

From: Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Wed, 11 Mar 2020 14:00:43 +0000
To: [REDACTED] (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: Re: 18-WUHAN-38.eml (002).pdf

[REDACTED]

The question is what do we want to collaborate with WIV, so we can pitch a collaboration.

I was one of persons who cleared the cable attached. I connected Wuhan CG and head of ESTH to visit WIV. I would suggest that before contact them we should have some idea what we want to collaborate with them. We have an active grant to the collaborators in this institute (two of the institute employees are on the grant to EcoHealth, a non-profit in NYC and the leader of Global Virome Project). Should discuss with [REDACTED] to see if the US PI has any contact with the collaborators in WIV and what are they doing in research in collaborating on SARS-CoV-2. If we want to collaborate with WIV, what kind offer we can give to them (can't simply ask for strains from them without any benefit to them). Would we consider adding supplement to WIV through the US PI? The Chinese investigators won't be able to agree to share the strains even they would like to (since they get NIH funding in theory they and the institute should comply with NIH grant rules and regulations. But they also under the Chinese regulations, which make the sharing difficult. Learned that the person who published the SARS-CoV-2 sequence had his lab closed by the local government (Shanghai). Although we don't know the detailed reasons but it is an alarming signal to the Chinese research community about sharing information.

Two other Chinese researchers from CAMS are also on that grant.

In your previous email you (or someone suggested) mentioned contact NHC for possible collaboration with WIV. That won't work. WIV is under CAS. NHC has no authority to WIV business. NIH and CAS had an MOU signed in the 80s (I believe 1983 or 1985) for research collaboration and included sample exchange. Maybe can revisit the MOU and reach to CAS to see what they say.

I have a meeting at USAID (go with a former USAID in China) this afternoon. USAID funded Global Virome Project and worked very closely with WIV). Maybe they want to revisit their decision for not to continue the support to the virome project after COVID-19.

Hope this is helpful.

Ping

From: "[REDACTED] (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[REDACTED]@niaid.nih.gov>
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 9:36 AM
To: "Chen, Ping (NIH/NIAID) [E]" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: 18-WUHAN-38.eml (002).pdf

If we wanted to reach out to specific scientists at Wuhan Institute of Virology, who would be best people to contact? We are eager to explore whether they might be willing to share samples. Have not got high expectations but want to test the system and see what they say.