



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

March 31, 2016

Mr Kevin McKoskey
Director, Sponsored Projects
University of Minnesota
450 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070

RE. 2 R01AI089728-06

Dear Mr McKoskey

The above referenced grant is being considered for funding

NIAID has determined that this grant may include Gain of Function (GoF) research that is subject to the recently-announced U S Government (USG) funding pause ([http //www phe gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/gain-of-function pdf](http://www.phe.gov/s3/dualuse/Documents/gain-of-function.pdf)), issued on October 17, 2014 The following specific aim may involve research covered under the pause

Aim 2.1: Receptor and viral determinants of the cross-species transmission of bat SLCoVs

As per the funding pause announcement, new USG funding will not be released for GoF research projects that may be reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses such that the virus would have enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route. The research funding pause would not apply to characterization or testing of naturally occurring influenza, MERS, or SARS viruses, unless the tests are reasonably anticipated to increase transmissibility and/or pathogenicity

NIAID requests that you provide the following information within 15 days of the date of this letter:

- **Determination as to whether the above research does or does not include GoF work subject to the funding pause.** Please provide a detailed explanation for this determination, including, but not limited to, the specific strains of SLCoVs to be used in the proposed work, the mutations planned to be introduced, and details of the planned passaging work Your determination should also include whether it is reasonably anticipated that any of this work would result in SLCoVs that have enhanced pathogenicity and/or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route relative to SARS- or MERS-CoV.