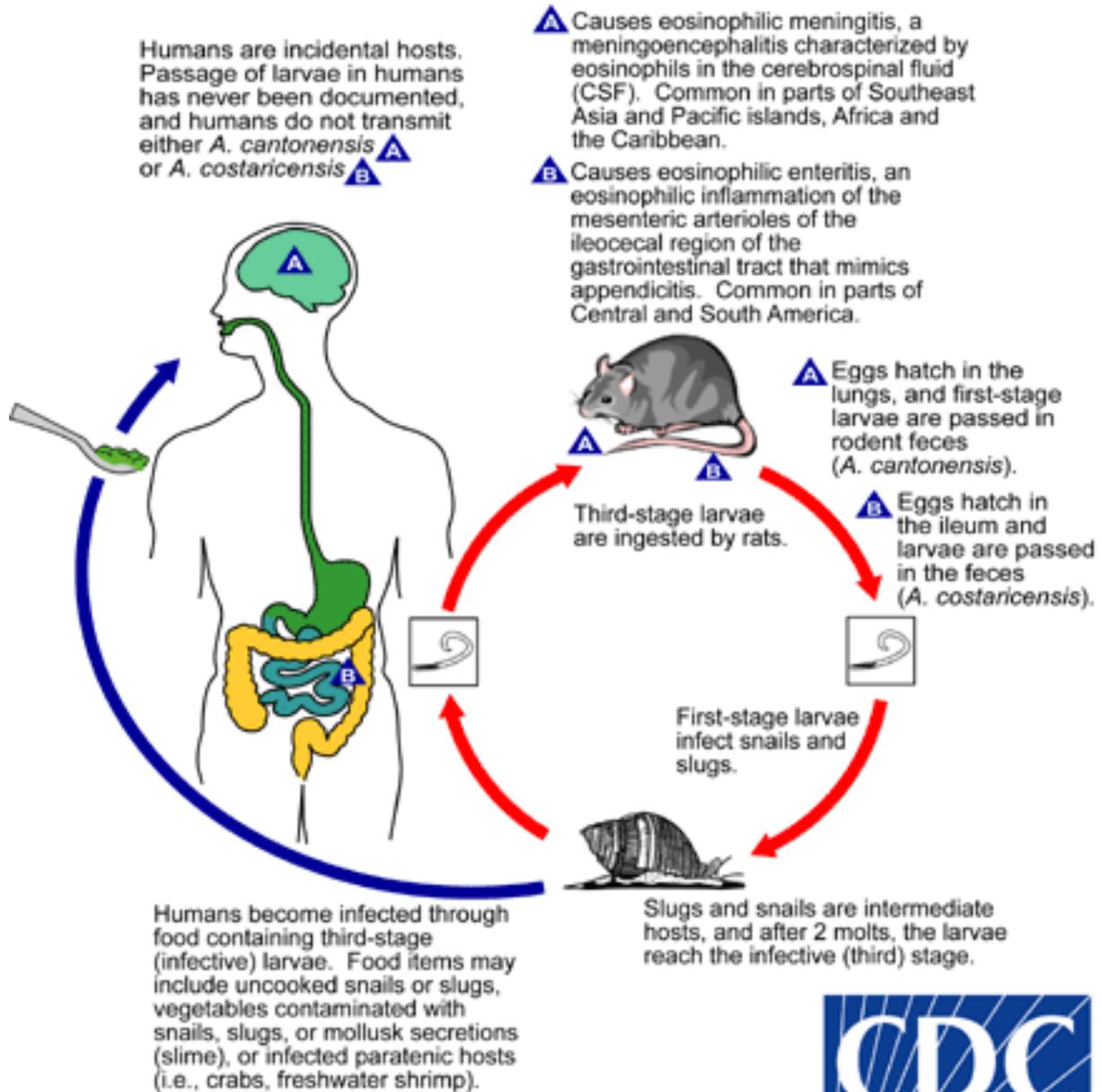


Mahalo for your interest in Rat Lungworm Disease research! This summary explains the subjects that will be discussed at the Workshop, in order. This will help you determine which talks you are most interested in attending.

Life Cycle of the Rat Lungworm Parasite (from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)):



**Day 1:** The Workshop will commence with a talk by a survivor who contracted rat lungworm disease in early 2019, and his experience being officially diagnosed and treated on Hawai'i island. We hope this will help our clinicians in their practice to understand the patients' experience of exposure, diagnosis, and treatment, showing where the system is working – and where improvements may be made.

From there, we will begin our clinical discussion of the disease in humans. Case studies and presentation of the disease, diagnostics, and treatment.

Once these talks are concluded, the afternoon will be veterinary talks. Case studies, detection, and treatment of rat lungworm disease in domestic and companion animals will be discussed.

**Day 2:** We will begin the day with a discussion of the genetic similarities and differences between rat lungworm (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*) and closely related species, as well as similarities and differences in the genetic makeup of *A. cantonensis* in different regions of the world. These genetic differences may provide important clues about differences in the presentation of disease and detection of disease in different regions, as well as the transmission cycle of the parasite.

From there we will begin to discuss epidemiological aspects of the disease. Epidemiology is the study of how diseases spread in populations, and analysis of factors contributing to disease.

After epidemiology, we begin to examine the intermediate host (slugs and snails), and transmission dynamics of the disease. How are people infected? What factors contribute to the spread of disease in the definitive host (rat) and the intermediate host (snail/slug)? What role do paratenic (accidental transport) hosts play in the spread of disease, if any? We will hear about what happens to the infective larvae in the environment, about finding it in wildlife in Hawaii, and risk factors for agricultural workers.

After this section, we will move into the prevention and education session. How do consumers at home protect themselves and their gardens? Is water catchment a factor, and how do we make sure our catchment systems are safe? How do growers make sure they are not exporting slugs and worms? How do we teach our keiki to be safe and protect them from this disease?

This will conclude our presentations. **Day 3** will be an opportunity for researchers to discuss what they've heard over the first two days and ask each other questions about where the research needs to go from here – where are the gaps in knowledge that we need to fill, and how do we best fill them? This collaborative session may result in new studies, new avenues of inquiry, and revisiting questions about this enigmatic disease that have not yet been answered.

Preventing angiostrongyliasis is our collective kuleana. With knowledge and research, we can protect ourselves and our families. Mahalo for your support, and for attending this Workshop.