

Peter:

I will sign on but my affiliation must read as Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland College Park. It should not read as former director of the National Science Foundation as I have not had clearance from NSF.

Thank you for addressing my concerns.

Best wishes,

Rita

From: Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>

Sent: Saturday, February 08, 2020 8:52 PM

To: Rita Colwell <rcolwell@umiacs.umd.edu>

Cc: Rita Colwell <rcolwell@umiacs.umd.edu>; Aleksei Chmura <chmura@ecohealthalliance.org>; Hongying Li <li@ecohealthalliance.org>

Subject: RE: coronavirus statement

Importance: High

Hi Rita,

I appreciate your comments and I think at this point, that work has already been done, with >50 genomes published from 12 countries, and phylogenetic analyses published by authors from multiple countries. I've tried to make this a bit more clear, and have edited the letter as follows, so it hopefully addresses your comments:

1) I've inserted a reference to the GISAID webpage where 57 (to date) full genome sequences of 2019-nCoV from 12 countries are published and analyzed

2) I've inserted a reference to the CDC webpage on 2019-nCoV which makes the following statement, completely in concurrence with our letter:

"2019-nCoV is a betacoronavirus, like MERS and SARs, both of which have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir."

In addition, please note that we will not be referring to this as a 'petition' but as a 'statement in support of' – This is in the title and will be in all materials we send out. This is to avoid the appearance of a political statement – this is simply a letter from leading scientists in support of other scientists and health professionals who are under serious pressure right now.

I hope you are willing to sign on to this - your voice will be very influential, particularly in keeping these critical bridges open between the USA and China. You should know that the conspiracy theorists have been very active, targeting our collaborators with some extremely unpleasant web pages in China, and some have now received death threats to themselves and their families. They have asked for any show of support we can give them.

As soon as we hear back from you we'll get ready to send this to our larger list (attached), but of course if you don't feel comfortable, I'll make sure your name is not associated with this.

Cheers,

Peter

Peter Daszak

President

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