Do you know what all these people have in common?

They all suffered from sepsis.

Sepsis in the Media
A collection of stories from VIP sepsis victims and survivors
The death of Superman actor Christopher Reeve in October 2004 was attributed to heart failure due to sepsis (also known as septicemia), an infection that spreads from a specific location (such as a skin sore or bladder infection) to the blood and other organs. What exactly happened to Christopher Reeve isn't known and may never be; there was no autopsy. Clearly, his death was related to pressure sores; at the time of his death Reeve had been battling more than one skin sore. He had even experienced life-threatening sepsis just weeks before he died.

CNN.com
“Mount Kisco, New York (AP) -- Actor Christopher Reeve went into cardiac arrest Saturday while at his home in Pound Ridge, New York, then fell into a coma and died Sunday at a hospital surrounded by his family. In the last week, Reeve had developed a serious systemic infection from a pressure wound, a common complication for people living with paralysis.”

→ In this case sepsis developed from a harmless pressure wound. The early signs of sepsis were not recognized and the patient was brought to the hospital only after cardiac arrest due to septic shock.
Sócrates


BBC

Former Brazil captain Socrates died at the age of 57

He had been in a critical condition with an intestinal infection since being admitted to intensive care on Friday at a hospital in Sao Paulo. Socrates, who was widely regarded as one of the greatest ever midfielders, was moved onto a life support machine on Saturday. He played in two World Cups, won 60 caps for his country between 1979 and 1986 and scored 22 goals.

The former Corinthians player, whose full name was Socrates Brasileiro Sampaio de Sousa Vieira de Oliveira, was taken to the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo with food poisoning on Friday, according to his wife. A hospital statement said on Saturday that the former footballer was "in a critical condition due to a septic shock of intestinal origin". It added he was breathing with a ventilator and using a dialysis machine.

Daily Mail

Socrates, Brazilian football legend, dies at the age of 57 after food poisoning

By Ashley Gray, Last updated at 3:26 AM on 5th December 2011

Brazilian football legend Socrates died today at the age of 57 after falling ill following a meal of beef stroganoff. He had been in hospital in Sao Paolo with food poisoning and was on a life support machine with septic shock when he passed away. It was the third time in four months he had been treated at an intensive care unit since alcohol abuse caused his stomach to hemorrhage in August. Socrates, who leaves a wife and six sons, had been hoping his health would stabilise ahead of a liver transplant after a spending another 17 days in hospital in September.

The idol of the 1982 World Cup was admitted to Albert Einstein Israeli Hospital on Thursday after feeling sick during a meal at a hotel in Sao Paulo with his wife and a friend. They were all treated for poisoning, but his body was too frail to cope and suffered septic shock which claimed his life in the early hours of this morning. Breathing apparatus was needed and he was also put on dialysis machines to remove bacteria from his blood. Socrates won 60 caps and was easily recognisable in his playing days as a bearded 6ft 4in midfield genius with great passing ability.
Christian Brando


Jan. 26, 2008

Christian Brando Dead at 49

Christian Brando, the troubled son of late actor Marlon Brando, has died in a Los Angeles hospital, according to published statements by Brando family representatives. He was 49 years old. Brando died early Saturday morning, according to a statement by David Seeley, an attorney representing Marlon Brando's estate. "This is a sad and difficult time for the family," Seeley said in the statement, published by The Associated Press. TMZ.com recently reported that Brando had been admitted into Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center Jan. 11 with an undisclosed illness and was in the facility's intensive care unit. The New York Post reported today that Brando was suffering from pneumonia. The People magazine Web site today quoted his ex-wife, Deborah, as saying that he was in a coma and on a ventilator when he died.
Jim Henson
Creator of “The Muppets”, *24.09. 1936 – † 16.05. 1990

James Maury "Jim" Henson was an American puppeteer, best known as the creator of The Muppets. As a puppeteer, Henson performed in various television programs, such as *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*, films such as *The Muppet Movie* and *The Great Muppet Caper*, and created advanced puppets for projects like *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Labyrinth*. He was also an Oscar-nominated film director, Emmy Award-winning television producer, and the founder of The Jim Henson Company, the Jim Henson Foundation, and Jim Henson’s Creature Shop.

He died on May 16, 1990, of organ failure resulting from a Group A streptococcal infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Henson had been ill with walking pneumonia for several days before his death but never told anybody, not even his family, because, true to his character, he didn't want to be a burden to anybody. By the time he finally sought medical help, it was too late to do anything.
Mariana Bridi da Costa
Brazilian model, 18.06. 1988 – 24.01. 2009

One look at her photo, and you can't help but ask: How could someone so young and vibrant die so quickly from an infection? Brazilian model Mariana Bridi da Costa was a healthy 20-year-old when doctors told her she had a urinary tract infection, her family says. The infection spread, and after amputating her feet, doctors thought they had the situation under control, according to a blog run by a family friend.

“She's alive, [she] will survive,” Renato Lindgren wrote on the blog on January 20, before da Costa also had to have her hands amputated, and part of her stomach and both kidneys extracted. “She can eat well, visit the sea, swim, travel, talk with her friends and family, marry and have a baby. She has a full and beautiful life ahead.” Four days later, da Costa was dead.

MedHeadlines
January 24, 2009

Brazilian Model Dies of Pseudomonas Infection

Twenty-year-old Brazilian model Mariana Bridi da Costa has died at a hospital early Saturday morning following a long fight with Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection. She once told friends she was “living the dream” but a series of medical complications has turned that dream into a tragedy. In just the past month, a urinary tract infection turned dangerous when septicemia developed. The system-wide blood infection has led to multiple amputations in an effort to save her life. Bridi first sought medical attention in late December for what was diagnosed as kidney stones. A urinary tract infection (UTI) soon developed and it quickly escalated to septicemia.

The blood infection diminished the flow of oxygen to her extremities and last week both her hands and both her feet were amputated in an effort to save her life. Earlier in the ordeal, both kidneys failed and were removed and this past Thursday night surgeons removed a portion of her stomach. In the recent days Bridi was placed on life support, required dialysis, and was able to communicate only with her eyes. Nevertheless, she had signaled to her family that she wanted to live.
A hospital report into the sudden death of Nick Duncombe stated yesterday that the Harlequins and England scrum-half had died of blood poisoning. Doctors in Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, where Duncombe had spent last week on a holiday and training break, gave the cause of death as cardiac and respiratory failure due to sepsis, which is commonly known as blood poisoning. The scrum-half, who had gone to Lanzarote partly to recover from a hamstring injury, was taken ill in the early hours of Friday morning, having developed a sore throat and rash across his body. He was taken to the intensive care unit of a local hospital, but doctors failed to save him.

Nick Duncombe, the talented 21-year-old England rugby international, died of heart failure due to sepsis, according to the doctors who treated him in Lanzarote. The Harlequins player was training in the Canary Islands when he was taken ill, and within 24 hours of complaining of a sore throat, he was dead. Although the exact cause of death remains a mystery, it seems likely that Nick Duncombe contracted a type of sepsis known as meningococcal septicaemia, a deadly form of blood poisoning.
Lily-Rose Depp

Daughter of American actor Johnny Depp, *27.05.1999

In 2007 Johnny Depp’s daughter, Lily-Rose was originally thought to have had blood poisoning, but was later diagnosed as having an E. coli infection in her blood (sepsis), which affected her kidneys. Depp stayed by Lily-Rose’s bedside until she recovered, and production of Sweeney Todd was delayed.

People.com

Report: Johnny Depp Talks About Daughter's Illness
By Pete Norman, Thursday May 10, 2007 05:20 PM EDT

Johnny Depp has spoken for the first time about his daughter's hospitalization earlier this year. "It gave us a great scare," the actor, 43, tells Britain's Daily Mirror. "It was a very bumpy patch, but she has come through it beautifully and unscathed, and she is now as healthy as she always was. She is wonderful."

Lily-Rose, Depp's 7-year-old daughter with French actress-singer Vanessa Paradis, 34, was hospitalized in London while Depp was in England filming Sweeney Todd. In early March, Depp's rep said in a statement: "We are happy to report that their daughter is doing much better. The family greatly appreciates the continued support and respect of their privacy."

"What got us through this wasn't the strength of Vanessa or me but our daughter and her incredible ability to make us feel okay even though she was very unwell," Depp tells the Daily Mirror. "She was super-strong." He did not disclose the cause of Lily-Rose's illness. He says he and Paradis have learned from the scare with Lily-Rose. "It was a reminder to us of how lucky we are," he says, "to be able to breathe, walk, talk, think and surround ourselves with people we love."
Monaco’s Prince Rainier, Europe’s longest-reigning monarch, has died at the age of 81, after spending several weeks in hospital. He had been suffering from heart, kidney and lung problems. A palace statement said Rainier died from the "broncho-pulmonary, heart and kidney conditions that caused his hospitalisation". Rainier had suffered several bouts of bronchitis and undergone several operations in recent years. He was taken to hospital on 7 March with a lung infection, and moved into intensive care on 22 March.
Pope John Paul II

*18.05.1920 – † 02.04. 2005

On 31 March 2005 following a urinary tract infection, Pope John Paul II developed septic shock, a form of infection with a high fever and low blood pressure, but was not hospitalised. Instead, he was monitored by a team of consultants at his private residence. This was taken as an indication that the pope and those close to him believed that he was nearing death; it would have been in accordance with his wishes to die in the Vatican. Later that day, Vatican sources announced that John Paul II had been given the Anointing of the Sick by his friend and secretary Stanisław Dziwisz. During the final days of the Pope's life, the lights were kept burning through the night where he lay in the Papal apartment on the top floor of the Apostolic Palace. Tens of thousands of people assembled and held vigil in St. Peter's Square and the surrounding streets for two days. Upon hearing of this, the dying pope was said to have stated: "I have searched for you, and now you have come to me, and I thank you." On Saturday 2 April 2005, at about 15:30 CEST, John Paul II spoke his final words, "Pozwólcie mi odejść do domu Ojca", ("Let me depart to the house of the Father"), to his aides, and fell into a coma about four hours later. He died in his private apartment, at 21:37 CEST (19:37 UTC) of heart failure from profound hypotension and complete circulatory collapse from septic shock, 46 days short of his 85th birthday.

[From Wikipedia]

ABS News

Pope John Paul II died today at age 84, Vatican officials said. One of the most influential leaders of the 20th and early 21st centuries, he worked tirelessly to build a moral foundation in the modern world, while playing a crucial role in overthrowing communism and fostering peace. Pope John Paul II had suffered cardio-circular failure and septic shock late Thursday while being treated for a urinary infection, the Vatican said. By Friday afternoon, his breathing had become shallow and his kidneys were no longer functioning properly, it said. The pope, who suffered from Parkinson's disease, had become increasingly frail in recent years, and over the last several weeks his health took a dramatic turn for the worse. He underwent a tracheotomy on Feb. 24 to help him breathe more easily after being hospitalized for the second time in a month with flu-like symptoms and respiratory trouble. His illness forced him to skip most of the Holy Week observances, for the first time in his nearly 27-year papacy. John Paul appeared at his window on Easter Sunday, March 27, to bless the faithful thronging St. Peter's Square, but he was unable to speak. He began receiving nutrition through a nasal feeding tube on Wednesday to boost his caloric intake. The next day the Vatican confirmed he had a high fever caused by a urinary tract infection. The pope was given the sacrament known as known as Anointing of the Sick, which is reserved for the very ill or dying. Over the next hours, he suffered septic shock and his condition continued to deteriorate.

The Sunday Morning Herald (Australia), 4. April 2005

Pope John Paul II died of blood poisoning and the collapse of his blood vessels, the Vatican announced on Sunday, releasing the official death certificate a day after the pontiff's passing. The certificate listed the ailments the 84-year-old Pope suffered from, including acknowledging officially for the first time that John Paul had Parkinson's disease. John Paul, who died on Saturday evening, had suffered heart and kidney failure brought on by a urinary tract infection last week. The official certificate used the medical terminology for blood poisoning and blood vessel collapse, which is septic shock and cardiocirculatory collapse. The other ailments listed were episodes of acute breathing failure, resulting in a throat operation to insert a breathing tube in his windpipe; high blood pressure; lack of blood flow to the tissues and an enlarged prostate gland. The certificate said the urinary tract infection, and resulting deadly spread of that infection to the blood, was a complication of the prostate problem.
Lily Allen
British Singer, *02.05. 1985

Only days after losing her unborn baby after contracting a viral infection, British singer Lily Allen was admitted to a London hospital suffering from a potentially fatal blood-poisoning condition. Doctors diagnosed her with Septicaemia, a bacterial blood condition, and have put her on a series of medications to stop the spread of the illness. Allen was taken to the Hospital days after suffering a miscarriage, her second in three years.

The Independent
Lily Allen's illness reveals danger of blood poisoning
By Jeremy Laurance , Health Editor
Monday 08 November 2010

Lily Allen's hospitalisation with septicaemia has focused attention on a little understood but potentially fatal condition which affects thousands of people every year. The 25 year old singer was reported to be responding well to treatment after being taken to hospital by ambulance from her home in Gloucestershire on Friday night, where she was recovering from her second miscarriage. She had been with her boyfriend, Sam Cooper, 32, after losing her baby five days earlier, six months into her pregnancy.

Septicaemia is a recognised risk following miscarriage, as foetal material can be left behind in the womb acting as a reservoir for infection. In addition pregnant women have reduced immunity to allow them to carry the baby without rejecting it. The condition can be life threatening and is caused by the body over-reacting to an infection. The immune system goes into overdrive, triggering reactions that can lead to widespread swelling and blood clotting in the body. Symptoms of septicaemia usually develop quickly and include fever, chills, a rapid heartbeat and breathing, followed by dizziness (indicating low blood pressure) nausea and cold, clammy skin.

Miss Allen is likely to have been treated in intensive care with “broad-spectrum” intravenous antibiotics, designed to work against a wide range of bacteria, while the results of laboratory tests were awaited. Once a specific bacterium was identified, doctors could have given her a more focused antibiotic.

[shortened]
Kenny Oldroyd

British rugby player, † 2.12.2011

TRIBUTES have been paid to a “doting father” and “well loved” family man who died suddenly at the age 37. Family and friends are today saying goodbye to former rugby league player Kenny Oldroyd. Known across Scarborough for his sense of humour and “that laugh”, Kenny was a proud father of two. He died on December 2 following a short illness. His parents Ken and Sandra, and sisters Leanne Oldroyd and Karen Brown, described him as a best friend to his family. They said: “He was a well known popular lad, everyone knew him.

“At the same time he was a devoted family man, who lived for his kids. “If there was ever a situation he would always be there for us all. He would put himself last and always made you feel good. “We are all devastated. He was so young and had so much to live for. “He was our best friend every day, we will be lost without him.”

Kenny also leaves his girlfriend Claire Robinson, who was his childhood sweetheart at Scalby School, his daughter Shona, nine, and son Kody, two. In a moving tribute to her father Shona described Kenny as “wonderful” and “the best dad in the world”. Kenny was well known in Scarborough for playing rugby, and was a regular feature on the Scarborough All Blacks side. He idolised his father Ken, and from an early age wanted to follow in his footsteps as a rugby player.
VIENNA — British pop star George Michael is doing well in hospital in Vienna but whether he will be able to spend Christmas back in Britain was still uncertain, one of his Austrian doctors said Tuesday. “We know that he is doing well. And we are generally optimistic,” Christoph Zielinski of Vienna’s General Hospital (AKH) told ORF radio. On whether Michael would be able to return home for the holidays or have to spend Christmas in hospital, Zielinski only said that the matter still had to be decided with the patient. The 48-year-old former Wham! singer was admitted to hospital last month with a severe bout of pneumonia, forcing him to postpone the rest of his “Symphonica” tour, having performed 45 shows to date. Little news has since filtered out over his condition, with all eyes directed instead on Michael’s website and the Twitter postings of his partner Fadi Fawaz for updates.

George Michael Health Update
Professors Gottfried Locker & Christoph Zielinski would like to make a statement regarding George Michael:

“Further to our previous statement Mr. Michael is being treated here for pneumonia and nothing else. The latest development in Mr. Michael’s case – which has evolved from a severe pneumococcal infection – necessitated intensive care due to its severity and extension. We are happy to announce that Mr. Michael is improving steadily with an impressive regression of pneumonic symptoms and follows a steady rate of improvement as hoped. There are no other health issues with regards to the patient other than the underlying pneumonic disorder, and no further measures had to be taken. Mr. Michael is receiving precisely the same treatment as any ordinary patient in Austria would receive at the hospital for this disease. As we said previously, complete rest and peace and quiet are mandatory. We wish to make it clear that we are putting this statement out and there will be no further comment.”

George Michael gives tearful account of near-death pneumonia ordeal

For a man still so weak that just speaking left him labouring for breath, and whittled by illness to a frame even leaner than it was during his adolescent stardom, George Michael looked curiously ecstatic. The reason soon became clear: he was fortunate, and inexpressibly grateful, just to be alive. The singer’s fleeting, tearful appearance before a hastily summoned scurrum of media representatives on a grassed square outside his home in Highgate, north London, was a first public appearance since he was confined to a hospital in Vienna a month ago, suffering from acute pneumonia. While brief official bulletins had said that the 48-year-old was seriously ill, Michael explained that he had spent some days on the brink of death. His condition had been “touch and go” for a couple of weeks, he explained, pausing several times to swallow back tears. Unknown to fans and the wider public, doctors performed a tracheotomy to keep his airways open, he said, and he regained consciousness 10 days ago. “They spent three weeks keeping me alive basically,” he said, frame hunched into the now oversized shoulders of a black overcoat. “I don’t want to take you through all of it because some of it I want to protect my family from and I’m sure I’ll get it all written down, but it was basically by far the worst month of my life.”

"I'm incredibly, incredibly fortunate to be here and incredibly fortunate to have picked up this bug where I did, because apparently the hospital in Austria that they rushed me to was absolutely the best place in the world I could have been, to deal with pneumonia. So I have to believe that somebody thinks I've still got some work to do here." Pausing several times for tears, he added: “Also, actually, I would like to play one other show, for the doctors in the hospital in Austria that saved my life. I spent the last 10 days since I woke up literally thanking people for saving my life, which is something I’ve never had to do before, and I don’t want to have to do it again.”
Rudolf Augstein

German publisher, *05.11.1923 - † 07.11.2002

The New York Times

Rudolf Augstein, Publisher of Der Spiegel, Is Dead at 79
By ALAN COWELL
Published: November 08, 2002

Rudolf Augstein, the founder and publisher of Der Spiegel, who regarded his weekly news magazine as the "assault artillery" of his country's fledgling postwar democracy, died today of pneumonia, his publishing company said. He was 79.

With few parallels in European publishing, Mr. Augstein exerted broad influence on his country's press, politicians and policies in a career that began modestly enough when, at the age of 23, he took over a weekly news magazine from British occupiers and began publishing Der Spiegel, which means The Mirror, in January 1947. He was still its publisher when he died, two days after his 79th birthday.

His death today inspired a cascade of tributes from politicians including Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who said Mr. Augstein had "stamped and formed German public opinion like almost no other journalist." Arnulf Baring, a German historian, said Mr. Augstein had "contributed to the establishment of the media as the Fourth Estate" after press freedom had been destroyed by Nazism.

Mr. Augstein was divorced four times, and is survived by his fifth wife, Anna Maria Hürtgen, whom he married in October 2000, and by four children from his earlier marriages.

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