

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Fri, 14 Feb 2020 02:46:40 +0000
To: Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: FW: NAS Collaborative Effort on the Coronavirus
Attachments: OSTP Letter to NAESM 2019-nCoV.pdf, ATT00001.htm, NASEM Response to OSTP re Coronavirus_February 6 2020.pdf, ATT00002.htm

Feb. 11 has passed. What do we do with this?

From: Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Fwd: NAS Collaborative Effort on the Coronavirus

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Watson, Ian D. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)>
Date: February 10, 2020 at 11:29:18 AM EST
To: "Kadlec, Robert (OS/ASPR/IO)" (b) (6)
Cc: "Conrad, Patricia (NIH/NIAID) [E]" (b) (6)>, "Hassell, David (Chris) (OS/ASPR/IO)" (b) (6)>, "Bonyun, Sean C. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)>, "Waterman, Paige E. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)>, "Doster, Kim M. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)>
Subject: NAS Collaborative Effort on the Coronavirus

Sir,

We realize how busy you and Dr. Fauci are right now, but we wanted to follow up regarding the establishment of a NASEM expert panel, plans for international expert engagement (isolate and sequence collection), and a continued focus with regard to evolutionary origin. As such, we would like to propose a call between yourself, Dr. Fauci, and Dr. Droegemeier to discuss what is needed for the U.S. response and preparedness efforts. I know Chris (b) (6), and we plan to sync with him later this afternoon.

If you are amenable, would a call at 1700 tomorrow, February 11, 2020 work? Patty?

Ian D. Watson
Assistant Director for Biotechnology & Biosecurity
Office of Science & Technology Policy

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Unclass: (b) (6)

SIPR: (b) (6)

JWICS: (b) (6)

Desk: (b) (6)

Cell (b) (6)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Science and Technology Policy
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2020

**President Trump's Science Advisor and the National Academies of Sciences,
Engineering, and Medicine Commit to Collaborative Effort on the Coronavirus**
White House OSTP and NASEM to Gather Subject Matter Experts on Origination of 2019-nCov

Yesterday, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) sent a letter to Dr. Marcia McNutt, President of the National Academy of Sciences, calling for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to rapidly examine information and identify data requirements that would help determine the origins of 2019-nCoV.

"Although a widely-disputed paper, 'Uncanny similarity of unique inserts in the 2019-nCoV spike protein to HIV-1 gp120 and Hag,' posted on the pre-print server bioRxiv last week has been withdrawn, the response to that manuscript highlights the need to determine information and data requirements as quickly as possible to better perform and validate such analyses of origin. These questions are important not only for this current situation, but to inform future outbreak preparation and better understand animal/human and environmental transmission aspects of coronaviruses. As part of a broader deliberative process, this review will aid preparedness for future events by establishing a process that quickly assembles subject matter experts for evaluating other potentially threatening organisms.

OSTP requests NASEM convene a meeting of experts, particularly world class geneticists, coronavirus experts, and evolutionary biologists, to assess what data, information, and samples are needed to address the unknowns, in order to understand the evolutionary origins of 2019-nCoV and more effectively respond to both the outbreak and any resulting misinformation. I request a letter statement from the National Academies be prepared and provided in response to this solicitation. A more in-depth examination of the issues will be established as a follow up as needed," **Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier wrote in the letter.**

Please find the letter to Dr. McNutt attached.

Subsequently, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine responded in a joint letter from Dr. Marcia McNutt, President of the National Academy of Sciences; Dr.

John L. Anderson, President of the National Academy of Engineering; and Dr. Victor J. Dzau, President of the National Academy of Medicine.

“In response to your request, we consulted leading experts in the fields of virology, infectious disease genomics, genome sciences, epidemiology, microbiology, immunobiology, coronaviruses, emerging infections, biosecurity, and global health. We wanted their views about the data needs that could help elucidate the origin and evolution of 2019-nCoV.

“The National Academies stand ready to assemble a committee of experts to examine these issues in more detail and provide evidence-based advice to you in an expedited manner if requested. We appreciate your trust in the National Academies and our efforts to advise the nation and inform public policy decisions,” **the three presidents wrote in the letter.**

Please find the letter from NASEM presidents to Dr. Droegemeier attached.

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