J&J scientific officer ‘pretty confident’ they can create coronavirus vaccine as outbreak widens

Published Mon, Jan 27 20207:26 AM ESTUpdated 38 min ago
Jessica Bursztynsky@jbursz

Key Points

- Johnson & Johnson’s chief scientific officer said he believes the drugmaker can create a vaccine in the coming months to fight against the fast-spreading coronavirus.
- But Dr. Paul Stoffels said it could take up to a year to bring it to market.
- Stoffels said that J&J needed to start from scratch on this vaccine, much like how it operated in the Zika outbreak.
Johnson & Johnson’s chief scientist: We can create a vaccine for the coronavirus

Johnson & Johnson’s chief scientific officer, Dr. Paul Stoffels, told CNBC on Monday that he believes the drugmaker can create a vaccine in the coming months to fight against the fast-spreading coronavirus.

But he said it could take up to a year to bring it to market.

“We have dozens of scientists working on this so we’re pretty confident we can get something made that will work and stay active for the longer term,” said Stoffels, also vice chairman of the executive committee, in a “Squawk Box” interview.

“We’ll see in the next few weeks how this goes,” he added. Stoffels confirmed the company started working on a coronavirus vaccine two weeks ago.

Chinese officials said there are now more than 2,800 confirmed cases of the flu-like coronavirus, with the death toll rising to 81. It was first identified in the city of Wuhan in Hubei province last month.

More countries are also reporting coronavirus cases, including the U.S., which on Sunday confirmed a fifth case.

The new strain comes from a large family of viruses known as coronaviruses, according to the World Health Organization. They are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Stoffels said the pharmaceutical company needed to start from scratch on this vaccine, much like how it operated in the Zika outbreak. Though Johnson & Johnson could shave two to three months off of that due to technological advances, he said.

“We are going to take an approach with at least five different constructs and different partners and collaborations all over the world in order to see which part of the virus we can use to make an effective vaccine and develop a model that we can invest in,” he added.

Drugmaker Moderna also told CNBC last week that it is working with U.S. government health agencies to develop a vaccine for the current strain of coronavirus.

Several companies, including Walt Disney with its Shanghai Disney, are suspending operations until further notice during the normally festive weekend Lunar New Year holiday to prevent the outbreak from spreading. Starbucks and McDonald’s also closed stores in Hubei province.
Authorities also temporarily banned the trade of wild animals in China on Sunday, responding to the outbreak as some consider the virus to have originated in a type of wild animal sold and consumed as food in Wuhan.

Investors worldwide have been rattled by the rapid spread of the virus. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is set to sink about 400 points at Wall Street’s open on Monday. U.S. stock futures were under severe pressure, following stock markets around the world lower, as the coronavirus outbreak widened.

Stoffels said that the speed at which the virus is spreading is “scary” but doesn’t constitute panic.

“But at the same time, I’m very worried that this could become a global pandemic,” he said. “That’s why we started working on this vaccine two weeks ago, we have to be prepared that this is going to become a global crisis.”

— CNBC’s Saheli Roy Choudhury and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Please advise if you have any questions.
Best regards,

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To: Kline, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]; Smolskis, Mary (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Tapley, Kate (NIH/OD) [E]; Western, Karl (NIH/NIAID) [V]; Millum, Joseph (NIH/CC/BEP) [E]; Collier, Elaine (NIH/NCATS) [E]; Engelgau, Michael (NIH/NHLBI) [V]; Mensah, George (NIH/NHLBI) [E]; Kutlesic, Vesna (NIH/NICHD) [E]; Nightingale, Stuart (NIH/OD) [C]; Gross, Thomas (NIH/NCI) [E]; Berger, Adam (NIH/OD) [E]; Rausch, Dianne (NIH/NIMH) [E]; Higgs, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Harshman, Terri (NIH/NCI) [E]; Flores Rivas, Silvia (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Sizemore, Christine (NIH/FIC) [E]; Grady, Christine (NIH/CC/BEP) [E]; Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E]; Officer, Jackie (NIH/FIC) [E]; Nuriddin, Fajar (NIH/FIC) [C]; Pringle, Beverly (NIH/NIMH) [E]

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- **Wuhan coronavirus – plans for a response**
- **GDPR update**
- **Relevant items from World Economic Forum (Dr. Collins participating)**
- **HIROs annual meeting in March**
- **Update on the NIH Common Fund’s Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa program**
- **NCI- Cancer Research UK Grand Challenges - a novel funding model (tentative)**
- **Update on ClinRegs (tentative)**

I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Dianne Rausch to the group. Dianne is replacing Beverly Pringle. I anticipate many of you know Dianne, who serves as Director of NIMH’s Division of AIDS Research.

Best,
1. **NCI- Cancer Research UK Grand Challenges Collaboration - a novel partnership model**  
   Tony Dickherber  
   Program Director  
   NCI Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives, and Director of the NCI Innovative Molecular Analysis Technologies program.

2. **Plans for Wuhan coronavirus response**  
   Hugh Auchincloss

3. **Illumina emerging cooperation to support genomics infrastructure in Africa**  
   Peter Kilmarx

4. **Indonesia’s new S&T law, other international updates**  
   Christine Sizemore

5. **GDPR update**  
   Robert Eiss

6. **HIROs agenda, March 12-13, New Delhi**  
   Robert Eiss
Thanks Hugh—appreciate the update—Wuhan has captured the imagination of all of us...

Look forward to continuing the dialog.

All the best,

WK

Wayne C. Koff, PhD
President and CEO
Human Vaccines Project
One Penn Plaza, Suite 6178
New York, NY 10119
Phone: 646-479-5404
Email: wkoff@humanvaccinesproject.org
Website: www.humanvaccinesproject.org
afterward a certain coronavirus took over our attention and things have spun out of control. Tony has spent so much time downtown recently that I have hardly seen him for days. All of this is simply to explain that we are not ignoring you correspondence and will at some point be sure to consider it and get back to you. In the meantime, please have patience and know that we are interested in discussing this further with you.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Best regards,

Hugh

Hugh Auchincloss, M.D.
Deputy Director, NIAID
National Institutes of Health
Bldg. 31 (7A/03), 31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone:

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Kara, you can forward my message to Wayne Koff to Building 1 or simply let them know that we've taken care of this for now.

Hugh

From: Auchincloss, Hugh [NIH/NIAID] [E]  
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2020 2:49 PM  
To: wkoff@humanvaccinesproject.org  
Subject: Toward Decoding the Human Immune System

Dear Wayne,

Shortly afterward a certain coronavirus took over our attention and things have spun out of control. Tony has spent so much time downtown recently that I have hardly seen him for days. All of this is simply to explain that we are not ignoring you correspondence and will at some point be sure to consider it and get back to you. In the meantime, please have patience and know that we are interested in discussing this further with you.

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Deputy Director, NIAID  
National Institutes of Health  
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Baltimore, MD 20892  
Phone:

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I agree with everything.

Hugh

Hi Hugh,

Although I did not indicate time allocations for the agenda topics this afternoon, since we have generous time and the group is informal, I did suggest to Tony Dickherber of NCI that he speak for around 10 minutes, leaving 5 minutes or more for discussion. He will call in, though two of his colleagues, Andrew Kurtz and Christine Siemon, may join in person for his overview. Also, Sean Hanlon, Deputy Director of NCI’s Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives, will join by phone during that portion of the agenda.

One thought.

Dear all

AUCH0000005667
Please note that we now will be meeting in conference room 7A18, which has become available, and where we typically convene the meeting. The call-in details remain the same.

Best regards,

From: Eiss, Robert (NIH/FIC) [E]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Kline, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]; Smolskis, Mary (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Tapley, Kate (NIH/OD) [E]; Western, Karl (NIH/NIAID) [V]; Millum, Joseph (NIH/CC/BEP) [E]; Collier, Elaine (NIH/NCATS) [E]; Engelgau, Michael (NIH/NHLBI) [V]; Mensah, George (NIH/NHLBI) [E]; Kutlesic, Vesna (NIH/NICHD) [E]; Nightingale, Stuart (NIH/OD) [C]; Gross, Thomas (NIH/NCI) [E]; Berger, Adam (NIH/OD) [E]; Rausch, Dianne (NIH/NIMHD) [E]; Higgs, Elizabeth (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Harshman, Terri (NIH/NCI) [E]; Sizemore, Christine (NIH/FIC) [E]; Grady, Officer, Jackie (NIH/CC/BEP) [E]; Kilmarx, Peter (NIH/FIC) [E]; Pringle, Beverly (NIH/NIMHD) [E]; Nuriddin, Fajar (NIH/FIC) [C]; Dickherber, Tony (NIH/NCI) [E]; Sparks, Ariana (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Scharf, Sarah (NIH/FIC) [E]
Cc: Gilles, Sharon (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Sizemore, Christine (NIH/FIC) [E]
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Best,
Hugh, please review this note and revise or sign. It should be printed on plain bond. Once signed, I will have delivered through proper channels.

Thanks. G
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(R)(5)
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act
Withheld pursuant to exemption (R)(5) of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.
Tony & Hugh, in follow up, the PHS has informed all PHS officers that as of 2/3 they are subject to deployment for coronavirus work “without supervisory approval”, meaning that if needed, officers can be deployed and assigned anywhere, for indefinite periods, by the Assistant Secretary of Health.

I haven't heard anything personally, but just want to let you know. These deployment orders can come with almost no advance warning, although I don’t expect that.

David M. Morens, M.D.
CAPT, United States Public Health Service
Senior Advisor to the Director
Office of the Director
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Building 31, Room 7A-03
31 Center Drive, MSC 2520
Bethesda, MD 20892-2520

Assistant: Kimberly Barasch; Whitney Robinson

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Another Coronavirus Emerges:
U.S. Domestic Response to 2019-nCoV

January 29, 2020
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The Emergence of 2019-nCoV

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China. Illnesses have since been linked to a previously unidentified strain of coronavirus, designated 2019 novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV. To date, thousands have been infected, mostly in China, and over 100 have died. The disease has spread to several other countries, including the United States. As the scope of the epidemic widened in China, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated on January 27, 2020, that “the immediate health risk from the new virus to the general American public is low currently.” With the situation rapidly changing, both WHO and CDC post frequent updates.

Coronaviruses (see Figure 1) are common respiratory pathogens, usually causing mild illnesses such as the common cold. The global health community is closely monitoring 2019-nCoV because of the severity of symptoms (including death) among those infected, and the speed of its spread worldwide. 2019-nCoV is causing the third-serious novel coronavirus outbreak in modern times, following severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2002 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012. Experts do not know the origin of 2019-nCoV, though genetic analysis and other features suggest an animal source.
Infection and Transmission

Health officials and researchers are still learning about 2019-nCoV. According to CDC, 2019-nCoV typically causes respiratory infections characterized by a fever, cough, and sometimes breathing difficulty—a suite of symptoms that is common during influenza season. Features that have yet to be clarified include routes of transmission (e.g., through the air, from contaminated surfaces), the incubation period (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms), and whether an infected person without symptoms can transmit infection. Although it was first thought that all 2019-nCoV infections resulted from an animal contact, Chinese officials recently reported evidence of person-to-person transmission.

The U.S. Domestic Response

In the United States, communicable disease control involves collaboration among federal agencies, state health departments, and international partners. Authority to compel isolation (for sick patients), quarantine (for healthy exposed persons), and disease reporting generally rest in state law. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and, by delegation, CDC have broad authority to assist in the control of communicable diseases through international cooperation, federal-state cooperation, and public health emergency response activities. In addition, CDC (by delegation) has explicit authority to detain, examine, and release persons arriving into the United States, and traveling between states, who are suspected of having a communicable disease.

Case Identification and Investigation

CDC has developed a diagnostic test for the 2019-nCoV virus, but it is not widely available. At this time, all testing is being done by CDC, which has announced plans to share the test with domestic and international public health partners. Until local testing is available, CDC urges clinicians to consider a patient’s travel history and a 14-day incubation period in deciding whether to obtain patient specimens (e.g., blood, urine) for testing. Health care providers are urged to report possible cases to state and local
health departments, which then report to CDC. CDC is facilitating the collection and transport of specimens.

Although CDC reports that no person-to-person transmission has been confirmed in the United States, disease investigation for confirmed cases involves contact tracing—identifying and evaluating individuals who had contact with the patient to determine if transmission has occurred. These investigations are generally conducted by state and local health officials.

Clinical Guidance

No vaccine or specific treatment exists for 2019-nCoV infection at this time. Based on knowledge of the novel virus and other coronaviruses, CDC has developed guidance for isolation and other precautions for patients under investigation or receiving supportive care for 2019-nCoV infection. A key goal is the prevention of disease transmission to health care workers, who may be exposed through high-risk procedures such as maintaining an ill patient on a ventilator.

Travel Notices and Entry Screening

CDC and the State Department have issued advisories to reconsider or avoid unnecessary travel to China, including a rare Level 4 advisory from the State Department to avoid all travel to Hubei Province. In collaboration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CDC is screening passengers returning on flights from certain areas of China at 20 U.S. airports, looking for symptoms of illness and disseminating information. On January 29, a U.S. government-chartered flight from Wuhan, China, repatriated 201 Americans, who have been screened for illness and advised on procedures to follow should symptoms arise in the coming weeks.

Medical Countermeasures

CDC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) continue to study the virus to inform response efforts. NIH reports that a vaccine candidate is in development and could be available for initial clinical trials within three months.

Considerations for Congress

CDC and other federal agencies may have the authority needed to respond to the 2019-nCoV epidemic, but they may lack available funds to support their efforts. Annual appropriations and standing transfer authority provide the HHS Secretary with some flexibility. Under certain circumstances the Secretary may access a Public Health Emergency Fund, but the fund does not have an available balance at this time. Generally, funding has not been available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) for the response to infectious disease outbreaks. As a result, Congress provided supplemental appropriations for the response to the recent Ebola and Zika virus outbreaks.

Subsequently in 2018, Congress established an Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund (IDRRRF) for CDC, providing $50 million for FY2019 (P.L. 115-245) and $85 million for FY2020 (P.L. 116-94), available until expended. These funds can be made available for an infectious disease emergency if the HHS Secretary either (1) declares a Public Health Emergency or (2) determines that the infectious disease outbreak has significant potential to occur and, if it occurs, the potential to affect national security or the health and security of U.S. citizens, both domestically and abroad. HHS Secretary Alex Azar has not declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency, but has issued a determination allowing the allotment of $105 million from the IDRRRF for the 2019-nCoV response.

The trajectory of the 2019-nCoV outbreak is unknown at this time. Congress may choose to conduct oversight of federal response efforts, and monitor the expenditure of funds, as the situation progresses.
Author Information

Sarah A. Lister
Specialist in Public Health and Epidemiology

Kavya Sekar
Analyst in Health Policy

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At least 8 #2019-nCoV vaccines under development using a variety of technologies. List below. In addition at least three groups are working on mAbs: Regeneron, Vir, and NIH’s NIAID. mAbs might be ready faster and provide both prophylaxis and treatment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company/group</th>
<th>Vaccine technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Codagenix Inc.</td>
<td>computationally designed live attenuated virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CureVac AG, Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc (funded by CEPI)</td>
<td>RNA vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderna Inc. (partnered w/NIAID, funded by CEPI)</td>
<td>RNA vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novavax Inc.</td>
<td>Protein-based (recombinant nanoparticles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine; University of Texas Medical Branch, the New York Blood Center and the Virology Center at Fudan University</td>
<td>Protein-based [Investigating repurposing a SARS candidate vaccine and/or creating a new vaccine]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Queensland (funded by CEPI)</td>
<td>Protein-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Saskatchewan’s Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization - International Vaccine Centre</td>
<td>Protein-based</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Jessica Bursztynsky@jibursz

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“We have dozens of scientists working on this so we’re pretty confident we can get something made that will work and stay active for the longer term,” said Stoffels, also vice chairman of the executive committee, in a “Squawk Box” interview.

“We’ll see in the next few weeks how this goes,” he added. Stoffels confirmed the company started working on a coronavirus vaccine two weeks ago.

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“But at the same time, I’m very worried that this could become a global pandemic,” he said. “That’s why we started working on this vaccine two weeks ago, we have to be prepared that this is going to become a global crisis.”

— CNBC’s Saheli Roy Choudhury and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Perfect. We will set it up with the hope we can find a time when most all listed are available.

Nekisha will work on a time and coordinate with the Japanese.

Thanks. G

-----Original Message-----
From: Marston, Hilary (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=1CEB55D4B673477391C9DAA83EB3C75C-HANDLEYGR)]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:24 PM
To: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAD) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=ab30660917b942ffba9ae95d631116f3-marstonhd)]
Cc: Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=9304c753bb9e422c977dddab54da924b-auchincloss); Dominique, Joyelle (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=5c55f75b581f4a2b2c2bca0a881cace-dominiquejk); Bernabe, Gayle (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=c78e95b3d24482ba3dcdbdec2d3a003-gbernabe); Embry, Alan (NIH/NIAD) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=8821a8a10a134c49acac21cb83fd599d-embrya); Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=53254f4b004e4bcbabe37940b4b41887-fennellyam); Williams, Nakisha (NIH/NAID) [C] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=e9e7bc0290504ceebb3bb2f69854562d7-williamsna)]
Subject: RE: Tokyo and Bangkok

Yes that sounds good. Perhaps we limit it to you, me, Alan and Andrea and report back to the rest of the team? Trying to preserve their time

-----Original Message-----
From: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAD) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=ab30660917b942ffba9ae95d631116f3-marstonhd)]
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 2:18 PM
To: Marston, Hilary (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=1CEB55D4B673477391C9DAA83EB3C75C-HANDLEYGR)]
Cc: Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NAID) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=9304c753bb9e422c977dddab54da924b-auchincloss)]
Subject: FW: Tokyo and Bangkok

The Japanese are happy to talk to us about their nCoV research plans and that could include sample sharing. Do you think we should organize an information sharing call with them and select group of our swat team?

Gray

-----Original Message-----
From: 宮川昭二 (D) (6)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 4:10 AM
To: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAD) [E] [o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIOHF23SPDLT/cn=Recipients/cn=ab30660917b942ffba9ae95d631116f3-marstonhd)]
Cc: 一橋篤 (D) (6); 野田正彦 (D) (6); 浅野武夫 (D) (6)
Subject: RE: Tokyo and Bangkok

Dear Gray san,

Thank you for your reply.

Should we try to set a conference call sometime during this week?

Time difference between DC and Tokyo would not be very good for the both sides but could you advise when would be suitable for your side? A couple of proposed timeslots would be appreciated.

From Japanese side, experts in NIID and Tokyo universities would be participants, I think.
With Best Regards,

Shoji MIYAGAWA
AMED, Tokyo

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Handley, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] 
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 1:46 PM 
Subject: RE: Tokyo and Bangkok

Dear Shohi san,

We would be very interested in having a conference call with the scientists who are involved in research on the new Coronavirus. If you think this is a good idea please let me know and also who we should involve in a call. We would like to discuss research and development related to diagnostics as well as therapeutics and vaccines.

Although everyone is very busy it might be useful to share information about the work we are doing separately and to discuss what we might more efficiently do together.

Hope you are well and best wishes for the new year.

Gray

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 宮川昭二 [D][G] 
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:26 PM 
Cc: 一瀬篤 [D][G] 鎌田俊彦 [D][G] 深野武夫 [D][G] 
Subject: RE: Tokyo and Bangkok

Dear Gray,

As Prof Iwamoto copied me his communication with you, the contact in AMED on this is me. I am contacting the researchers in the National Institute of Infectious Disease (NIID), Tokyo and Tokyo University. NIID is currently working on the laboratory test tools. And the researchers in Tokyo University is working on an inhibitor of the infection to human and other aspects of coronavirus research.

Medical experts and/or other area can be found although they must be very busy since the second case was confirmed this morning.

With Best Regards,

Shoji MIYAGAWA

Shoji MIYAGAWA, DVM MS
Director, Division of Infectious Disease Research, Department of Research Promotion, the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) 22F Yomiuri Shinbun Bldg.
1-7-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, JAPAN 100-0004
E-mail: 
Phone: 

----- Original Message ----- 
From: 
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 8:45 AM 
Subject: RE: Tokyo and Bangkok

Dear Gray,

Thank you for your quick response.
I have cross-copied to Mr Miyagawa who is in charge of this issue in AMED. He will let you know the contact in MHLW. Japan is very very short of the researchers working on the coronaviruses. I hope some new international collaborations start soon.
My friend t\in the China CDC sent me a news of George in the press- conference representing China. I am contacting him via WeChat but absolutely he is so busy.

I will be in the Tokyo meeting too. I would be free except the evening February 19th. We can go out on Tuesday the 18th, or Thursday 20th or Friday 21st but I would be a bit late on Thursday and Friday for the clinic. I would be in Bangkok too this year!

Let's keep in touch,

Warm regards,
Aikichi

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Aikichi Izumoto, M.D.
Managing Director
Department of Research Promotion
Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) 22F Yomiuri Shimbun Bldg,
1-7-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-0004, Japan

Emeritus Professor, the University of Tokyo Member, WHO STAC-HIV—Hepatitis Council
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読売新聞ビル2階
TEL: (03)3208-8111
E-mail: 

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東京大学名誉教授

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> Dear Aikichi, Great to hear from you and Happy New Year!

> I do plan to be in Tokyo for a few days in February and it would be
great to get together. At this point my evenings are free Feb. 18-21 if any of those work for you. I
expect some will be taken with official functions but I don't have details yet. I hope you will be
coming to Bangkok too and may even see you at the Tokyo meetings.

> We are considerably engaged with the new coronavirus outbreak. Do you
know who is in Japan on this and informed about the case that has occurred there? We are
eager to form research partnerships with colleagues who are interested in developing diagnostics and
vaccines.

> Thank you for writing to me. I am very much looking forward to seeing
you soon.

> Gray

> ----- Original Message-----
> From: (03)3208-8111
> Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:41 PM
> To: Handle, Gray (NIH/NIAID) [E] (03)3208-8111
> Subject: Tokyo and Bangkok

> Dear Gray,

> This year I would be in Bangkok for USJCMSF. I heard that you may be
in Tokyo several days before the Bangkok meeting. If it is the case, let's go out.

> Warm regards,
Subject: Leave Free

Start: 3/3/2020 5:00:00 PM
End: 3/3/2020 6:00:00 PM

Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: Daily
Occurs every day from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM effective 3/3/2020.
Start: 3/9/2020 3:00:00 PM
End: 3/9/2020 4:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 3/23/2020 1:00:00 PM
End: 3/23/2020 2:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 3/30/2020 12:00:00 PM
End: 3/30/2020 1:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 4/9/2020 3:00:00 PM
End: 4/9/2020 4:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 4/27/2020 7:00:00 PM
End: 4/27/2020 8:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 5/4/2020 6:00:00 PM
End: 5/4/2020 7:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 5/11/2020 5:00:00 PM
End: 5/11/2020 6:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 6/2/2020 6:00:00 PM
End: 6/2/2020 7:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 3/10/2020 6:00:00 PM
End: 3/10/2020 7:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 3/31/2020 6:30:00 PM
End: 3/31/2020 7:30:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 4/7/2020 1:00:00 PM
End: 4/7/2020 2:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Subject: NYU

Start: 4/18/2020 4:00:00 PM
End: 4/18/2020 5:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)

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https://nih.webex.com/nih/globalcallin.php?MTID=m25a32e75ec3728d3f3ebc449a6f6d448
Start: 4/21/2020 1:00:00 PM
End: 4/21/2020 2:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 4/28/2020 3:00:00 PM
End: 4/28/2020 4:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 5/1/2020 1:00:00 PM
End: 5/1/2020 2:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 5/5/2020 6:00:00 PM
End: 5/5/2020 7:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 6/4/2020 3:00:00 PM
End: 6/4/2020 4:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start:   6/15/2020 7:00:00 PM
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Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 6/18/2020 5:00:00 PM
End: 6/18/2020 6:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 6/24/2020 5:00:00 PM
End: 6/24/2020 6:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 7/13/2020 2:00:00 PM
End: 7/13/2020 3:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)
Start: 6/22/2020 5:00:00 PM
End: 6/22/2020 6:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

Recurrence: (none)