

**From:** Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 14 Jul 2015 23:00:26 -0400  
**To:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Rosa, William (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Meegan, James (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Bernabe, Gayle (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: July update

Thanks Gray. I will work with NSFC on preparing the document for the international sample sharing regulations. I can't promise anything soon but will try. (b) (5)

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Regarding the referrals to the virology meeting, there would be only a couple of slots they can sponsor. I (b) (5)

Ping

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**From:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 22:18  
**To:** Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Rosa, William (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Meegan, James (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Bernabe, Gayle (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: July update

[See Comments below.](#)

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**From:** Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 5:39 AM  
**To:** Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Meegan, James (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Bernabe, Gayle (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Rosa, William (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NIAID) [E]; (b) (6); Chen, Ping

(NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Subject:** July update

Hi,

Here are the activity updates for the past a couple of weeks.

1. Have been working with Ken on preparing for the pre advance team visit in preparation for the possible HHS Secretary visit to China in Sept. 9-11. The pre advance team will be in Beijing this Wednesday. I will meet them on Wednesday to brief on the NIAID activities in China. The team will visit several places and I will be with the team to China CDC (will visit the National Flu Surveillance lab), Peking University Health Center, NHFPC, and PUMCH.

2. I visited three Chinese PIs on NIAID funded projects in Wuhan (I contacted 5 PIs, one was not available and one never responded) last week. Briefly, one PI at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Dr. Shi, Zhengli, is known as the bat lady. She studies the viruses carried by the Chinese bats trying to identify the viral reservoirs, particularly focusing on coronaviruses such as SARS and MERS. She has identified bat viruses that are genetically very close to the SARS virus that caused the outbreak in China in 2003. Now she is trying to conduct epidemiology studies in the populations living close to bat caves using serology approach to determine whether these populations have existing antibodies against the viruses found in bats. She also develops detection tools for the viruses which can be useful during future outbreaks by emerging viruses (they may come from bats). She has multiple-collaborations with international partners.

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Another PI I visited is Dr. Yang Dongliang, Chief of the infectious diseases at Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College. Dr. Yang had one of the one-year programs where he collaborated with US PI on universal HIV vaccine research. His role in the collaboration was to collect HIV isolates from Chinese patients, sequencing the viruses, and close the envelope genes for the US collaborators to screen for conserved epitopes via a novel screening technology.

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The third PI I visited is Dr. Wu Jiangguo, who is the head of the state key lab of virology in Wuhan University. (b) (5)

(b) (5) George Gao is a close collaborator with the lab. In addition to basic research on virology, the lab also does translational research in antivirals, vaccines and reagents with industry partners. (b) (5)

Wuhan University is the host for an ATCC like facility in China, which provides cell lines and viruses for the Chinese researchers with a fee, perhaps the only one in China (I know so far). The University also has the BSL3 lab for conducting large animal studies for infectious diseases. The best-known one is the monkey TB model. The lab is hosting an international virology meeting and I was asked to help find US virologists to attend and present. I was also asked to give a 10 min talk on NIH, NIAID. The meeting is in late Oct. I will reach out to the program staff for speaker recommendations. (b) (5) **Late October is quite soon so we would need more details about the meeting, especially whether they would like to invite US scientists to present. Be sure to reach out to all the Divisions when you have more information.**

I will stop here and let me know if you have any questions.

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