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The novel coronavirus 2019: A naturally occurring disaster or a biological weapon against humanity: A critical review of tracing the origin of novel coronavirus 2019

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Abstract

Human corona virus, also known as novel coronavirus 2019 or SARS-CoV-2-2019 dates back its ancestral discovery in 1960s. Leading to more than 154350 deaths to more than 2256844 confirmed cases by April 2020, it has created the death fear across the world resulting in social distancing, travel restrictions and nationwide lockdowns in several countries. The novel coronavirus found to have 70% genetic similarity to the SARS-CoV virus with 96% similarity to a bat coronavirus. From its bat origin to artificial mutations, the virus has undergone a series of controversies. Walking from Huanan seafood market or from P4 Laboratory, Wuhan, it has survived on the earth from low to high temperatures. Whether this virus is humanly mutated for personal gains or it has been synthetically developed for biological warfare programs by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the question on its journey from animals to humans remains unsolved. All we need to learn from this pandemic is to limit our greed individually, socially, emotionally, physical, economically and politically.

Keywords: Novel coronavirus, pandemic, synthetic, mutation, warfare

Introduction

Coronaviruses were first discovered in the 1930s when an acute respiratory infection of domesticated chickens was shown to be caused by infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) [1].

Human coronaviruses were discovered in the 1960s [2]. The earliest ones studied were from human patients with the common cold, which were later named human coronavirus 229E and human coronavirus OC43 [3]. They were first imaged by Scottish virologist June Almeida at St. Thomas Hospital in London. Other human coronaviruses have since been identified, including SARS-CoV in 2003, HCoV NL63 in 2004, HKU1 in 2005, MERS-CoV in 2012, and SARS-CoV-2 in 2019. Most of these have involved serious respiratory tract infections.

Coming to its nomenclature, the name ‘coronavirus’ is derived from Latin word ‘corona’ meaning crown or wreath [4]. The name was first used in 1968 by an informal group of virologists in the journal Nature to designate the new family of viruses. This name is given due to the characteristic appearance of virions (the infective form of the virus) in electron microscopy, which have a fringe of large, bulbous surface projections creating an image reminiscent of a crown or of a solar corona. This morphology is created by the viral spike peplomers, which are proteins on the surface of the virus [5, 6].

Structure

Coronaviruses are large pleomorphic spherical particles with bulbous surface projections [7]. The average diameter of the virus particles is around 120 nm. The diameter of the envelope is ~80 nm and the spikes are ~20 nm long. The envelope of the virus in electron micrographs appears as a distinct pair of electron dense shells [8, 9].

The viral envelope consists of a lipid bilayer where the membrane (M), envelope (E) and spike (S) structural proteins are anchored [10]. A subset of coronaviruses (specifically the members of betacoronavirus subgroup A) also have a shorter spike-like surface protein called hemagglutinin esterase (HE) [11].

Inside the envelope, there is the nucleocapsid, which is formed from multiple copies of the nucleocapsid (N) protein, which are bound to the positive-sense single-stranded RNA genome

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in a continuous beads-on-a-string type conformation [9, 12]. The lipid bilayer envelope, membrane proteins, and nucleocapsid protect the virus when it is outside the host cell [13].

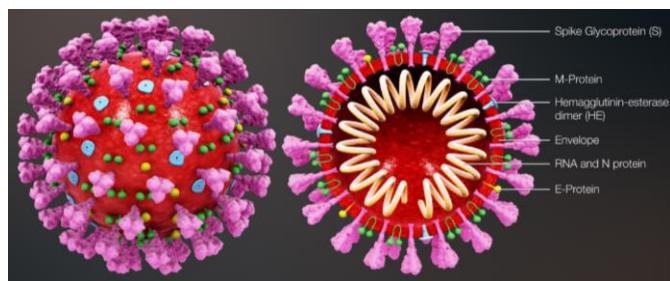


Fig 1: Cross-sectional model of a corona virus

Researches and Case studies

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) virus, which originated from China has rampaged through the world and caused more than 80,000 deaths, infecting at least 1.4 million. As of 18 April 2020, there have been at least 154,350 confirmed deaths and more than 2,256,844 confirmed cases in the coronavirus pneumonia pandemic. The true number of deaths and infections is unknown due to the under reporting of cases from the mainland China [14].

Wuhan, the capital and largest city of Hubei province is the most populous city in Central China.

Wuhan Health Commission (WHC) reported continuous occurrence of pneumonia cases of known cause at Huanan Seafood Market. The Huanan seafood wholesale market is a live animal and seafood market in Jianghan district, Wuhan. On December 21, 2019, WHC issued a notice saying some medical institutions found a link between the pneumonia cases and the Huanan seafood market. Wuhan Institute of Virology of China CDC (Centre for Disease Control & Prevention) reported that 33 out of 585 environmental samples from Huanan seafood market were found to contain the novel corona virus nucleic acid suggesting that the virus originated from the wild animals in the market. Hence, Huanan seafood market being the suspected source of the epidemic became an official conclusion. As a result of which the market was closed on January 1, 2020 for sanitary procedures and disinfection.

On 31 December 2019, the outbreak was traced to a novel strain of coronavirus, which was given the interim name 2019-nCoV by the World Health Organization (WHO), later renamed SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses [15].

But later, Some researchers have suggested the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market may not be the original source of viral transmission to humans as 14 out of 41 i.e. 1/3rd of the early patients has no relation with the Huanan seafood market not the CDC found any bat at or around the market areas [16, 17, 18].

A paper from the New England Journal of Medicine stated that 45 patients of 425 confirmed cases with illness onset before January 1, 2020 was estimated to have a mean of 5.8 days which was similar to that for 207 patients with illness onset between January 1-11 with a mean of 4.6 days. It means the 45 cases of 425 had no exposure to the market.

On January 10, 2020, China disclosed 4 genomic sequence of Novel Corona virus. A paper in Nature from the scientists of Fudan University on February 3, 2020, concluded that the Wuhan corona virus is closely related to the two viruses

(CoVZC45 & CoVZXC21) sampled from bats in Zhoushan by the People's Liberation Army. The Wuhan corona virus has 89.1% nucleotide similarity with the CoVZC455 virus and even exhibit 100% amino acid similarity in the nsp7 and E proteins [19]. The Wuhan strain has been identified as a new strain of Betacoronavirus from group 2B with approximately 70% genetic similarity to the SARS-CoV [20]. The virus has a 96% similarity to a bat coronavirus, so it is widely suspected to originate from bats as well [16, 17]. National Institute for Health and National Centre for Biotechnology Information developed a program and results matched with above. Similarly another paper stated that 2019-nCoV was closely related (88% identity) to two bat derived Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)- like corona viruses, bat-SL-CoVZC45 & bat-SL-CoVZXC21, collected in 2018 in Zhoushan, Eastern China, but were distant from SARS-CoV (about 79%) and MERS-CoV (about 50%) [21]. Zhoushan virus is the name given to many coronaviruses which were detected from bats in Zhoushan city in 2018.

On 21 January 2020, a paper in Science China Paper stated that Wuhan virus has high homology with SARS virus. i.e. they are mutated to infect the human body as the original natural virus can't infect the humans due to different protein spikes whereas the 'S' protein of Wuhan corona virus was critical and affects human [22].

As the simultaneous time the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) restricted the release of any article related to these viruses and closed the related laboratories.

Discoveries of Dr. Shi Zheng Li

Dr. Shi Zheng Li, a Chinese virologist, also known as the 'Bat Woman' of China, explained her discovery on synthetic viruses in a paper 2015.

Since 2003 SARS, Dr. Li was doing research on corona virus infecting human in P4 laboratory of Wuhan Institute of Virology. Dr. Li was the first to locate key how coronavirus can unlock to affect humans through her paper in 2015 on synthetic virus. Her laboratory has capacities to mutate the virus. From 2010, she redirected her research on spread of corona virus across species and their capacity to transmit to humans [23, 24].

Through papers of Dr. Li and experiments they modified key amino acids to mutate and get compatible to SARS virus. The study concluded that Shi Zheng Li has unearthed the passage way for coronaviruses into human bodies [25].

In a paper in 2013 published in Nature on breakthrough on corona virus, Dr. Li explained three isolated viruses from bats and effectively demonstrated the direct human infection of SARS-like viruses to humans without the need for intermediate host.

In November 2015, Zheng Li published another paper in British Nature Medicine Journal on self-replicating virus the key from the SARS virus. This virus was transmittable across species. Shi Zheng Li's successful splicing of the SARS virus was a key to open door to the cross-species transmission. Her move to research on primates suggests that this was more close to simulate infection of humans with this new synthetic virus [26].

Simon Wain Hobson, a virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, pointed out that the researchers have created a novel virus that 'grows remarkably well' in human cells. 'If the virus escaped, nobody could predict the trajectory' he said.

This new corona virus came from the combinations of study and researches on two different viruses.

On 14 November, 2018 at Jiao Tong University Shanghai, Zheng Li was invited as a keynote speaker where she presented on topic “Studies on Bat Coronavirus and it’s cross-species infection”.

After Wuhan outbreak, scientists uncanny similarity of unique inserts in the 2019-nCoV spike protein to HIV-1 gp 120 and gag. Scientists compared ‘S’ protein sequence between nCoV-2019 and SARS and found four new sequences in nCoV-2019 all of which can be found in HIV sequences. Even scientists have found only three viruses containing all these four sequences- HIV, bat discovered coronavirus and novel nCoV-2019 [27].

On February 3, 2020, Zhengli Stated in a paper in Nature that Wuhan virus is of bat origin signalling natural source for virus outbreak so that the people of P4 Lab Wuhan may move the focus of public from Wuhan P4 Lab to Huanan seafood market. After outbreak of Wuhan virus the Wuhan Laboratory of Virology kept silence which should respond the first [28].

Suspective activities in China

On 02 January 2020 the Director General of Wuhan Institute of Virology sent an email to all internal staff subjecting notice regarding the strict prohibition of disclosure of any information related to the Wuhan unknown pneumonia. National Health Commission clearly mandates that all detection, empirical data, results and conclusions related to this outbreak cannot be published on self-media or social media nor be disclosed to any media (including state media) or collaborative organizations (including any technical service companies).

On January 21, 2020, a new drug, “Remdesivir”, provided for free by the U.S. to China for Wuhan coronavirus treatment, was patented by Wuhan Institute of Virology. Wuhan Institute of Virology filed a Chinese patent on January 21, 2020 (use of anti-2019 novel coronavirus).

On February 3, 2020, Dr. Wu Xiaohua blew the whistle using his real name that Shi Zhegli's haphazard laboratory management may have led the Wuhan virus to leak from the lab.

February 4, 2020, Chairman of Duoyi, Xu Bo blew the whistle using his real name that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was suspected of manufacturing and leaking the Wuhan virus.

February 7, 2020, “Top Biochemical Weapon Expert” of the People’s Liberation Army, Chen Wei, officially assumed control over Wuhan Institute of Virology’s P4 Laboratory.

February 14, 2020, Chinese leader Xi Jinping called for the inclusion of biosecurity into China’s national security framework and to accelerate the introduction of a biosecurity law. Hence, Ministry of Science and Technology strengthened the Management of Laboratories, especially viruses.

February 15, 2020, The Institute refuted widely spread rumours on Chinese social media that female graduate Huang Yanling was patient zero and had perished. However, Huang’s photo, CV, and thesis were all removed from the Institute’s official website, leaving only her name.

February 17, 2020, Institute researcher, Chen Quanjiao, blew the whistle using her real name that Director General of the Institute, Wang Yanyi, was suspected of leaking the virus.

Facts regarding biological weapon

According to the documentary made by Josh J Philipp, an investigating reporter of The EPOCH Times, New York, the Ex-Vice President of China Academic od Sciences, Jiang

Mianheng, had invested in design and funding of Wuhan P4 Lab of Wuhan Institute of Virology. Not only this he has created the branch of life-science organizations and research projects in China. Jiang Mianheng is the son of former paramount leader and General Secretary of CCP and former president of Chin, Jiang Zemin who believes in strategies of a weaker nation to combat stronger nation. Jiang Zemin’s grandson and Jiang Mianheng’s son Jiang Zhicheng is the controlling shareholder of WuXi App Tech which controls the Fosun Pharmaceutical leading to Remdesivir. Effectively Zhicheng is the king behind the specific medicine for the operation. Since, the Wuhan P4 Lab has been established with assistance from France, French authorities continuously suspected China of conducting bio-chemical weapons experiments [29].

Former intelligence officer Dany Shoham published an article in 2015 in India’s Journal of Defence studies on China’s Biological Warfare Programme: An Interactive Study with Special Reference to Biological Weapons Capabilities. He stated that China will not miss skip or ban in any highly advanced technology specially military related technology. The article noted that China has 12 facilities affiliated with the defence establishment, plus 30 facilities affiliated with the PLA, that are involved in research, development, production, testing or storage of Biological weapons [30].

Dr. Francis Boyle, Harvard PhD and professor of international law at the University of Illinois College of Law famous for grafting the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989 & 1995 clearly expressed in an exclusive interview given to *Geopolitics and Empire* that the novel coronavirus we’re facing here is an offensive biological warfare weapon with DNA genetically engineered. He discusses the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China and the Biosafety Level 4 laboratory (BSL-4) from which he believes the infectious disease escaped. He believes the virus is potentially lethal and an offensive biological warfare weapon or dual-use biowarfare weapons agent genetically modified with gain of function properties, which is why the Chinese government originally tried to cover it up and is now taking drastic measures to contain it. The Wuhan BSL-4 lab is also a specially designated World Health Organization (WHO) research lab and Dr. Boyle contends that the WHO knows full well what is occurring. The Federation of American Scientists indicated similar concerns in evaluation report. The organization believes that the CCP possessed advanced chemical warfare projects including research, development, manufacturing and weaponizing capabilities [31].

Universal criticism

March 24, 2020, Texas lawyer, Larry Klayman, filed a complaint in the Texas federal court seeking at least \$ 20 trillion USD from the Chinese government.

April 4, 2020, The British think tank, Henry Jackson Society advocated for compensation of 351 billion pounds from the CCP to the UK.

April 4, 2020, The All India Bar Association filed a complaint to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The International Council of Jurists (ICJ) & All India Bar Association (AIBA) have filed a complaint in the UN Human Rights Council seeking unspecified amount as reparations from China over the global spread of coronavirus as CCP has violated the international health regulations.

Through all these news and instances the novel coronavirus 2019 does not seems to be of mere natural occurrence.

There are doubts and speculations on its sequencing, mutations and man-made interventions in the novel corona virus 2019.

Conclusion

Unsolved queries regarding novel coronavirus like- What is it ? A bat virus? Or a man-made virus produced through human greed mutation in bat virus ? or leaked to humanity due to greedy ignorance of people on safety and precautions ? or a result of bio-chemical weapon experiments ? etc remained a question till now. Answers still needs to be found and made clear to the public. As of now the world is more focussed on solving the cure as prevention time has already been skipped. This virus has a universal message for us and people on earth that we need to take a break from our greedy busy schedule and consider the reprobation and retroaction of ever-expanding scientific research and development. If we go too far with our desires and ambitions against the laws of nature, the nature will pull us even more far from the development.

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