

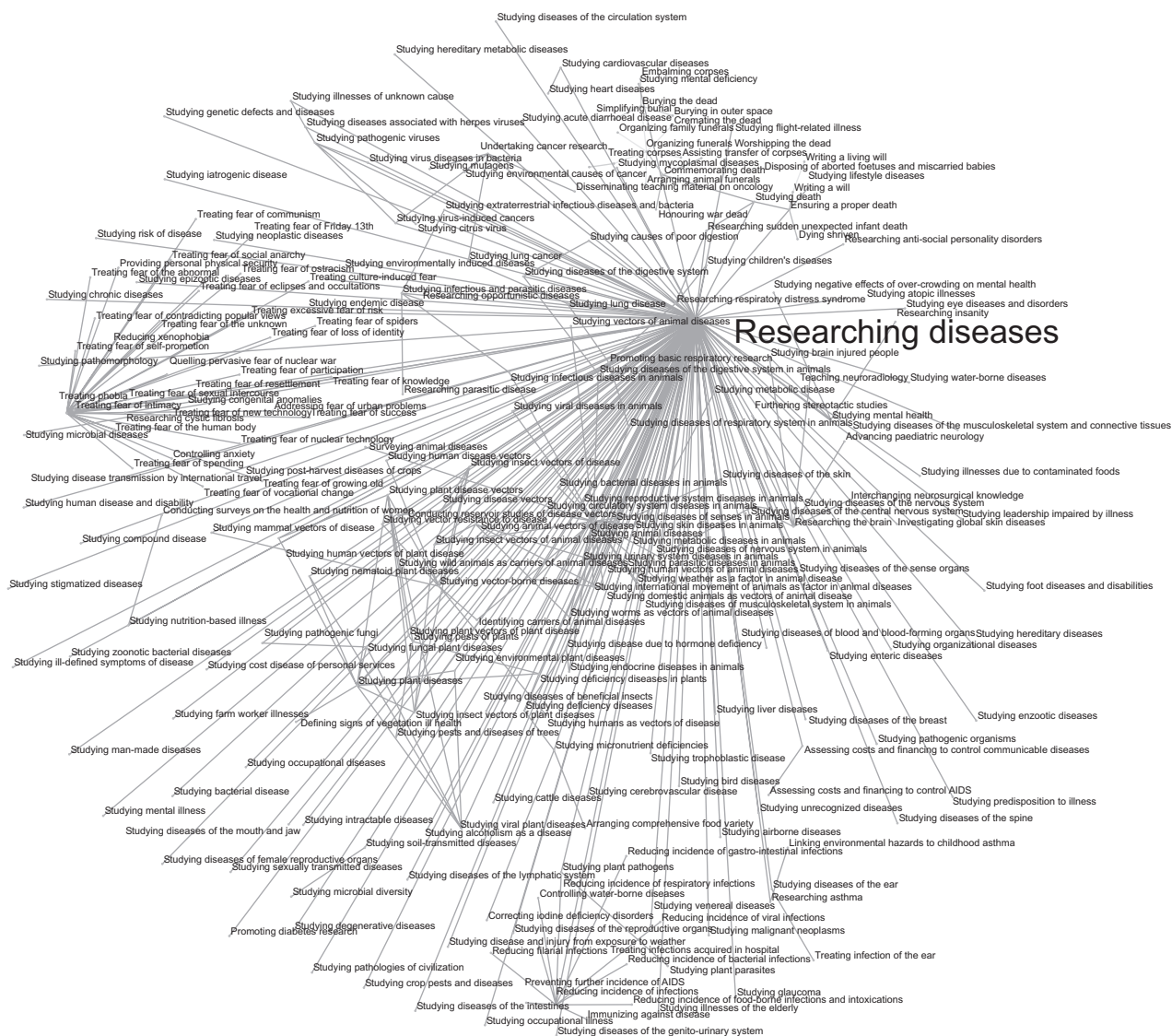
## Figure 10.3.10. Researching diseases

Database: Global Strategies and Solutions

Link type: narrower

Network nodes: 243

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/swbe.dll?uiaf?DD=ST&DR=W9537>



Disease plagues all living organisms and, by analogy, societal organisms as well. For human beings as a whole there are three broad groups of diseases that account for a highly significant proportion of illness and death: communicable diseases, degenerative diseases and neoplastic diseases (cancers). The relative frequency of each of these varies according to the socio-economic state of a country and the condition of its environment. Communicable diseases account for a large proportion of illness and death in developing countries. On the other hand, degenerative diseases (such as those of the heart and circulatory system) and neoplastic diseases account for a large proportion of illness and death in developed countries. Orphan (rare) diseases affect too few people to interest the investment of capital in research for cures and therapies. Rare disorders strike people of all ages, races and ethnic background. Many of these disorders are genetic, for example: Tay Sachs disease, Huntington's disease and cystic fibrosis. Some rare disorders are acquired such as AIDS and legionnaires' disease. A number of rare disorders also fall within the realm of widespread health conditions such as heart disease and cancer. Numerous illnesses for which doctors can find no cause, nor definitely conclude are psychosomatic or imaginary, are probably caused by multiple physical, psychological and social factors interacting in complex ways not yet understood. There are numerous studies of patients with "Multiple Unexplained Symptom Syndromes". While they are poorly understood, most at least get names: chronic fatigue, irritable bowel syndrome, fibromyalgia, Gulf War Syndrome, Lyme disease, sick building syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivity, sensitivity to the gasoline additive MTBE, or connective tissue disorder, as in women with silicone breast implants.