

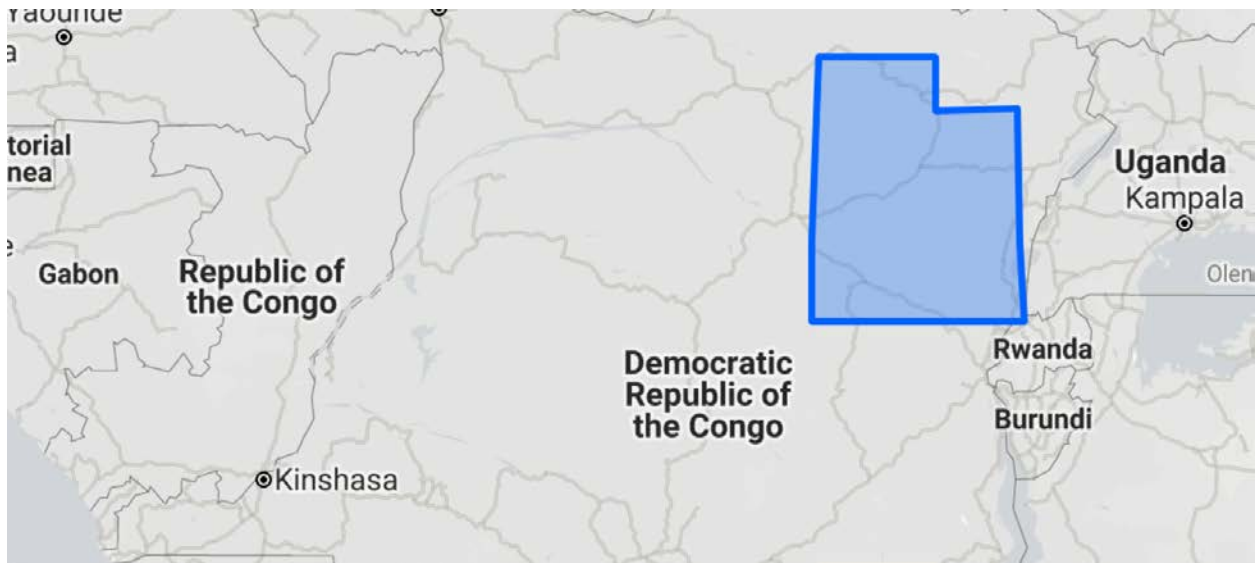
STANDARD DEVIATIONS: How I See It

Maybe I spend too much time looking at this.

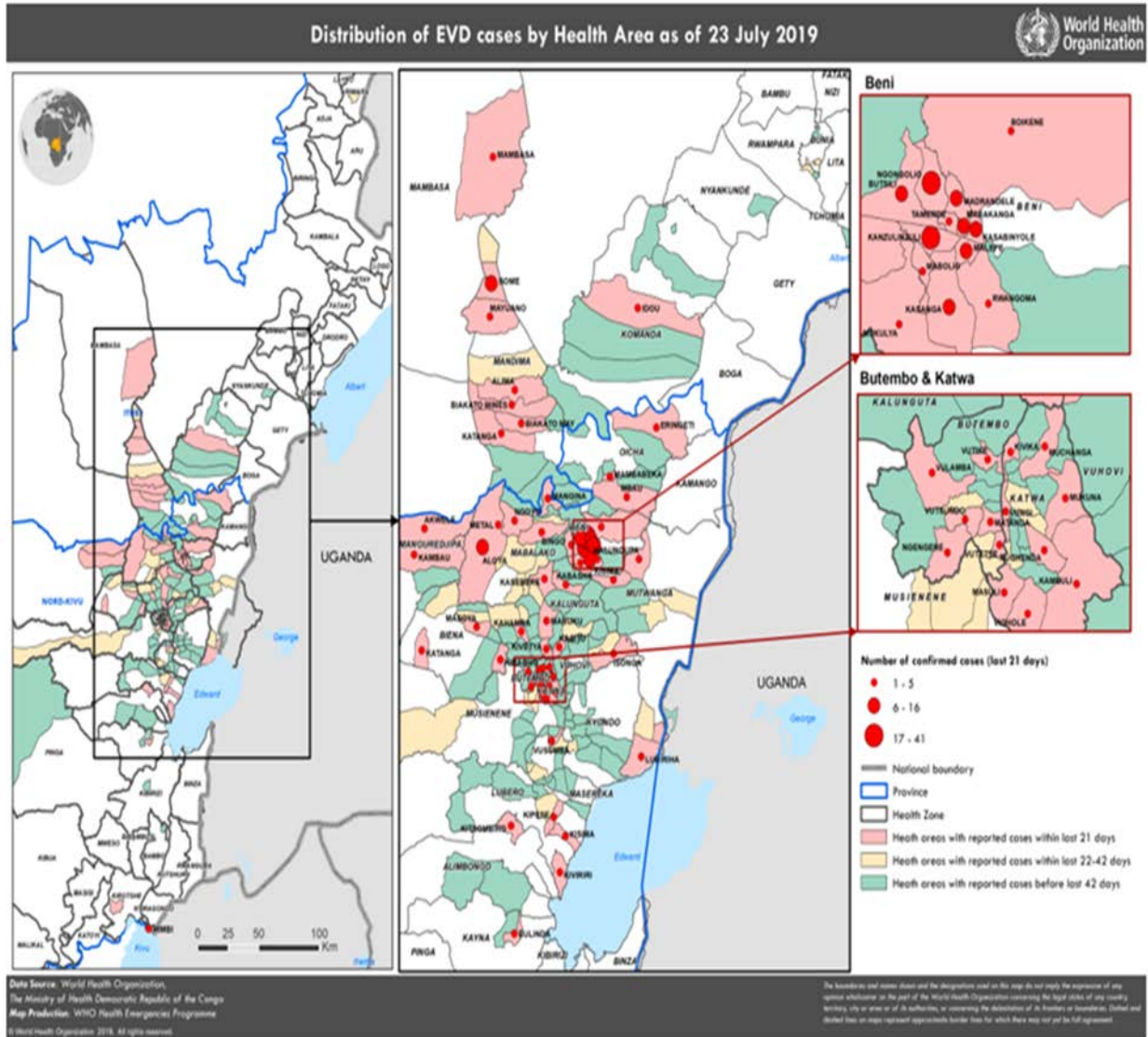
The question I ask is, “How we can learn and from the DRC Ebola outbreak to be safer at what we do in the laboratory and as Health Care professionals”? Ebola may seem a world away, but the threat is real and our awareness guides the development of risk response.

So, when I look at the maps and data, I see Utah and the possibility that a pathogen of consequence shows up on our doorstep. Crazy? Yeah, maybe, but do you see what I see?

Last week I illustrated the size of Utah compared to the outbreak region because the similarity in size is striking (STANDARD DEVIATIONS: Signs of the Times 7-22):



Here's a WHO map of the area of DRC affected by this outbreak.



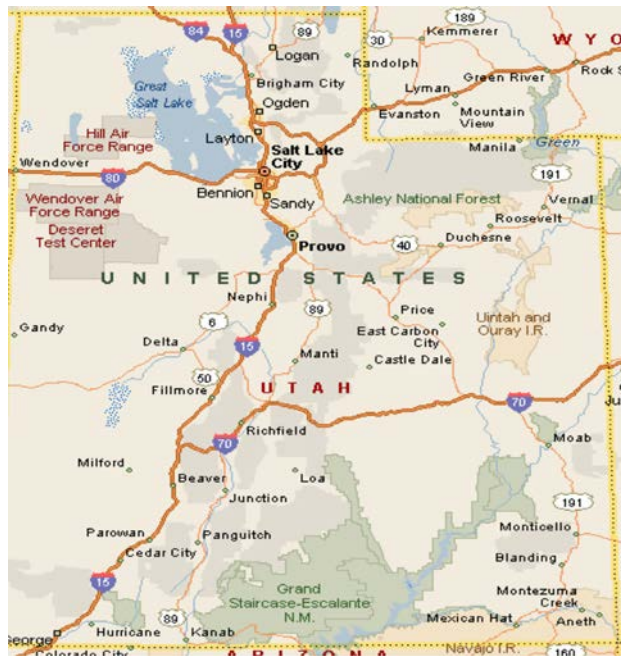
Watch this....let's just turn the center map 180 degrees....



Like this....

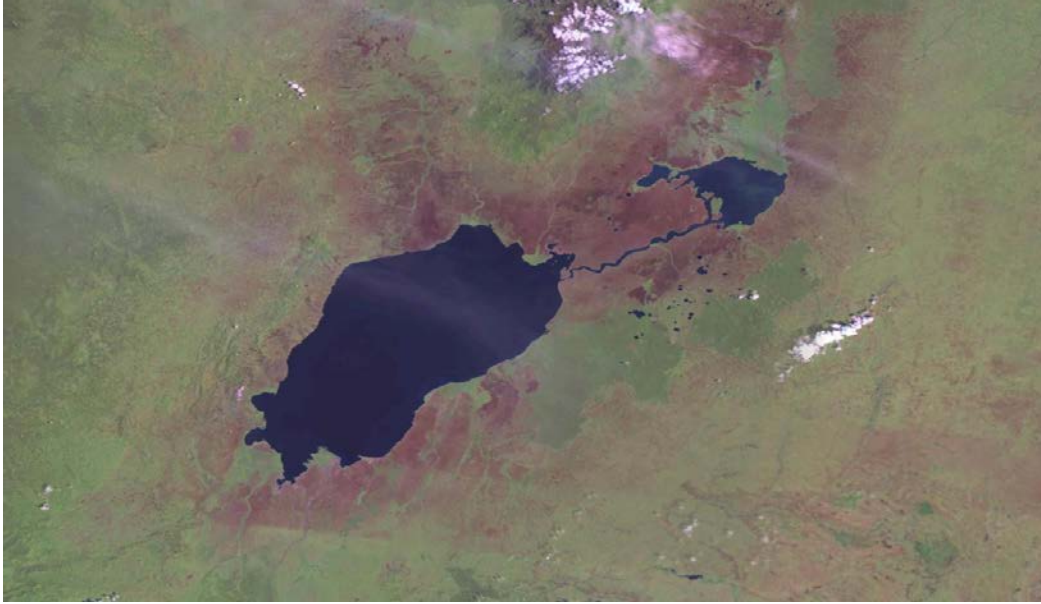


And then look at Utah....

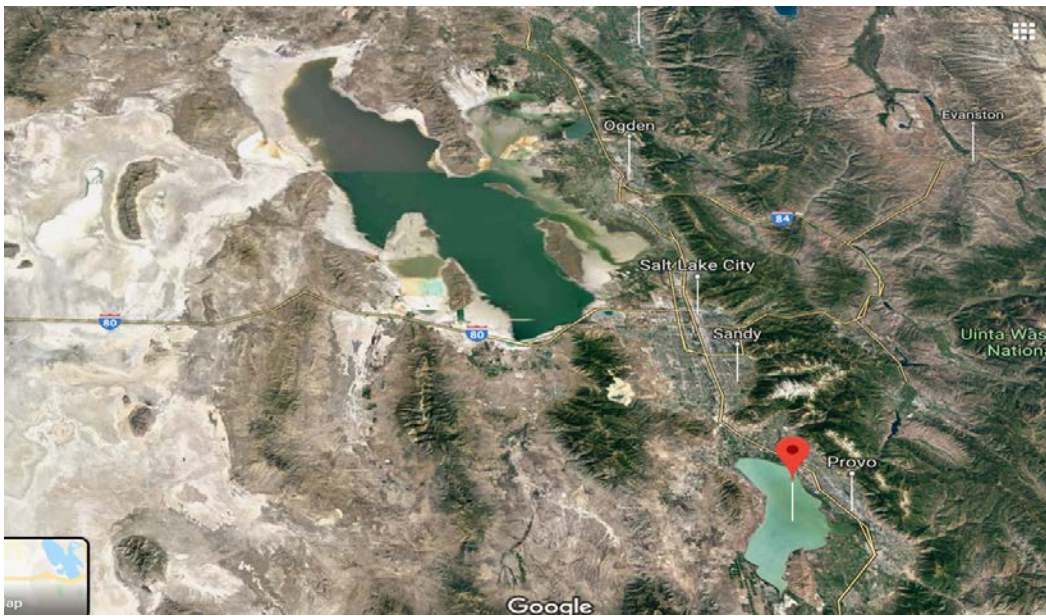


?? That seems kinda eerie. But now look at the Landsat images...



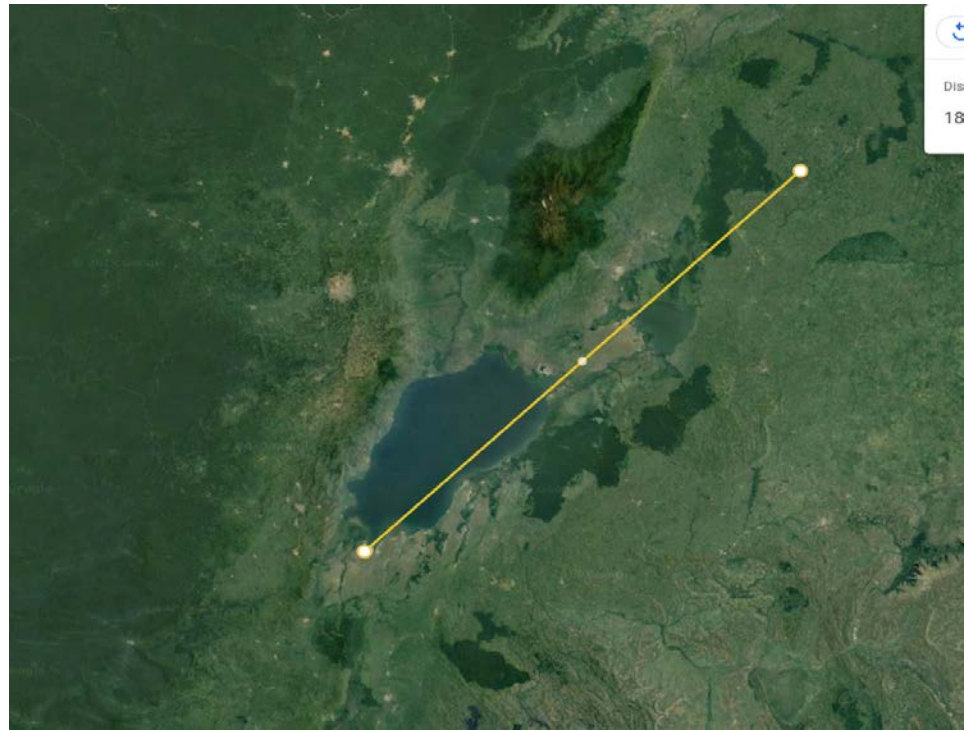
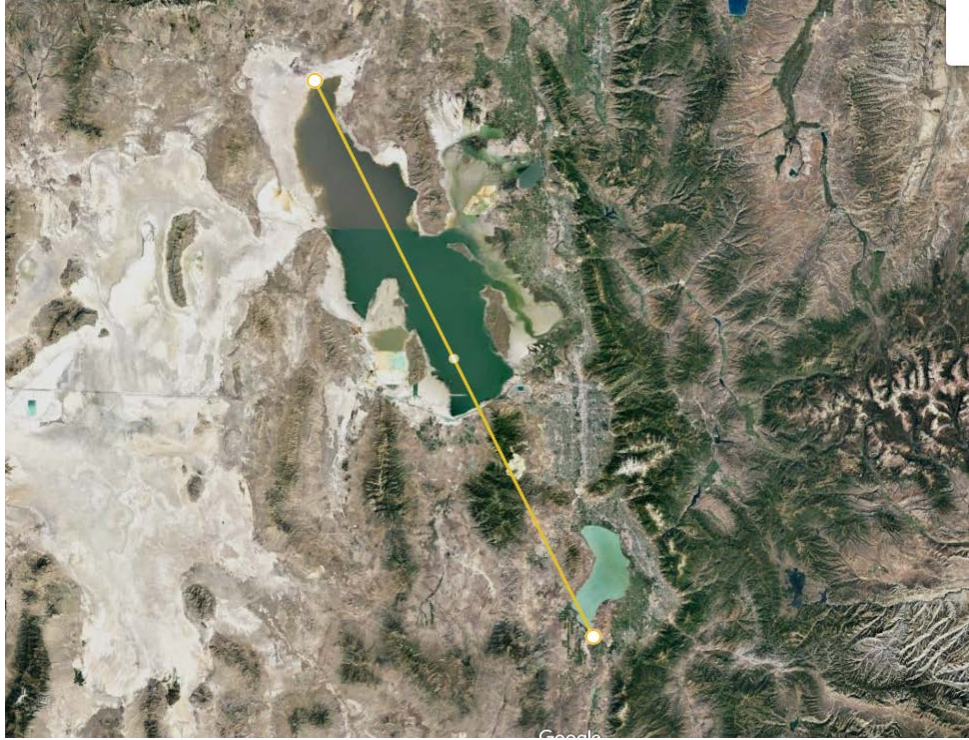


Lake Edward and Lake George, DRC/Uganda border



Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake, Utah





185 Km



It would be shallow and illogical to see any resemblance, right?

Our understanding and comprehension of the Ebola outbreak in the DRC forewarns and alerts us to an emergent pathogen risk. Protecting ourselves depends on recognizing common denominators. This interesting geographical similarity is a reminder that our safety is dependent on learning from the DRC and the current Ebola outbreak.

Right now, 5 % of the Ebola cases involve Health Care Workers (30% fatal). If we believe we are too removed from risk to see the relative implications, we jeopardize our safety. Whether a novel influenza, hemorrhagic virus, or the next unknown, recognition and preparedness are important tools in protecting our patients and the workers who care for them.

Have a great week and be safe,

Bryan

