

**From:** "Peter Daszak" <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Sent:** 08/18/2020 8:54:22 AM (-07:00)  
**To:** "Jonna Mazet" <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>; "sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu" <sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu>  
**Cc:** "Tracey Goldstein" <tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent clarification requested, please

The correct answer is that RaTG13 is not a PREDICT virus. The paper where this was first published does not cite PREDICT, and the field team collecting this sample was not PREDICT-funded.

Cheers,

Peter

**Peter Daszak**  
*President*

EcoHealth Alliance  
520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200  
New York, NY 10018-6507  
USA

Tel.: +1-212-380-4474  
Website: [www.ecohealthalliance.org](http://www.ecohealthalliance.org)  
Twitter: [@PeterDaszak](https://twitter.com/PeterDaszak)

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

**From:** Jonna Mazet <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu; Peter Daszak <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Cc:** Tracey Goldstein <tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent clarification requested, please

Thanks, Simon, that's what I believed.  
Peter, please advise on the way forward, since we have broadly stated that one was part of our program and now have a specific question from a reporter.  
Can we add it to Eidith to close the loop?  
Thanks in advance,  
Jonna

On Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 7:13 PM Anthony, Simon J. <[sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu)> wrote:

Hi Jonna,

RaTG13 is not a predict virus – or rather it is not one of the known/novel viruses counted in our virus tables. We do have other SARS-related viruses from China, of course, but not that one.

Hope that helps,  
Simon

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**From:** Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>  
**Date:** Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:21 PM  
**To:** Tracey Goldstein <[tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu)>, "Anthony, Simon J." <[sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu)>, Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)>  
**Subject:** Urgent clarification requested, please

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Since Peter and I both did interviews and briefing to Congress in March claiming Predict assistance in that finding, it would be best to include it, but I'm not sure where that all stands.

Please advise ASAP, so I can answer this reporter (and be consistent with others going forward).

Sincere thanks,  
Jonna

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Simone McCarthy** [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Aug 17, 2020 at 5:48 AM  
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post  
To: Mary Radford <[maradford@ucdavis.edu](mailto:maradford@ucdavis.edu)>  
Cc: Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>

Dear Dr. Mazet and Mary,

Thank you again for your time last week arranging/speaking with me for the South China Morning Post story, it was great to have the opportunity to have this conversation. I just had a quick factual confirmation I wanted to run by you. I see in a list of "life of project highlights" that PREDICT work detected 949 novel viruses. We discussed in our call how the RaTG13 with 96 percent similarity to SARS-CoV-2 was identified through work done in collaboration with PREDICT. I just wanted to check, does that mean that RaTG13 is among those 949 viruses? If possible to let me know, that would be great.

Thank you.  
Best,

Simone

On Wed, 12 Aug 2020 at 13:35, Simone McCarthy [REDACTED] wrote:

Sounds great, thanks for accommodating around the time difference as well, appreciate that. Will call through Thursday at 5p PST.

Best,

Simone

On Wed, 12 Aug 2020 at 11:58, Mary Radford <[maradford@ucdavis.edu](mailto:maradford@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

Yes, that still works. You're in her calendar for tomorrow at 5:00pm PT. Please call her at: (530) 304-1231.

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**From:** Simone McCarthy [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 2:57 AM  
**To:** Mary Radford <[maradford@ucdavis.edu](mailto:maradford@ucdavis.edu)>  
**Cc:** Jonna Mazet <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post

Dear Mary,

Thanks very much for getting in touch and to Dr. Mazet for the time, I'm delighted to be able to speak with her. Thursday 5pm PT would work well for me if this is still available. If so, please just let me know the best number to call through on. Thank you.

Look forward to the call.  
Best,

Simone

On Tue, 11 Aug 2020 at 14:49, Mary Radford <[maradford@ucdavis.edu](mailto:maradford@ucdavis.edu)> wrote:

Hi Simone,  
Thank you for contacting Dr. Mazet about her work. She would be happy to accept your request for an interview. I see you're in Hong Kong. Would tomorrow or Thursday at one of these times work for you?  
8/12: 5-6pm PT (8-9am HKT)  
8/13: 5-6 or 6-7pm PT (8-9 or 9-10am HKT)  
I could also suggest some times next week.  
Best,  
Mary

*Mary Radford*  
*Executive Analyst for Dr. Jonna Mazet*  
*One Health Institute - UC Davis SVM*  
*O: +1 530 752 3630*  
*[maradford@ucdavis.edu](mailto:maradford@ucdavis.edu)*

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**From:** Simone McCarthy [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 9, 2020 at 4:37 PM  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry - South China Morning Post  
**To:** <[jkmazet@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jkmazet@ucdavis.edu)>

Dear Dr. Mazet,

I am a reporter with the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. I'm reaching out to you as I cover the WHO mission to China on the origins of the novel coronavirus. The piece that I'm working on aims to frame such a mission within the context of the larger work that has been done in recent years to understand infectious disease origins and equip local communities for outbreak surveillance. The central question is: what does it take to find the origins of this pandemic and stop the next one, while paying attention to the role that international collaboration will need to play in this.

I'm familiar with your work via PREDICT, and I'm hoping for an opportunity to ask you a few questions about how you are looking at the work that needs to be done understanding this current virus and the other 1 million plus that are out there. Please let me know if it might be possible for us to arrange a call in the next few days. It would be great to include your perspective in this piece. Thank you.

Best,

Simone

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**Simone McCarthy** | Reporter

South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd

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M: **REDACTED**

E: **REDACTED**

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**From:** "Jonna Mazet" <jkmazet@ucdavis.edu>  
**Sent:** 08/18/2020 10:42:56 AM (-07:00)  
**To:** "Peter Daszak" <daszak@ecohealthalliance.org>  
**Cc:** "sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu" <sja2127@cumc.columbia.edu>; "Tracey Goldstein" <tgoldstein@ucdavis.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent clarification requested, please

Thanks to you both -- here's how I answered, since I think there is a lot of potentially confusing and contradictory info out there (as always happens from interviews, etc.):

The team in China used the capacity built during PREDICT to develop and refine the field and lab protocols and used the PREDICT testing platform to discover RaTG13. While the capacity allowed the discovery to commence, the actual work was supported by other funds, so that viruses is not counted in our totals. Only exclusively PREDICT-supported work is counted there. Sorry for the confusing nuance.

Hope that walks the line without contradicting what has been shared with USAID and in our briefings, etc.  
Have a good day,  
Jonna

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 9:06 AM Peter Daszak <[daszak@ecohealthalliance.org](mailto:daszak@ecohealthalliance.org)> wrote:

Re. adding it to EIDITH – that wouldn't be appropriate, it's simply not a PREDICT virus. It's also unwise to try – this is the subject of continuing conspiracy and hype that doesn't serve anyone well.

If journalists comment that it isn't clear from earlier reports whether this was a PREDICT sample or not, it's easy to state that there has been confusion over the sample numbers from china that has been reported on and that has now been clarified by Wuhan Institute of Virology in their responses to reporters.

Cheers,

Peter

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