E

	00100	DAOF
A.	COVER	PAGE

Project Title: Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emerger	nce	
Grant Number: 5R01AI110964-03	Project/Grant Period: 06/01/2014 - 05/31/2019	
Reporting Period: 06/01/2015 - 05/31/2016	Requested Budget Period: 06/01/2016 - 05/31/2017	
Report Term Frequency: Annual	Date Submitted: 05/13/2016	
Program Director/Principal Investigator Information: PETER DASZAK , BS PHD Phone number: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)	Recipient Organization: ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. ECOHEALTH ALLIANCE, INC. 460 W 34TH ST 17TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 100012320 DUNS: 077090066 EIN: 1311726494A1 RECIPIENT ID:	
Change of Contact PD/PI: N/A		
Administrative Official: ALEKSEI CHMURA 460 W 34th St., 17th Floor New York, NY 10001 Phone number: Email: (b) (6) (b) (6)	Signing Official: ALEKSEI CHMURA 460 W 34th St., 17th Floor New York, NY 10001 Phone number: (b) (6) Email: (b) (6)	
Human Subjects: Yes HS Exempt: No Exemption Number: Phase III Clinical Trial:	Vertebrate Animals: Yes	
hESC: No	Inventions/Patents: No	

B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

B.1 WHAT ARE THE MAJOR GOALS OF THE PROJECT?

Zoonotic coronaviruses are a significant threat to global health, as demonstrated with the emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) in 2002, and the recent emergence Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV). The wildlife reservoirs of SARS-CoV were identified by our group as bat species, and since then hundreds of novel bat-CoVs have been discovered (including >260 by our group). These, and other wildlife species, are hunted, traded, butchered and consumed across Asia, creating a largescale human-wildlife interface, and high risk of future emergence of novel CoVs.

To understand the risk of zoonotic CoV emergence, we propose to examine 1) the transmission dynamics of bat-CoVs across the human-wildlife interface, and 2) how this process is affected by CoV evolutionary potential, and how it might force CoV evolution. We will assess the nature and frequency of contact among animals and people in two critical human-animal interfaces: live animal markets in China and people who are highly exposed to bats in rural China. In the markets we hypothesize that viral emergence may be accelerated by heightened mixing of host species leading to viral evolution, and high potential for contact with humans. In this study, we propose three specific aims and will screen free ranging and captive bats in China for known and novel coronaviruses; screen people who have high occupational exposure to bats and other wildlife; and examine the genetics and receptor binding properties of novel bat-CoVs we have already identified and those we will discover. We will then use ecological and evolutionary analyses and predictive mathematical models to examine the risk of future bat-CoV spillover to humans. This work will follow 3 specific aims:

Specific Aim 1: Assessment of CoV spillover potential at high risk human-wildlife interfaces. We will examine if: 1) wildlife markets in China provide enhanced capacity for bat-CoVs to infect other hosts, either via evolutionary adaptation or recombination; 2) the import of animals from throughout Southeast Asia introduces a higher genetic diversity of mammalian CoVs in market systems compared to within intact ecosystems of China and Southeast Asia; We will interview people about the nature and frequency of contact with bats and other wildlife; collect blood samples from people highly exposed to wildlife; and collect a full range of clinical samples from bats and other mammals in the wild and in wetmarkets; and screen these for CoVs using serological and molecular assays.

Specific Aim 2: Receptor evolution, host range and predictive modeling of bat-CoV emergence risk. We propose two competing hypotheses: 1) CoV host-range in bats and other mammals is limited by the

phylogenetic relatedness of bats and evolutionary conservation of CoV receptors; 2) CoV host-range is limited by geographic and ecological opportunity for contact between species so that the wildlife trade disrupts the 'natural' co-phylogeny, facilitates spillover and promotes viral evolution. We will develop CoV phylogenies from sequence data collected previously by our group, and in the proposed study, as well as from Genbank. We will examine co-evolutionary congruence of bat-CoVs and their hosts using both functional (receptor) and neutral genes. We will predict host-range in unsampled species using a generalizable model of host and viral ecological and phylogenetic traits to explain patterns of viral sharing between species. We will test for positive selection in market vs. wild-sampled viruses, and use data to parameterize mathematical models that predict CoV evolutionary and transmission dynamics. We will then examine scenarios of how CoVs with different transmissibility would likely emerge in wildlife markets.

Specific Aim 3: Testing predictions of CoV inter-species transmission. We will test our models of host range (i.e. emergence potential) experimentally using reverse genetics, pseudovirus and receptor binding assays, and virus infection experiments in cell culture and humanized mice. With bat-CoVs that we've isolated or sequenced, and using live virus or pseudovirus infection in cells of different origin or expressing different receptor molecules, we will assess potential for each isolated virus and those with receptor binding site sequence, to spill over. We will do this by sequencing the spike (or other receptor binding/fusion) protein genes from all our bat-CoVs, creating mutants to identify how significantly each would need to evolve to use ACE2, CD26/DPP4 (MERS-CoV receptor) or other potential CoV receptors. We will then use receptor-mutant pseudovirus binding assays, in vitro studies in bat, primate, human and other species' cell lines, and with humanized mice where particularly interesting viruses are identified phylogenetically, or isolated. These tests will provide public health-relevant data, and also iteratively improve our predictive model to better target bat species and CoVs during our field studies to obtain bat-CoV strains of the greatest interest for understanding the mechanisms of cross-species transmission.

B.1.a Have the major goals changed since the initial competing award or previous report?

No

B.2 WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THESE GOALS?

File uploaded: Year 2 NIAID CoV Report Final.pdf

B.3 COMPETITIVE REVISIONS/ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLEMENTS

For this reporting period, is there one or more Revision/Supplement associated with this award for which reporting is required?

No

B.4 WHAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS THE PROJECT PROVIDED?

File uploaded: Year 2 NIAID CoV Report Professional Development.pdf

B.5 HOW HAVE THE RESULTS BEEN DISSEMINATED TO COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST?

1) Conference and University lectures: PI Daszak, and Co-investigators Shi, Epstein, Olival, Ge, and Zhang gave >100 invited University and Conference lectures including Forum on Microbial Threats (National Academies of Science), Symposium at École du Val-de-Grâce in Paris, Leadership Roundtable at Concordia University Montreal, 1st annual Global Pandemic Policy Summit at Texas A&M Univ., Intl. Conf. of the Wildlife Disease Association in Australia, Intl. Conf. of Conservation Biol in Montpellier France, Michigan State University, Duke University, WDA, ISID conference, Zoological Society of London Symposium, Future Earth meeting, North American Bat Research Symposium, and others that included specific discussion of the current project and results.

2) Agency and other briefings: PI Daszak and Research Technician Dr. Guangjian Zhu introduced this project to potential collaborators within the following agencies: Forestry Dept of Peoples' Republic of China, FAO, TNC, TRAFFIC, China CDC, and TA Foundation in Beijing China in meetings (2015) and also at presentations at the first Wildlife and Public Health Workshop in China (2016) co-hosted by EcoHealth Alliance, the State Forestry Administration of China, and China CDC.

3) Public outreach: PI Daszak presented this work to members of the NIH, NSF, DoD, IUCN, EPA, and the general public, at an EcoHealth Alliance meeting hosted by the Cosmos Club, Washington D.C. (2015); PI Daszak and Co-investigator Zhu reported on this project at a Wildlife Trade and Public Health Seminar, Beijing (2016); PI Daszak introduced this project in a lecture on Pandemics at a New York Academy of Science Panel (2016); Co-PI Y-Z Zhang presented project and results-to-date to department heads and senior researchers at Infectious Disease Departments of four Yunnan Hospitals (2015)

B.6 WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO DURING THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS?

Specific Aim 1: Assessment of CoV spillover potential at high risk human-wildlife interfaces.

- Given the reduced amount of wildlife in the local markets within Southern China, and the continued expansion of the Chinese wildlife trade within SE Asia, we would like to conduct short field trips to assess markets, identify wildlife in them, and sample species of bats and other high-risk hosts in countries that neighbor China (Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR) and others that supply wildlife to the international trade to China (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia. EcoHealth Alliance has other activities in these countries which would provide leverage to reduce costs of fieldwork, and samples would be tested in Wuhan, China.

- Following the successful collection of ethnographic interviews and focus groups in Year 2, we will be analyzing the qualitative data collection from Years 1 and 2.

- Finalize and conduct survey collection tool for a network study of wildlife farmers using a questionnaire to characterize and map the wildlife value chain.

- After the success of our pilot studies in Year 2, we will continue targeted (at individuals with high risk of exposure to bats), integrated behavioral and biological survey work in Yunnan and expand to Guangxi and Guangdong provinces.

We will commence our anonymized, surveillance data collection from acutely ill hospital in-patients who satisfy syndromic eligibility criteria; have complete medical records; non-normative laboratory confirmed diagnostic results; and suspected acute viral infection.
Eligibility criteria are: (a) suspected acute viral infection; (b) fever > 38°C, and (c) presenting symptoms of at least one of the following:
Encephalitis of unknown origin

•Hemorrhagic fever of unknown origin

Respiratory disease

olnfluenza-like illness (ILI)

oSevere Acute Respiratory like Illness (SARI)

RashDiarrhea

Some patients with particular infections such as with HIV, HCV, and HBV, may be excluded from the study on that basis. Hospital surveillance has the advantage of monitoring an acutely ill population. Anonymized, passive hospital surveillance allows for data collection and viral testing from all eligible hospital patients thereby limiting population sample bias and increasing the likelihood of identifying positive cases. The strengths of this approach are enormous: an unbiased patient population; prospectively collected, anonymized patient data; a low resource effort with a high efficiency design; and impactful research potential for both case series and case control studies. We have already secured approval from the Institutional Review Boards of the Wuhan School of Public Health and Hummingbird IRB.

Specific Aim 2: Receptor evolution, host range and predictive modeling of bat-CoV emergence risk. Future steps to optimize the model of role of species diversity in CoV emergence risk will include:

- Test and implement our respondent-driven survey to collect specific data on the diversity, abundance, and turnover of species along the wildlife trade network in south China.

- Model viral mixing across the full range parameters found along the wildlife trade network to identify the trade nodes with highest mixing potential. This will include a network analysis of market facility/site connectivity including wild harvest sites, wildlife farming operations, transit holding facilities, and small and large wildlife markets.

- Phylogeographic study of bat-CoV to better understand the geographic distribution and evolution of bat-CoV genetic diversity in south

China.

- Phylogeographic study of bat host (Rhinolophus) species to assess the connectivity of bat populations and infer their historical movements and demographic history to improve our understanding of CoV transmission among bat populations in southern China. Preliminary sequences data has been generated and will be completed and analyzed.

- Cophylogenetic analyses of bat host and CoV phylogenies to assess frequency of cross-species transmission. Comparison of Alphaand Beta-CoV cophylogenetic patterns building on Year 2 analyses using published sequences and also including Spike gene and additional sequences obtained in Year 2.

- Test and implement our respondent-driven survey to assess diversity, abundance, and turnover of species along the wildlife trade network.

- Examine co-evolutionary congruence of bat-CoVs and their hosts using both functional (receptor) and neutral genes;

- Parameterize mathematical models that predict CoV evolutionary and transmission dynamics

- Continued surveillances of SARS-like CoVs and lineage C betacoronaviruses (MERS-related CoVs) in Southern China;

- Full-length genome sequencing and evolution analysis of SARS-like coronaviruses identified from different bat species and different geographical locations across China;

- Full-length genome sequencing and evolution analysis of Lineage C betacoronaviruses identified from different bat species and different geographical locations across China;

- Full-length genome sequencing and evolution analysis of HKU9-related and HKU10-related bat coronaviruses in China;

Specific Aim 3: Testing predictions of CoV inter-species transmission. The following experiments will be undertaken in Year 2:

- Humanized mice with human ACE2 receptors will be infected with WIV1 and the two rescued chimeric SARS-like coronaviruses to determine the tissue tropism and pathogenicity of bat SL-CoV

- Isolation of novel bat coronaviruses. Live virus or pseudovirus will be used to infect cells of different origin or expressing different receptor molecules. Spillover potential for each isolated virus will be assessed.

- An infectious clone of full-length MERS-CoV will be constructed using reverse genetic method. Using the S sequence of different MERS-related viruses identified from Chinese bats, the chimeric viruses with S gene of bat MERS-related coronaviruses and backbone of the infectious clone of MERS-CoV will be constructed to study the receptor usage and infectivity of bat MERS-related coronavirus.

- Surveillance of infection in human populations by SARS-like CoVs. This work will be performed at locations in Yunnan, Guangxi, and Guangdong provinces, in previously identified areas with human populations of high risk of exposure to bats. PCR and ELISA will be used, respectively, for detection of viral replicase gene and antibodies against the viral nucleocapsid protein.