Call for the WHO Team to Investigate the Pangolin Coronaviruses and the RmYN02 Bat Coronavirus

Li-Meng Yan (MD, PhD), Shu Kang (PhD), Shanchang Hu (PhD)

Yan Research – An Independent Research Team

Correspondence: team.lmyan@gmail.com

If the WHO team really is investigating the origin of SARS-CoV-2, what they cannot overlook are the pangolin coronaviruses[1-4] and the RmYN02 bat coronavirus[5].

This is because these coronaviruses are greatly pertinent to the origin of SARS-CoV-2:

- The pangolin coronaviruses reportedly contain receptor-binding domains (RBD) that are highly identical to that of SARS-CoV-2;
- Four separate Chinese labs reported such pangolin coronaviruses (all four manuscripts were submitted for publication within 12 days in Feb 2020)[1-4];
- Unlike what is described for RaTG13[6], original samples of the pangolin coronaviruses and the RmYN02 bat coronavirus are clearly not exhausted and can be provided by these labs;
- In two studies[1,3], live pangolin coronaviruses have been successfully isolated and therefore must be kept in these two research labs;
- The 2nd Yan report has shown, using robust evidence and analyses, that the pangolin coronaviruses and the RmYN02 bat coronavirus were results of fabrication and were published in a coordinated manner[7].

The WHO team should:

1. Obtain the isolated pangolin coronavirus strains from the Yongyi Shen lab at South China Agricultural University and the Wuchun Cao lab at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS).
2. Obtain the tissue samples (lung, intestine, scale, skin swab, blood) that the Chinese labs used to sequence and/or isolate the pangolin coronaviruses.
3. Obtain the original samples used for the sequencing of the RmYN02 bat coronavirus.
4. Obtain all raw files critically relevant to sequencing.

5. Have the collected tissue samples, live viruses, sequencing files, etc. independently analyzed and investigated by separate research labs in countries other than China.

6. Investigate how the AMMS scientists from Wuchun Cao's lab (in collaboration with Yi Guan's lab) and Ruifu Yang's lab (in collaboration with Yongyi Shen's lab; Ruifu Yang's name appeared in the original news conference but omitted in the official publication[7]) were involved in these studies. How exactly did the AMMS contribute in each case? Which specific experiments were performed and accomplished by the AMMS scientists?

7. Investigate why Yongyi Shen group manipulated the sequencing raw data to intentionally hide the fact that they used published data[8] in their study[1].

Reference

1. Xiao, K. et al. Isolation of SARS-CoV-2-related coronavirus from Malayan pangolins. *Nature*, 10.1038/s41586-020-2313-x (2020).
2. Zhang, T., Wu, Q. & Zhang, Z. Probable Pangolin Origin of SARS-CoV-2 Associated with the COVID-19 Outbreak. *Curr Biol* **30**, 1578 (2020).
3. Lam, T.T. et al. Identifying SARS-CoV-2-related coronaviruses in Malayan pangolins. *Nature*, 10.1038/s41586-020-2169-0 (2020).
4. Liu, P. et al. Are pangolins the intermediate host of the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2)? *PLoS Pathog* **16**, e1008421 (2020).
5. Zhou, H. et al. A Novel Bat Coronavirus Closely Related to SARS-CoV-2 Contains Natural Insertions at the S1/S2 Cleavage Site of the Spike Protein. *Curr Biol* **30**, 2196-2203 e3 (2020).
6. Zhou, P. et al. A pneumonia outbreak associated with a new coronavirus of probable bat origin. *Nature* **579**, 270–273 (2020).
7. Yan, L.-M., Kang, S., Guan, J. & Hu, S. SARS-CoV-2 Is an Unrestricted Bioweapon: A Truth Revealed through Uncovering a Large-Scale, Organized Scientific Fraud. *Zenodo.org (preprint)*, http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4073131 (2020).
8. Liu, P., Chen, W. & Chen, J.P. Viral Metagenomics Revealed Sendai Virus and Coronavirus Infection of Malayan Pangolins (Manis javanica). *Viruses* **11**, doi: 10.3390/v11110979 (2019).