

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA)
Sent: Thu, 5 Mar 2020 21:35:58 +0000
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E]; HHS/OS Interviews; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL); NIAID COGCORE; NIAID Media Inquiries; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; OCPLPressTeam; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E]; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E]; Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C]; Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 5, 2020, at 4:26 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

ADD:

Reporter: Vittorio Giordano
Organization: IL CITTADINO CANADESE (Italian newspaper published in Montreal)
Phone #(s): 514 253-2332
Subject: Covid-19 and international spread
Deadline: March 6 at 3:00 PM
Spokesperson: NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C]

(b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 5, 2020, at 3:45 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> wrote:

ADD 2

(online):

Reporter: Forest Cong
Organization: VOA
Phone #(s): (b) (6) | ycong@VOANews.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects, Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID
Expected place of publication: online/print
Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

ADD (online/print):

Reporter: Peter Hessler
Organization: The New Yorker
Phone #(s): (b) (6)
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects, Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID
Expected place of publication: online/print
Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 3:38 PM

To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>

Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews

(NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Deatruck, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] <(b) (6)>; Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 5, 2020, at 3:27 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

ADD 4 (online/print)

Reporter: Katrina Manson

Organization: Financial Times

Phone #(s): (b) (6) | katrina.manson@ft.com

Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19

Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20

Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects, Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID

Expected place of publication: online/print

Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

Reporter: Adrianna Rodriguez

Organization: USA Today

Phone #(s): (b) (6) (m) | adrodriquez@usatoday.com

Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19

Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20

Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects, Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID

Expected place of publication: online/print

Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

Reporter: Yan Yan

Organization: Sanlian Life Week Magazine

Phone #(s): yanyan@lifeweek.com.cn

Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19

Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20

Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects,
Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID

Expected place of publication: online/print

Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

Reporter: Alice Su

Organization: LA Times

Phone #(s): alice.su@latimes.com

Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19

Deadline: Noon tomorrow, 3/6/20

Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, MD, NIAID Deputy Director, Clinical Research and Special Projects,
Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIAID

Expected place of publication: online/print

Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:10 PM

To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
(b) (6)>

Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews
<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID
COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,
Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,
John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick,
Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile

Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:05 PM

To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]
(b) (6)>

Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]
(b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OS - Interviews
<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID

COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

ADD 3:

(print)

Reporter: Philip Ball

Organization: Prospect (British current affairs magazine <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=9cd89f76-c08cb65d-9cd8ae49-0cc47a6d17cc-2403d9b9f029638b&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=e5a439b5-b9f0109e-e5a4088a-0cc47a6d17cc-6598a1c4ef0a4b7c&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=b8083d3e-e45c2442-b8080c01-0cc47adc5fa2-98a27b24b5bbb81e&u=https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=171de6b9-4b48ef69-171dd786-0cc47a6a52de-cb5a706ee151d245&u=http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/>)

Phone #(s): not given (b) (6)

Subject: Coronavirus, role of basic research; new vaccine technologies

Deadline: March 13

Spokesperson: Dr. Barney Graham, deputy director, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID

Expected place of publication (print, online, broadcast): print and online

Expected date of publication/airing: Friday March 13

Expected prominence (e.g. front page, Sunday, evening/morning show, etc.): feature story

Key messages/talking points: Dr. Graham is one of the lead researchers at NIAID's VRC working on coronaviruses, including novel coronavirus. He will describe various new technologies that are streamlining and speeding the process of creating candidate vaccines to test.

ADD (Podcast):

Reporter: Howard Bauchner, MD (editor-in-chief)

Organization: JAMA's Conversations with Dr Bauchner podcast

Phone #(s): Howard.Bauchner@jamanetwork.org

Subject: COVID-19

Deadline: today

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

Expected place of publication: where podcasts are available and JAMA website

Expected date of publication/airing: TBD

Expected prominence: unknown

ADD (Podcast)

Reporter: Joe Elia

Organization: NEJM's Clinical Conversations podcast

Phone #(s): (b) (6)

Subject: COVID-19

Deadline: March 10; ASAP to schedule

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

Expected place of publication: where podcasts are available and NEJM website

Expected date of publication/airing: TBD

Expected prominence: unknown

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <Naweed.Lemar@hhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:52 PM

To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)>

Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews

<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID

COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,

Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick,

Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile

Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 1:44 PM

To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)

Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OS - Interviews

<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID

COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,

Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick,

Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E]

(b) (6)>

Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

<image001.png>

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 11:46 AM

To: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

Cc: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 5, 2020, at 11:41 AM, Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

Add:

Reporter: Amina Khan
Organization: LA Times
Phone #(s): (b) (6) Amina.Khan@latimes.com
Subject: Covid-19 vaccine
Deadline: today
Spokesperson: NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

Reporter: Clare Baldwin
Organization: Reuters
Phone #(s): (b) (6) , Clare.Baldwin@thomsonreuters.com
Subject: ecology of CoV
Deadline: today
Spokesperson: NIAID's Dr. Vincent Munster
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This writer is working on a story about the lack of Covid-19 cases in India and Indonesia and has asked:
1. How widely are India and Indonesia testing for COVID-19?

2. Is viral ecology preventing spread in India and Indonesia? If this isn't something that's known right now, how would you go about finding an answer? The two countries have a pretty broad ecological range.

Dr. Munster would cover these points in his response:

- ecology wise it is important to realize that we are currently talking about the ecology of the virus in humans
- unknown whether the lack of cases is due to underreporting and lack of testing or really due to different circumstances
- if different circumstances, different parameters affecting transmission would be most likely (e.g. temperature and humidity)

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6); Lavelle, Judith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
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Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 4, 2020, at 5:23 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

ADD:

Reporter: Susan Ainsworth
Organization: American Chemical Society Planned Giving Newsletter
Phone #(s): (b) (6)
Subject: profile of Dr. Corbett, her work on VRC's SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccine candidate
Deadline: EOB tomorrow

Spokesperson: Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD, Viral Pathogenesis Translational Science Core, Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory, Vaccine Research Center, NIAID
Expected place of publication: online/print
Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 4, 2020, at 4:12 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> wrote:

ADD:

Reporter: Jerry Carnes
Organization: WXIA-TV
Phone #(s): (b) (6)
Subject: COVID-19 vaccine
Deadline: EOB today
Spokesperson: reply by email
Expected place of publication: online
Expected date of publication/airing: tbd

Key messages/talking points:

Reporter questions: Can you tell me generally who is working on a vaccine? What are the steps required to create such a vaccine? Will it help that folks have already worked on vaccines related to other coronaviruses? What is the typical timeframe for creation of a vaccine?

Statement attributed to NIAID: The NIAID Vaccine Research Center is developing an mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine for the virus that causes COVID-19. NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci is overseeing the NIH response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Dr. Barney Graham, deputy director of the NIAID Vaccine Research Center and chief of the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory, is leading efforts to develop and test the mRNA vaccine candidate to prevent acquisition of SARS-CoV-2, and Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett is the scientific lead on this project in his lab.

mRNA vaccines direct the body's cells to express a protein to elicit a broad immune response including high levels of neutralizing antibodies. The expressed spike protein is designed based on knowledge of the virus structure and stabilization through protein engineering, but the platform does not contain live or inactivated virus. The mRNA vaccine platform is well suited for responding to emerging outbreaks as drug product can be produced more quickly than with many other vaccine platforms. In this particular case, extensive vaccine research on the coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS conducted over the past several years by the VRC in collaboration with Moderna allow for a rapid response to the virus that causes COVID-19.

NIAID and its ongoing industry partner Moderna anticipate the vaccine will be ready for the first stage of clinical testing in about a month or so. In a Phase 1 clinical trial, a vaccine is given to healthy volunteers to test if it is safe and induces an immune response.

You can learn more about the subsequent steps for clinical research on vaccines from this FDA webpage: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/development-approval-process-cber/vaccine-product-approval-process>. It is important to note that a COVID-19 vaccine will not be widely available to the public for at least a year and likely longer. Clinical testing to establish a vaccine's safety and efficacy takes time.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCLP Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCLPInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] <(b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

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V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 4, 2020, at 3:55 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> wrote:

ADD

Reporter: Jon Cohen
Organization: Science
Phone #(s): (b) (6), jcohen@aaas.org
Subject: Coronavirus studies at NIAID's RML
Deadline: this week for scheduling
Spokesperson: NIAID's Dr. Vincent Munster, plus group members
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

Jon has asked to visit NIAID's Montana facility at Rocky Mountain Laboratories for one day; Dr. Munster said he can make arrangements do show him their labs and discuss coronavirus research projects in about three weeks.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Deatrick, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6)>
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V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>

Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 12:06 PM

To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6)>

Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E]

<(b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; OS - Interviews

<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID

COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,

Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Deatricks,

Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b) (6)>

Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

ADD 2:

Reporter: Noah Weiland

Organization: The New York Times

Phone #(s): (c): (b) (6), (o): 202-862-0393, noah.weiland@nytimes.com

Subject: Covid-19—the early days

Deadline: COB Wednesday

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Expected place of publication: print, online

Expected date of publication/airing: unknown

Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, “before many were aware of the virus,” and would like a 5-minute phone interview to fill in a timeline he is building.

ADD

For awareness, adding highlighted spokesperson to approved request:

Reporter: Carolyn Kormann

Organization: The New Yorker

Phone #(s): o: 212-286-7976, c: (b) (6), carolyn_kormann@newyorker.com

Subject: Covid-19 vaccine development

Deadline: COB Wednesday

Spokesperson: NIAID's Dr. Barney Graham and **Dr. John Mascola**

Expected place of publication: print, online

Expected date of publication/airing: unknown

Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about Covid-19 vaccine development. Dr. Graham and Dr. Mascola would summarize projects in NIAID's Vaccine Research Center.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6) >
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >
Cc: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COG CORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) >
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 4, 2020, at 8:57 AM, Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) > wrote:

ADD: (online outlet)

Reporter: Eric Boodman
Organization: STAT
Phone #(s): (b) (6) eric.boodman@globe.com
Subject: Coronavirus, animal model used in testing Moderna candidate vaccine
Deadline: ASAP today W Mar 4
Spokesperson: N/A emailed response attributed to NIAID
Expected place of publication (print, online, broadcast): online
Expected date of publication/airing: Mar 5
Expected prominence (e.g. front page, Sunday, evening/morning show, etc.): news item
Key messages/talking points: emailed response, attributed to NIAID **The mRNA-1273 experimental COVID-19 vaccine has been tested in mice at the NIAID Vaccine Research Center.**

Additional information: Reporter contacted Moderna (maker of an experimental COVID-19 developed with the NIAID Vaccine Research Center) to ask what animals have been used to date to test the experimental mRNA vaccine (called mRNA-1273). NIAID will respond via email.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 3, 2020, at 6:14 PM, Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

Add:

Reporter: Carolyn Kormann
Organization: The New Yorker
Phone #(s): o: 212-286-7976, c (b) (6) carolyn_kormann@newyorker.com
Subject: Covid-19 vaccine development
Deadline: COB Wednesday
Spokesperson: NIAID's Dr. Barney Graham
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about Covid-19 vaccine development. Dr. Graham would summarize projects in NIAID's Vaccine Research Center.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] <aoplinger@niaid.nih.gov>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,

Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OS - Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Add:

Reporter: Jana Alexander Hill
Organization: Snohomish County Tribune
Phone #(s): (b) (6) jana@snoho.com
Subject: NIAID and Moderna vaccine trial
Deadline: Thursday
Spokesperson: reply by email from NIAID
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about the Covid-19 vaccine trial involving NIAID and Moderna; she is under the impression that a vaccine could be available in April. NIAID would send her the following:

NIAID scientists collaborated with the biotechnology company Moderna, Inc., to develop an investigational mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A [Phase 1 clinical trial](#) of the vaccine will be held at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, a NIAID-supported [Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit \(VTEU\)](#). The trial does not have a firm start date.

This phase 1 trial will determine, in a small number of people (usually less than 50), vaccine safety and whether the vaccine induces the desired protective response; this typically takes about three months.

If the vaccine shows promise, the next step in the development process is a Phase 2 study, the goal of which is to understand if the vaccine can protect people from infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. This requires enrolling hundreds of people in endemic regions. Although NIAID is on track to quickly advance to clinical trials, it is important to note that a COVID-19 vaccine will not be widely available to the public for at least a year and likely longer. Clinical testing to establish a vaccine's safety and efficacy takes time.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:26 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; OS - Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

ADD:

Reporter: Ron Charles
Organization: Washington Post
Phone #(s): ron.charles@washpost.com
Subject: CoV and credible information
Deadline: today
Spokesperson: reply by email from NIAID

Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about the myriad of books available on Amazon.com about coronavirus and how people can find credible information. NIAID would send him the following:

Hi Ron. Our suggestion is for people who are seeking credible information about Covid-19, they rely on these sites:

CDC: [COVID-19](#)
WHO: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

In addition, this one is specific to communicators:

CDC: [Interim Guidance: Public Health Communicators Get Your Community Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)
Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; OS - Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

ADD:

Reporter: Daniel Marcus

Organization: Vox

Phone #(s): (b) (6)

Subject: NIAID and Moderna vaccine trial

Deadline: today

Spokesperson: reply by email from NIAID

Expected place of publication: online

Expected date of publication/airing: unknown

Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a story about the Covid-19 vaccine trial involving NIAID and Moderna. NIAID would send him the following:

NIAID scientists collaborated with the biotechnology company Moderna, Inc., to develop an investigational mRNA (messenger RNA) vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). A Phase 1 clinical trial of the vaccine will be held at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle, a NIAID-supported Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU). The trial does not have a firm start date.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 1:11 PM

To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Cc: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]

<(b) (6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews

<interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID

COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc,

Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 3, 2020, at 12:54 PM, Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

ADD:

Reporter: Perry Backus
Organization: Ravalli Republic (MTnewspaper)
Phone #(s): (b) (6)
Subject: Coronavirus preparedness steps
Deadline: today
Spokesperson: NIAID's Dr. Marshall Bloom, MD
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This reporter is working on a broad story about how Hamilton, MT, is preparing for the spread of coronavirus, reaching out to schools, the hospital, and NIAID's Rocky Mountain Laboratories. Dr. Bloom will say that RML has no preparedness role in the community, those efforts fall to local and state public health officials. RML does have a constant research role on coronavirus and other infectious diseases, however, and will continue to keep the public informed on any research developments.

From: Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Wole,
Sorry—please cancel this clearance request if you can. NIAID is NOT able to accommodate NPR Morning Edition.

Anne A. Oplinger
NIAID Office of Communications
Media Line: 301-402-1663
General Line: 301-594-3961
(b) (6)

From: Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)
Cc: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow,

John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

ADD: (radio)
Reporter: HJ Mai, producer
Organization: NPR Morning Edition
Phone #(s): (b) (6) hmai@npr.org
Subject: Coronavirus, latest on
Deadline: Any day week of Mar 1
Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci
Expected place of publication (print, online, broadcast): broadcast radio
Expected date of publication/airing: TBD
Expected prominence (e.g. front page, Sunday, evening/morning show, etc.): segment on morning news program

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:07 PM
To: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 6:11 PM, Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> wrote:

Add:

Reporter: Julia Belluz
Organization: Vox
Phone #(s)/email: julia.belluz@vox.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: Tomorrow, March 3
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects

Reporter: Knvul Sheikh
Organization: New York Times
Phone #(s)/email: (b) (6); knvul.sheikh@nytimes.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: Tomorrow, March 3
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects

Reporter: Jon Cohen
Organization: Science
Phone #(s)/email: jcohen@aaas.org
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: tomorrow, March 3
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects

Reporter: Lena Sun
Organization: Washington Post
Phone #(s)/email: lena.sun@washpost.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: tomorrow, March 3
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects

Reporter: Tom Burton
Organization: Wall St. Journal
Phone #(s)/email: tom.burton@wsj.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: tomorrow, March 3
Spokesperson: H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects

Additional/background information: Dr. Lane was publicly named by the WHO in a press conference last week as part of the WHO-led mission to China. We referred reporters requesting to speak to him to the WHO's report from that mission, but these specific reporters pushed back asking to speak with Dr. Lane about what he saw and the task force's findings. Dr. Lane would respond with the following:

Main Talking Points:

I appreciated the opportunity to be part of the China-WHO joint mission on COVID-19.

The joint mission focused on key questions related to the natural history of and severity of COVID-19, the transmission dynamics of virus in different settings and the impact of the ongoing response.

While our itinerary was tightly controlled we visited multiple public health, healthcare and community venues and felt those we spoke with spoke fairly freely and in depth.

The outbreak in China has been steadily declining since February 2 (see graphs below).

This decline is likely due to the strong top-down leadership and aggressive public health measures put in place by the government of China shortly after recognition of the problem coupled with the rapid identification of the causative agent and deployment of diagnostic tests.

There has been a whole-of-China approach in response to the outbreak including closing of wet markets, limitations on travel, universal temperature monitoring and hand washing, cancellation of mass gathering activities, closing of schools, extensive contact tracing, medical isolation of close contacts, mass public education, identification of designated hospitals to care for COVID-19 patients and expansion of healthcare capacity.

The rapid implementation of these measures by China likely slowed the global spread and provided additional time to develop containment strategies (including the development of countermeasures).

A substantial array of studies of COVID-19 are ongoing. These include studies of pathogenesis, development of improved diagnostics, clinical trials of investigational therapeutics and development of vaccines.

More Granular Details:

Among close contacts, approximately 1-5% were found to be infected with the virus, indicating it is less infectious than flu.

Following the earliest days of the outbreak and following the deployment of adequate supplies of personal protective equipment there have been very few cases in health care workers – many of which were acquired in the community, not in the health care setting.

Relatively few reported cases (2.4%) are in children and the disease appears to be milder in children.

Symptoms are non-specific and range from no symptoms to severe pneumonia and death. Fever (87.9%) and cough (67.7%) are the most common. Sore throat (13.9%) and nasal congestion (4.8%) are less common.

Most people (80%) will have mild disease and recover; 13% have severe disease and 6% are critical.

The overall case fatality rate is 3.8% and has been dropping over the course of the outbreak. The highest mortality rates are in those over 80 (21.9%).

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>

Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCLP Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL)

<ODOCLPInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries

<mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam

<OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott

(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 5:25 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

Add:

Reporter: Doug Belkin

Organization: Wall Street Journal

Phone #(s): (b) (6), doug.belkin@wsj.com

Subject: drug development process for CoV

Deadline: Tuesday COB

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Expected place of publication: print, online

Expected date of publication/airing: unknown

Expected prominence: unknown

Key messages/talking points: Dr. Fauci will explain the general process of drug development for COVID-19.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 5:19 PM

To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Stover, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6);

OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6);

Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok, but wasn't there an earlier update request today from the times earlier from Rabin?

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 5:05 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

ADD (print)

Reporter: Denise Grady

Organization: New York Times

Phone #(s): (b) (6); grady@nytimes.com>

Subject: Coronavirus update

Deadline: For today or tomorrow (3/3)

Spokesperson: NIAID Directory Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Expected place of publication: online, print

Expected date of publication/airing: unknown

Expected prominence: unknown

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 5:01 PM

To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>

Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL)

<ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries

<mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)> OCPLPressTeam

<OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott

(NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>

Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 4:29 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)> wrote:

Reporter: Dana Rubenstein

Organization: Politico
Phone #(s): O: 646.493.1478 C: (b) (6) drubinstein@politico.com
Subject: coronavirus fears among riders of NYC's subway system
Deadline: today
Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci
Expected place of publication: online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b) (6)>; OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 3:25 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> wrote:

ADD

Reporter: Marc Ransford
Organization: Ball State Univ. alum magazine
Phone #(s): 765-285-1570, 00meransford@bsu.edu
Subject: NIAID CoV vaccine research
Deadline: Weds COB
Spokesperson: Geoffrey Hutchinson, a post-bac in NIAID's Vaccine Research Center
Expected place of publication: print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: unknown
Expected prominence: unknown

This communications officer at Ball State Univ would like to talk with alum Geoff Hutchinson about his post-bac work in NIAID's Vaccine Research Center on developing a coronavirus vaccine.

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>
Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Oplinger, Anne (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Direct: (b) (6)
Mobile: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 2:28 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

ADD: (print, online)

Reporter: Roni Rabin
Organization: New York Time
Phone #(s): 212-556-8314 (b) (6) (cell) roni.rabin@nytimes.com
Subject: Coronavirus, general update
Deadline: COB today Mon. March 2
Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci
Expected place of publication (print, online, broadcast): print, online
Expected date of publication/airing: March 2
Expected prominence (e.g. front page, Sunday, evening/morning show, etc.): unknown

From: Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Cc: HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Re: Interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

V/R,

Naweed Lemar

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Direct: (b) (6)

Mobile: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2020, at 1:38 PM, Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) wrote:

ADD:

Producer: Emma Pearce

Organization: BBC radio 4, London

Phone #(s): (b) (6), emma.pearce@bbc.co.uk

Subject: perspective on flu in U.S., CoV fears

Deadline: Tuesday 8 a.m. ET

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Expected place of publication: radio, online

Expected date of publication/airing: 8 a.m. ET Tuesday March 3

Expected prominence: BBC World at One

Key messages/talking points: She would like to discuss the flu season in the U.S. to give people in the U.K. perspective about CoV fears. She said people in the U.K. are not familiar with how severe the flu season has been in the U.S., particularly for children. She'd like to have someone make the point that flu is as much or more of a concern in the U.S.

From: Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA) <(b) (6)>

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 9:52 AM

To: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>

Cc: Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD

OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>;

NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>

Subject: Re: interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

On: 01 March 2020 11:32,

"Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) wrote:

Add:

Reporter: HJ Mai, Editor, Morning Edition

Organization: NPR Morning Edition

Phone #(s): (b) (6); e-mail: HMai@npr.org

Subject: Coronavirus

Deadline: Live 6 a.m. tomorrow morning (3/2)

Spokesperson: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Expected place of publication (print, online, broadcast): Radio

Expected date of publication/airing:

Expected prominence (e.g. front page, Sunday, evening/morning show, etc.):

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From: Robinson, Michael J (HHS/ASPA) (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2020 9:33:42 AM
To: Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); HHS/OS Interviews <interviews@hhs.gov>
Cc: Burklow, John (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Prince, Scott (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); OCPLPressTeam <OCPLPressTeam@od.nih.gov>; ODOCPL Interviews (NIH/OD OCPL) <ODOCPLInterviews@mail.nih.gov>; NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Re: interview request: novel coronavirus (week of Mar. 1)

Ok

On: 01 March 2020 09:07,
"Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]" (b) (6) wrote:

The following reporters have reached out to H. Clifford Lane, M.D., NIAID deputy director for clinical research and special projects. As publicly named by the WHO in a press conference last week, Dr. Lane was part of the WHO-led mission to China. The mission recently posted a report and we would refer reporters to the report and defer to the WHO. Requesting to send this information to the list of reporters below:

Thanks for reaching out. Please refer to the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19, available here: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>. At this time we defer inquiries about the mission to the WHO.

Reporter: Julia Belluz

Organization: Vox
Phone #(s)/email: julia.belluz@vox.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.

Reporter: Slavea Chankova
Organization: The Economist
Phone #(s)/email: (b) (6); slaveachankova@economist.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.

Reporter: Donna Young
Organization: S&P Global News
Phone #(s)/email: donna.young@spglobal.com; (b) (6)
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.

Reporter: Lauran Neergaard
Organization: AP
Phone #(s)/email: LNeergaard@ap.org
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.

Reporter: Knvul Sheikh
Organization: New York Times
Phone #(s)/email: (b) (6); knvul.sheikh@nytimes.com
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.

Reporter: Jon Cohen
Organization: Science
Phone #(s)/email: jcohen@aaas.org
Subject: WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19
Deadline: ASAP
Spokesperson: emailed response attributed to NIAID generally.