

From: Jon Epstein <ecohealthalliance.org>

Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 4:38 PM EDT

To: Schountz, Tony

Subject: Re: Monoclonal antibodies

Awesome - and agree.

I would like to brainstorm together for the letters before we approach anyone. I'll start a google doc and we can live edit it.

Let's think about who the 'dream team' will be for this.

It also occurred to me - what do you think about building in a facility in Bangladesh where we keep a captive breeding colony, that would serve as a feeder if we need more bats along the way? We could develop and fund a closed colony there, like what Cambridge did in Ghana, and we'd know the status of each bat. Brian Pope would be great at helping set this up. And it would allow the colony at CSU to fluctuate a bit in size, and we could pull in new bats as needed. I think it's a nice insurance policy to support the colony in CO as we develop it. This could be something I would manage - but I think we could convince the govt and if we provide all the funding for construction and upkeep, it could really happen.

Thoughts?

On Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 4:27 PM Schountz, Tony

> wrote:

Jon, I think a really important part of the grant will be to make monoclonal antibodies to various proteins (e.g., CD antigens, cytokines) and cytokines as reagents. If you agree, I'd like to approach a colleague of my, Brian Geiss, to see if he is willing to be on the grant. Recombinant protein expression is his "thing" and he would be a great asset for the grant.

I also think we should get as many letters of support that we can get. I can probably get at least 10 from people we've helped over the years (provided tissues and cells, conducted experimental infections, etc.).

Let me know what you think.

Just moved into our new building. It is really sweet. :)

Thanks,

T.

—

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EcoHealth Alliance develops science-based solutions to prevent pandemics and promote conservation

From: Jon Epstein <ecohealthalliance.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2020 1:00 AM EDT
To: Schountz, Tony >
Subject: Re: Multimammate rats

Tony,
I wasn't able to work on this tonight - I'm going to have to pick it up tomorrow afternoon.
I got a letter of support from Vincent.
-Jon

On Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 5:35 PM Schountz, Tony > wrote:

Jon, I've gotten tied up with some unanticipated things so I probably can't get you anything before you start working on it. Please send to me and I'll get on it tonight and have it to you tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

T.

—
Tony Schountz, PhD
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On Mar 31, 2020, at 11:57 AM, Jon Epstein <ecohealthalliance.org> wrote:

Wow. You're doing some great stuff. I'm always amazed at how quickly you can spin up these experimental infections. I think we should include a US species in our proposal so we can help address questions of US relevance in terms of spillback. I can find out which ones NWHC is using.
-Jon

On Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 1:24 PM Schountz, Tony > wrote:

We might know that soon. One of the bats we euthanized yesterday was pregnant.

—
Tony Schountz, PhD
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On Mar 31, 2020, at 11:22 AM, Jon Epstein <ecohealthalliance.org> wrote:

I don't know either. We could try to catch them while pregnant. I also don't know if there's vertical transmission. This will be challenging, but I'm confident we can get to a point where we can safely ship. Maybe if they go straight into a BL3 facility, CDC will have less concern.
-Jon

On Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 12:50 PM Schountz, Tony > wrote:

RML imported the Lassa virus reservoir by having them born in captivity in Africa, then the offspring were imported directly to RML. Don't know if horseshoe bats can be born in captivity, but that could be an avenue to alleviate CDC concerns.

—
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