

How being healthy can make others unwell

Infections may be spread faster by those who are well nourished, a study suggests. In research with implications for the control of epidemics, scientists at the University of Edinburgh studied water fleas with parasites. Well-fed fleas were highly infectious, possibly because they survived longer and carried more parasites. The study, published in *Biology Letters*, was led by Pedro Vale. He said: "If we have an idea of which individuals transmit a lot of disease, we will be better able to stop its spread.

"We know that contact between individuals is important; but now we know that, for some animals at least, nutrition may also play an important role."

