

From: [Liu, Shan-Lu](#)
To: [Weiss, Susan](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: name for new CoV
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:04:27 AM
Attachments: [Tackling Rumors of a Suspicious Origin of nCoV2019 - Novel 2019 coronavirus - nCoV-2019 Evolutionary History - Virological.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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

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Do you think it could come from a bat virus- which one or an unpublished one?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

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



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

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 9:10 AM

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

Subject: name for new CoV

Dear Shan-Lu

I was approached about the controversy about the name of the new CoV and asked me to support a request for change in name. When I heard the name SARS-CoV-2 I initially didn't like it at all because it seemed like it would confused with SARS. However, after reading the BioRx article form CGS about the naming, it does makes sense in terms of the other SARS like viruses form bats, I understand that some the Chinese scientists are upset about this and feel it will have a bad psychological effect for China and if it comes back each year like flu it will have a big impact on business investment and tourism etc, which also makes sense.

Which side of this argument are you on?