



May 20, 2020

Mr. Mark Bourbonnais  
Director  
Research Support Services  
School of Medicine  
University of California, Irvine  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Bourbonnais:

I am writing to inform you that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been made aware of reports that Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) has been conducting research at its facilities in China that pose serious bio-safety concerns and, as a result, health and welfare threats to the public, both in China and other countries, including the United States. The University of California, Irvine (UCI) has an NIH grant award that supports Wuhan Institute of Virology as a subrecipient consortium.

It is the NIH mission to protect public health and welfare from a serious deficiency such as unsafe laboratory practices. Therefore, effective the date of this letter, May 20, 2020, NIH is suspending all activities related to RF1 MH120020-01, *Genetically engineered anterograde monosynaptic viral tracers for multi-species neural circuit analysis*, Dr. Xiangmin Xu (Contact PI), for which the Wuhan Institute of Virology is a subaward participant, awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

This action is taken in accordance with the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS), a term and condition all NIH grant awards, [Section 8.5.2](#), Remedies for Noncompliance or Enforcement Actions: Suspension, Termination, and Withholding of Support, which implements our governing regulations [45 CFR Part 75.371](#), Remedies for Noncompliance. This section states that NIH may take immediate action to terminate a grant when necessary to protect the public health and welfare. However, in this case NIH has chosen to suspend the sub-contractual activities directly supporting WIV, while the safety measures outlined in the NIH GPS [Section 4.1.12](#) Health and Safety Regulations and Guidelines, are reviewed. This action is not appealable in accordance with the NIH GPS [Section 8.7](#), Grant Appeals Procedures.

During the period of suspension, UCI may not allow research under this project to be conducted by WIV. Further, no funds may be provided to or expended by WIV; all such charges are unallowable. Other grant funding for this project will remain available for the conduct of research that is not subject to this suspension action. It is UCI's responsibility as the recipient of this grant award to ensure that the terms of this suspension are communicated to and understood by WIV. UCI must provide adequate oversight to ensure compliance with the terms of the suspension. Any noncompliance of the terms must be immediately reported to NIH. NIH has taken additional steps to restrict funding in the HHS Payment Management System in the amount of \$660,054, the total costs awarded for the research that is being conducted at WIV. UCI will receive a revised Notice of Award from NIMH indicating the suspension of these research activities and funding restrictions as a specific condition of award.

Please note that this action does not preclude NIH from imposing additional special award conditions, corrective actions, or enforcement actions pursuant to 45 CFR including, but not limited to, terminating the grant award.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the information in this letter. My complete contact information follows my signature below.

Sincerely,

Lauer, Michael  
(NIH/OD) [E]

Digitally signed by Lauer, Michael  
(NIH/OD) [E]  
Date: 2020.05.20 06:09:28 -04'00'

Michael S. Lauer, M.D.  
Deputy Director Extramural Research  
1 Center Drive, Room [REDACTED]  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
[REDACTED]