

Message

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Sent: 18/02/2020 19:49:56
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[Personal Data] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b3ee62e0ca04e978730b14f9b416a1e-Whitty, Chr]
Subject: OFF-SEN: Pasteur Institute and CMO COVID-19 call notes

-----OFFICIAL SENSITIVE-----

Hi All,

Please see my notes from the call with Pasteur Institute and CMO.

Attendees: [Personal Data] & [Personal Data] (Pasteur Institute), Chris Whitty

• **Structure**

- PI - Set up an institutional taskforce that meets weekly to coordinate and prioritise their research work including to prioritise with international Institute Pasteur's.
 - 9 research projects being evaluated that will be hopefully funded soon
- PI - Private foundation = research institute with main mission to carry out basic research and a role in human health (defining vaccine, therapeutic strategy and understanding pathogenicity) and hosts national research centre for respiratory viruses
 - They have created assays for diagnosis which they have shared more widely
- Whilst they are not involved with policy definition or looking after patients. They are connected with the French Ministry of Health and Public Health France.
 - They are under the Avisan Umbrella (AVISAN - Alliance pour les sciences de la vie et de la santé Alliance for Health and Life Sciences)
- PI have established the [reacting task force](#) they are in charge with coordinating research when there are emerging infectious diseases.
 - REACTing is a multi-disciplinary collaborative network of French research institutions working on emerging infectious diseases, which aims to optimise research capacity during epidemics & improve research preparedness in between epidemics through multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- CW: update on how we work in the UK

- **What have PI been doing**
- PI have been developing 2 platforms for vaccination
 - Measles platform - they are connected with CEPI about this project
 - Has been used for other viral infections i.e. Chikungunya (phase 3), MERS (phase 2), SARS (pre-clinical phase). They are optimistic about this platform.
 - Monkey virus platform
- Serology tools
 - Will be important for monitoring the diffusion of the virus in the population and to see how the epidemic is progressing in France
 - Monoclonal antibodies
 - Assays for understanding the virus replication cycles
 - This would require access to blood which they have
- CW: UK are good with modelling, a bit behind in the vaccines space compared to France. Currently work with CEPI and have open calls for academic research groups.
 - Serology - at least 2 months until UK has a test with specificity for the virus
 - PI - asked which technology we are using for developing serology testing
 - **Action: CMO office to put them in touch with Maria Zambon (PHE)**
- CW: Chinese already doing studies on the antiretroviral HIV drugs (remdesivir, lopinavir and ritonavir) which could potentially be repurposed
- PI: The Chinese have not shared data on the trial they concluded a week ago
 - **Action: CMO office to put them in touch with Peter Horby (Oxford University) who is likely to get earliest data**
- PI: One of their issues is access to samples from patients. Asked if they could have access to UK patients' samples.
- CW: We are setting up an access committee to lead on this, but we are not likely to be of much help due to our small numbers. Noted the work that was being done by Singapore on serology testing.
- **What is happening in Africa and Asia**
- French are currently working with international networks particularly in Asia and Africa. The process started earlier in Asia. 3PIs in Cambodia, Shanghai + HK have tests for PCR diagnostics. The same applies for PIs in Africa. They are ready to perform the test if necessary.
 - They have performed a test in Ivory Coast and coronavirus was ruled out.
- CW: French will know ahead of us if there is an upswing in Africa + Cambodia as the French will likely find out before the UK
- PI: Have been approached by Rwanda and they provided them with a few hundreds of tests, they didn't have any positive cases.
- PI: Will continue to support, even in countries where they don't have links to.
- **AOB**
- PI: Post-Brexit will the UK be able to apply for EU Research funding, and vice versa?
- CW: It's being worked out.
- Going forward we can have a call every 2 weeks or on-demand calls as required.

Many thanks,

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