

Susan:

I agree with you. I don't see any evidence of lab origin, as no lab people have been infected, but with some rumors – just rumors!

COVID-19 is the disease name defined by WHO. I still feel SARS-CoV-2 is a good one adopted by Chinese American virologists.

Shan-Lu

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**From:** "Weiss, Susan" <weissr@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>

**Date:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 1:11 PM

**To:** Shan-Lu Liu <liu.6244@osu.edu>

**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: name for new CoV

I have a couple of comments

I don't think it is likely that bat virus leaked into humans in the lab- is there any evidence that someone from the Wuhan lab is infected? Also in general the bat viruses have been identified by sequence and are not actually isolated viruses.

RRAR is a good if not excellent furin site, similar to MERS- MHV A59 is RRAHR, MHV JHM is RRARR (a very good one) – lineage B Bat viruses generally do not have the furin site  
I doubt very much it was engineered in the lab. Doesn't make sense

I wonder if there is some compromise position re the name- the formal name I think has to be SARS-CoV-2 but maybe can be referred to COVID-19 informally- if you look at the internet WHO is calling it COVID-19

Susan

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**From:** "Liu, Shan-Lu" <liu.6244@osu.edu>

**Date:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 10:05 AM

**To:** "Weiss, Susan" <weissr@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>

**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: name for new CoV

Susan,

I have looked at carefully the RaTG13 sequence, and it is unlikely from it – also see attached file. But we cannot rule out the possibility of other bat viruses from the lab – The Wuhan lab has many bat samples not yet worked out or results published. There are some concerns that some of their samples may not have been handled properly

and leaked out of the lab...But just a possibility.

Right now, it's hard to say an intermediate host or directly from bats, I guess.

Shan-Lu

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**From:** "Weiss, Susan" <weissr@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>

**Date:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 9:48 AM

**To:** Shan-Lu Liu <liu.6244@osu.edu>

**Subject:** Re: [External] Re: name for new CoV

Do you think it could come from a bat virus- which one or an unpublished one? RaTg13 is the closest? Is it close enough in sequence? Do you think it came through an intermediate host and sequence drifted?

This is a very chilling idea

susan

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**From:** "Liu, Shan-Lu" <liu.6244@osu.edu>

**Date:** Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 9:41 AM

**To:** "Weiss, Susan" <weissr@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>

**Subject:** [External] Re: name for new CoV

Dear Susan,

I strongly support the new name SARS-CoV-2, as I feel that it does reflect what we currently know. I do understand the feeling of those Chinese colleagues, but I dislike their political motivations. They have also approached me, but I have publicly expressed my support of the new name in some Chinese media.

In terms of our commentary to be published in EMI, we may change the title to emphasize that the new virus is not laboratory engineered, "**SARS-CoV-2: no evidence for laboratory engineering**", because we cannot rule out the possibility that it comes from a bat virus leaked out of a lab. When the proof comes, I will write to you and others.

Best wishes.

Shan-Lu