

From: Edward Rubin <emrubin@lbl.gov>
Sent: Fri, 11 Aug 2017 15:33:24 -0700
Subject: Global Virome Project
To: Chris Somerville <crsomerville@berkeley.edu>, Chris Somerville <crs@berkeley.edu>
Bcc: **REDACTED**

Dear Chris,

Hope that this finds you well.

I have been working with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) on helping to launch a large international project called the Global Virome Project (GVP). This project is focused on capturing the metadata and sequences of a significant fraction of the viruses that exist in wildlife that have the potential to jump to humans. A bit similar but a lot more complicated than the Human Genome Project involving large-scale sample collection and screening for viruses in wildlife in the world's "hot zone" regions. The project's central aim is to convert virology into a data rich field so that we can begin to proactively plan for viral outbreaks and pandemics. It has so far been championed by the USAID Pandemic Threat Program, who have already invested ~180 million in a successful proof of principle pilot project. For the projects next stage, it needs to become a global project completely separate from the US Government with a coordinating non-governmental center or "hub" linked to national virome projects. The hub will contain components of the project that need to be centralized such as organizational components/ governing structures/ advisory boards/ data platform...

We are now looking to foundations to support the hub and Open Philanthropy is one that is on our list. Please let me know if you think this falls at all in Open Philanthropy's domain and if so who within the organization we should talk with. The project appears to be moving faster than expected, with a China component already funded and poised to generate data, with others poised to follow suite.

The post JGI life as Chief Scientific Officer at the SF start up Metabiota is quite interesting. The company's focus is on data modeling and analytics for infectious disease risk. Learning lots of new science and aspects of how the tech/ for profit world operates.

Hope that your post EBI experience has been a good one and send my regards to Shauna.

Best,

Eddy