

Melioidosis, also known as Whitmore's disease, needs more funding for scientific research and healthcare. Melioidosis infects approximately 165,000 people each year and kills 90,000 (Chen, 2016; Dunachie et al., 2017; Morici et al., 2019). Death rates can go up to 70%, and the case-load creates a healthcare burden equivalent to that of rabies (Chen, 2016). The number of deaths is roughly the same as that of measles, and several times that of dengue (Chen, 2016; Mukhopadhyay et al., 2018). In addition, recurrence of the disease occurs in 9% of patients (Stone et al., 2014). The disease is caused by the gram-negative and rod-shaped bacterium, *Burkholderia pseudomallei* which is found in contaminated soil and water. It is predominantly a disease of tropical climates, existing twenty degrees north and south of the equator (CDC, 2021; Pandey et al., 2010). It is widespread and can be found spanning Australia, Asia, Africa, and Latin America (CDC, 2021; O'Byrne et al., 2019). It is present in as



Manivanh, L. et al. (2017). Burkholderia pseudomallei in a lowland rice paddy: seasonal changes and influence of soil depth and physico-chemical properties. *Scientific Reports* 7:3031.

Martin, Lauren (2021). What to know about diabetes in India.