



Diagnostic Tests: The Critical Element in Pandemic Control and Global Biosurveillance Against Infectious Threats

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BIOE 122: BioSecurity and Pandemic Resilience

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Virtual

Continuing Challenges in the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **improve control of disease spread**
- **more effective treatments for new COVID cases in 2021 (and beyond)**
- **better prediction/prognosis of disease severity in hospitalized patients and persistent chronic disease in COVID survivors**
- **lessons learned**
 - **how to better predict and manage future pandemic threats**
- **the imperative to rebuild international infrastructure for large scale biosurveillance (BSV)**
 - **earlier detection and mitigation of new threats from emerging pathogens (agent X)**

Diagnostic Tests

- **biosurveillance and early detection**
- **monitor disease prevalence and geographic distribution**
 - **contact tracing and isolation/quarantine of infected individuals**
- **prediction of disease severity and post-recovery complications**
- **immune responses and correlates of protection**
- **monitoring changes in pathogen biology**
 - **transmission and/or virulence**
 - **reduce accuracy of diagnostic tests**
 - **emergence of Rx/vaccine resistance**
- **real time situational awareness for national public policy actions for epidemic/pandemic control**

The 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic: The “8-D’s” of Disaster

**Danger
(ignored)**



**Dispersal
(global)**



**Deficient
(CDC)**



**Disease
(heterogeneity)**



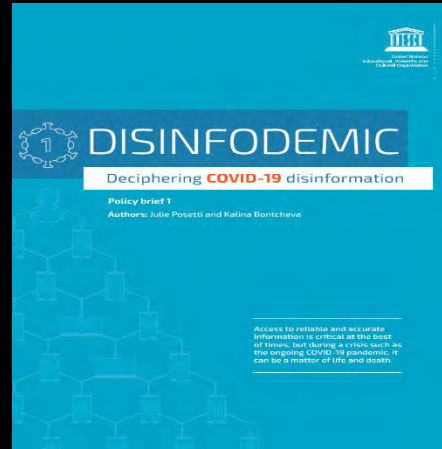
**CLOSED DUE TO
COVID-19**



**Disruption
(socioeconomic)**



**Dissent
(protests)**

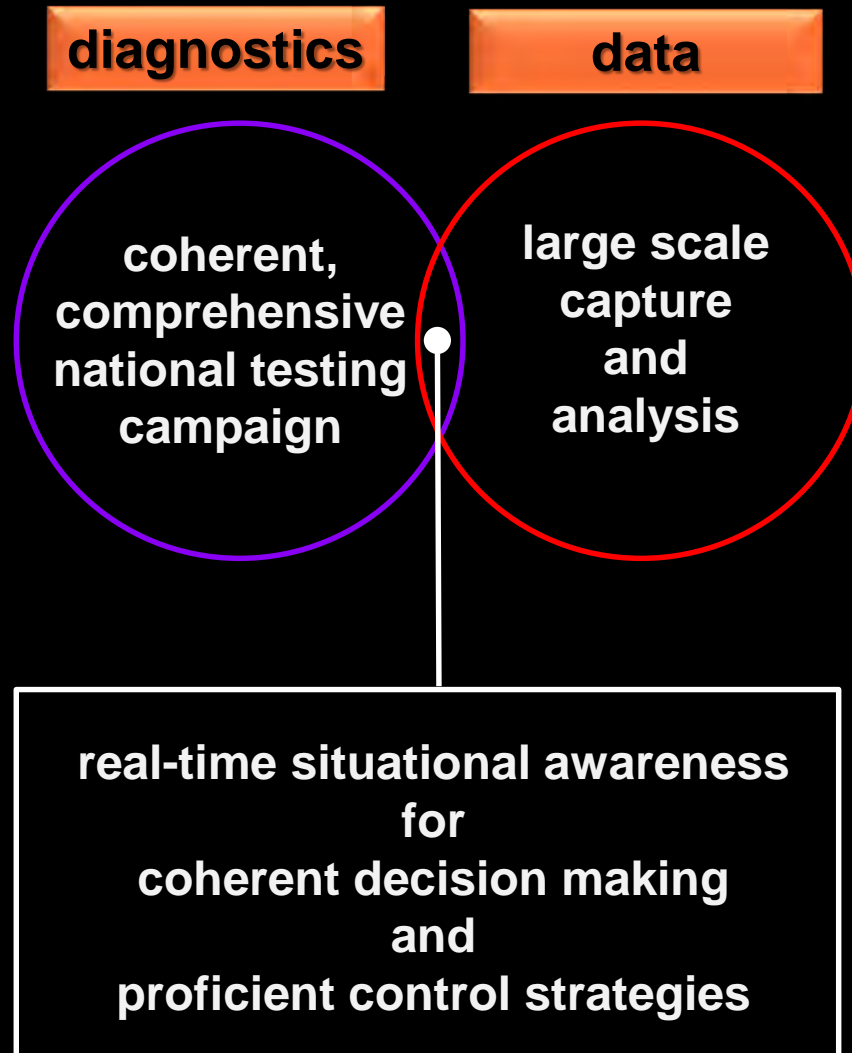


**Disinformation
(distrust)**



**Denial
(disarray)**

Two Missing Critical “D’s”



SP
TECHNICAL
FOCUS

DIAGNOSTICS FOR BIODEFENSE

FLYING BLIND WITH NO PLAN TO LAND

A REPORT BY THE
BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON BIODEFENSE

November 2020



The National Health Security Preparedness Index



Summary of Key Findings
April 2018

PREPARED
NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY PREPAREDNESS INDEX

Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation



**PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
2018 NATIONAL SNAPSHOT**



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities

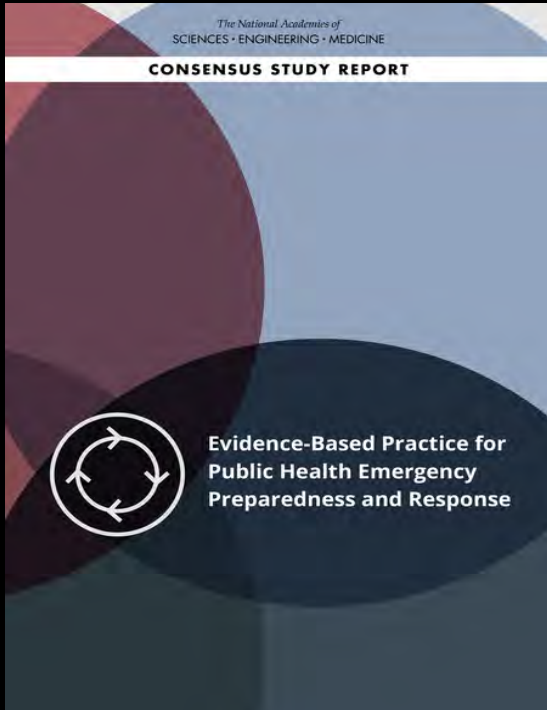


National Standards for
State, Local, Tribal, and
Territorial Public Health

October 2018



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
Office for Preparedness
and Response

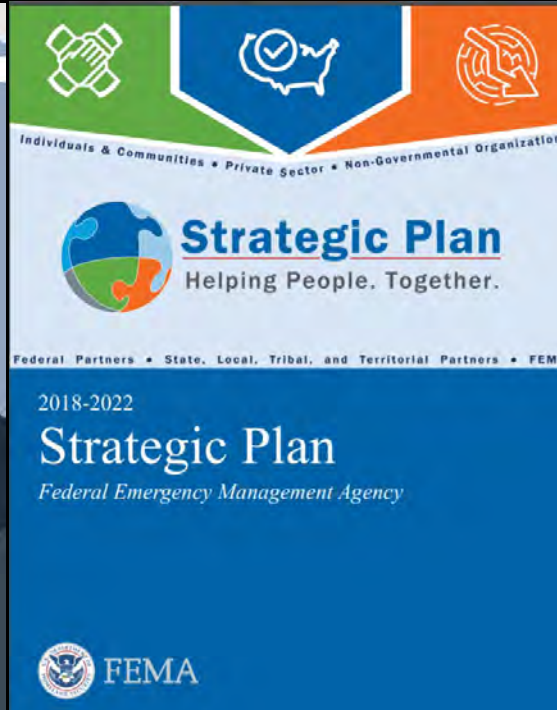


The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

CONSENSUS STUDY REPORT



**Evidence-Based Practice for
Public Health Emergency
Preparedness and Response**



Individuals & Communities • Private Sector • Non-Governmental Organizations



Strategic Plan

Helping People. Together.

Federal Partners • State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Partners • FEMA

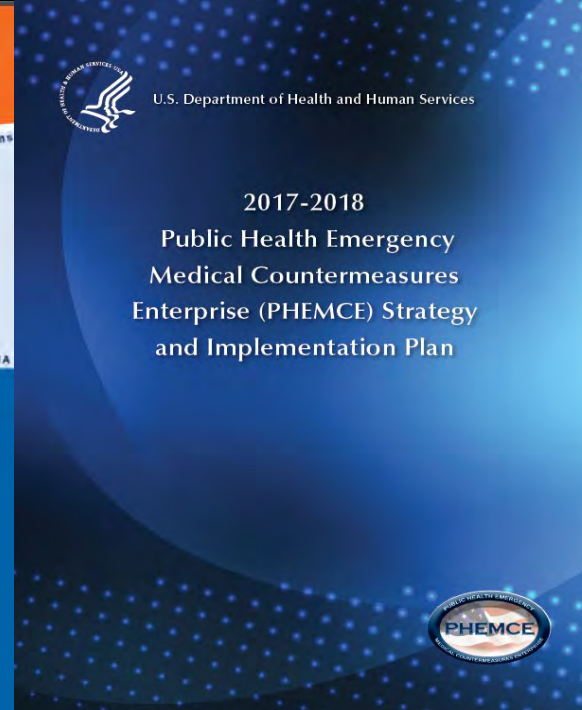
2018-2022

Strategic Plan

Federal Emergency Management Agency



FEMA



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

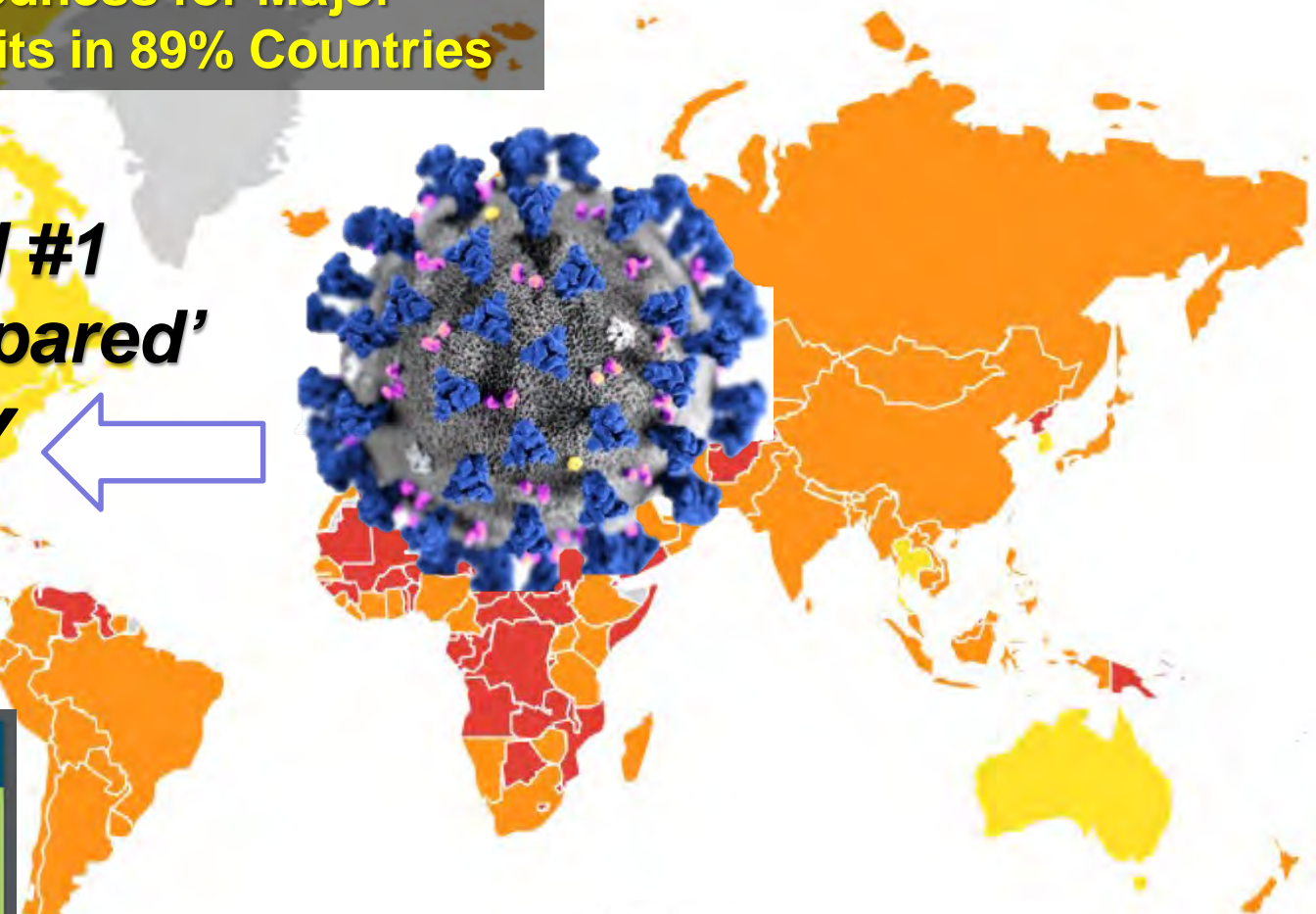
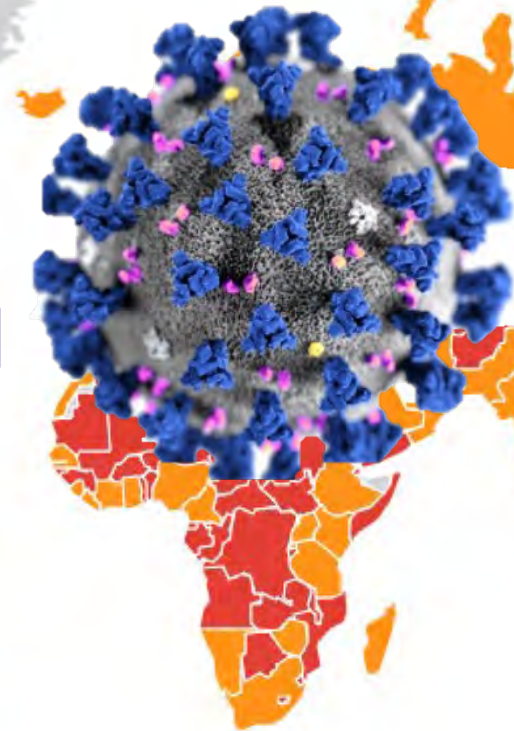
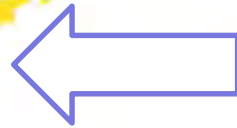
2017-2018
Public Health Emergency
Medical Countermeasures
Enterprise (PHEMCE) Strategy
and Implementation Plan






Global Preparedness for Major Bioincidents Deficits in 89% Countries

***US ranked #1
as 'Most Prepared'***

**SADLY
NOT!**



Key

-  Most Prepared
-  More Prepared
-  Least Prepared

2019

GHS INDEX
GLOBAL HEALTH
SECURITY INDEX

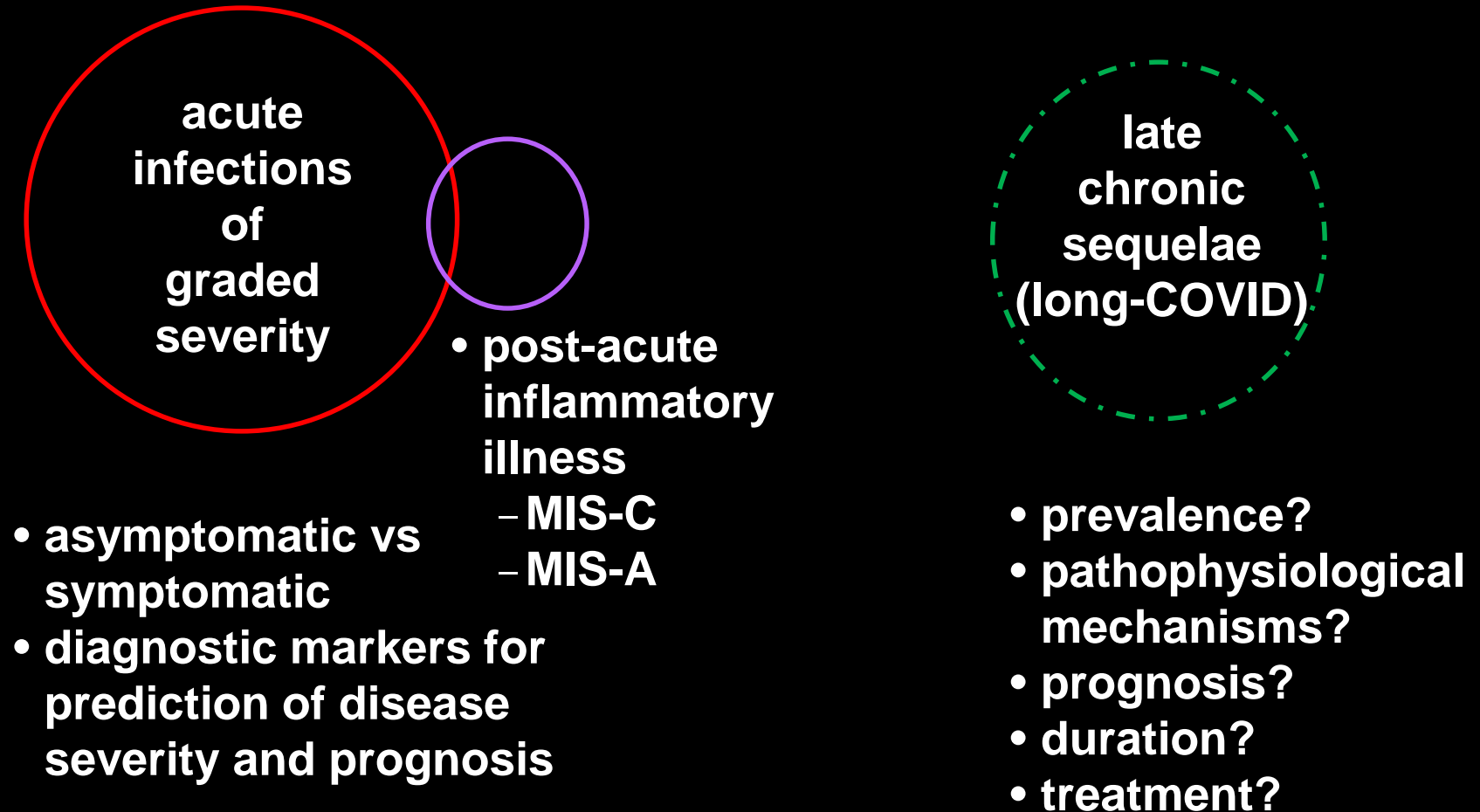
Building Collective Action and Accountability



SARS-CoV-2: US Healthcare System Under Siege



The Disease Spectrum of SARS-CoV-2 Infections



The SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Landscape

acute infection

- detection of viral nucleic acid and protein antigens
- immune responses
- differentiation from other RTI infections
- accuracy
 - low false positives and false negatives
- contact tracing
- population screening

The US Diagnostic Testing Infrastructure for SARS-CoV-2: A 'F' Report Card?



- **failure of initial CDC RT-PCR test (Feb 2020) and six weeks lost for critical early control**
- **well documented capacity limitations of state public health laboratories to conduct large scale testing**
- **slow action by CDC (March 2020) to engage private sector testing capacity and scalability**
- **fragility of supply chains for testing reagents/supplies/PPE**
 - **states pitted against each other in bidding wars**

SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostics

- **detection of viral nucleic acids**
- **detection of viral antigens**
- **detection of viral antibodies**
- **utility ('fit-for-purpose') at different stages in the infection cycle**

COVID-19 Testing Strategies

- **individuals**
 - **symptomatic, at risk or known contact with positive case(s)**
 - **high sensitivity tests with low false negatives**
- **populations**
 - **detect asymptomatic/presymptomatic positive cases**
 - **high specificity tests to reduce false positives**
 - **lower sensitivity tests can produce false negatives but risk compensated by frequent, repeated testing**

Still Unknown: The Viral Load Threshold for Transmission

- **load varies throughout the course of infection**
- **variable duration in different individuals**
- **critical benchmark for test sensitivity to identify infectious individuals**
- **biggest concern is false negatives from insufficiently sensitive tests**
 - **misplaced (re)assurance**
- **frequent testing reduces false negative risks by identification of cases previously missed**

PCR Detection of Viral Nucleic Acid

- **qualitative PCR**
 - **binary: 'positive/negative' result**
- **quantitative PCR**
 - **measurement of # viral genomes ml/sample (viral load)**
 - **viral load as surrogate for likely infectiousness**
 - **low LoD and detection of positive cases at early stage of infection when viral load is typically low**
- **threshold cycle (Ct) cut-points for rRT-PCR**

The Nonsense of One-Time-Only Testing and the Delusion of Safety



- **uncontrolled access overloads testing capacity and slows TAT**
- **meaningful negative status requires two negative tests 5-7 days apart**
- **non-quantitative PCR testing**
 - **useful for isolation recommendations**
 - **no data on viral load and potential individual infectiousness and super spreader risks**

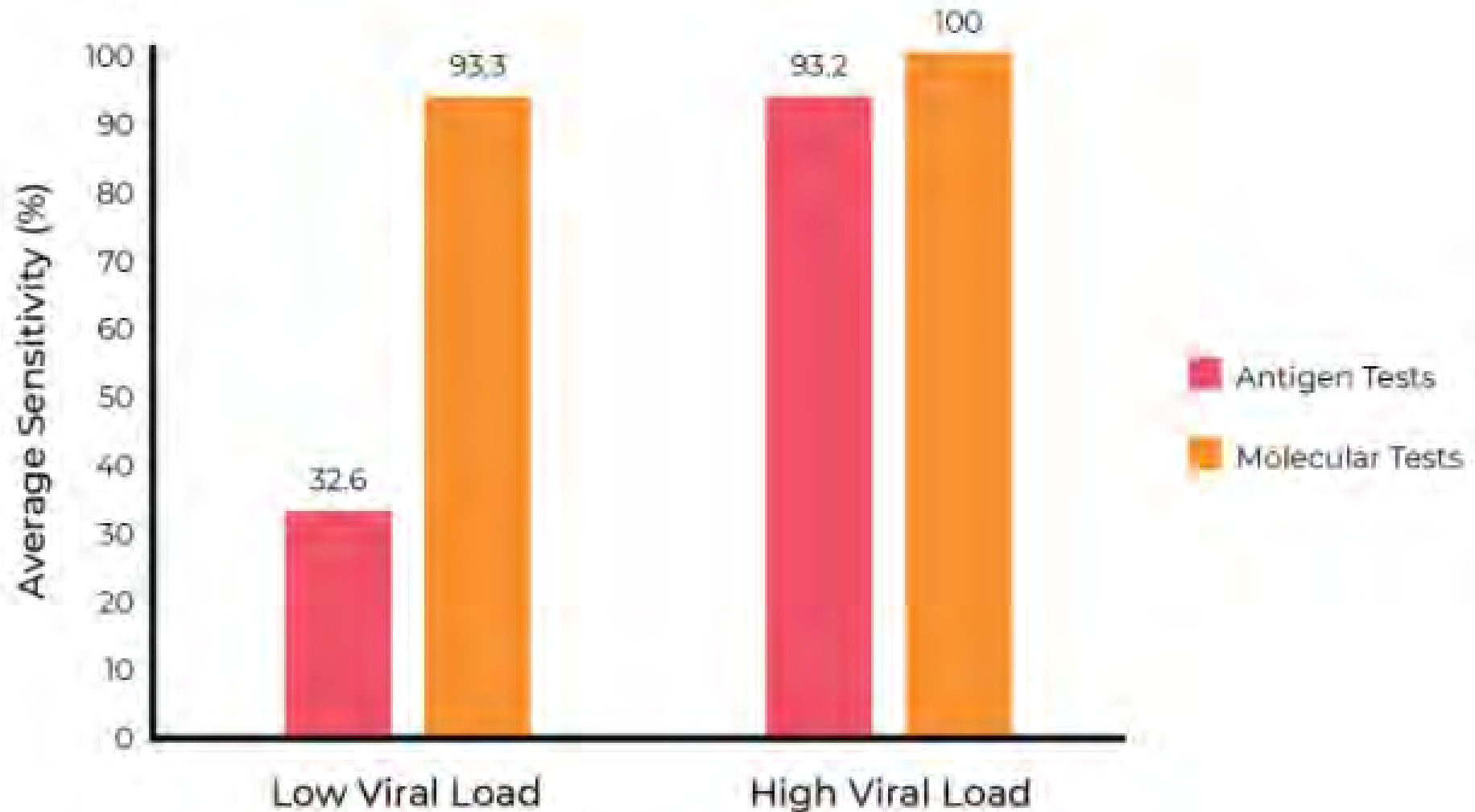
The RT-PCR Bottleneck in Individual Testing and Infection Tracking

- **predominant reliance on large CLIA-certified reference laboratories with high volume throughput**
 - **capacity outstripped by demand leading to slow turnaround time (TAT)**
- **> 48 hr. reporting erodes willingness of asymptomatic individuals to self-isolate**
- **higher cost versus other test modalities as handicap to sustained widespread use**
- **catalyst to develop faster antigen detection tests and CLIA-waived POC/in-home antigen tests**

Identification of Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic COVID-19 Cases: The Case for Large Scale Population Screening

- **key contributors to virus spread and complicate ability to break transmission chains**
- **estimated 30- 40% infections are asymptomatic and may not be tested**
- **adoption of large-scale population screening**
- **schools, colleges, work facilities, military and in-home tests**
- **rapid, easy to use, low-cost tests**
 - **low false positive rates**
 - **lower sensitivity than PCR can be compensated for by frequency of testing to ID false negatives**
 - **link to mobile phone Apps for self-reporting**

Test Sensitivity vs Sample Viral Load: PCR vs Antigen Detection



The Wild West of SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostics



- wide variation in performance, QC/QA of EUA tests
- sensitivity span of greater than 3 log 10
- Removal Lists of Tests that Should No Longer Be Used and/or Distributed for COVID-19 Testing
 - diagnostic tests
 - serological tests



- cease-and desist letters to 171 facilities testing without CLIA certification and/or compliance

Pending Innovations in High Accuracy POC Tests With Rapid TAT



- CUE
- automated PCR cartridge
- 20 - 30-minute TAT readout
- mobile phone reporting
- \$481 million HHS contract for 100,000 tests/day (3/21)
- value for POC confirmation to eliminate false positives from antigen tests



National Reporting of Aggregated COVID Testing Data

- **patchwork of different testing platforms, instruments and data formats**
- **no uniform reporting mechanism or time deadline for individual states (electronic, fax, phone)**
- **requirements to report to county, state, CDC, CMS and HHS (FEMA sometimes)**
- **report both positive and negative assays**
- **HHS/CDC guidelines inconsistent for 'required' vs 'requested' data elements and CMS non-compliance penalties**
- **requirement to also report to state public health lab of an individual's residence**

Contact Tracing: A Core Component in Historical Public Health Protocols for Epidemic Control

- **test-trace-isolate**
- **rapid identification of emergent infection clusters (hots spots, sparks) to prevent unchecked spread (fire)**
- **backward tracing for previous 14 days: a formidable logistical hurdle in fast spreading bioincident**
- **resources: trackers, real time facile information transfer**
- **privacy concerns and societal trust/acceptance**

Contact Tracing



- **WHO benchmark is trace and isolate/quarantine 80% of close contacts within 3 days**
 - very few countries achieve

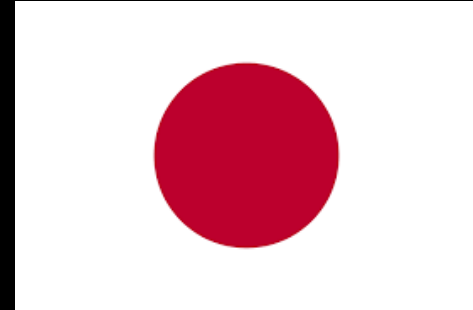
Contact Tracing: A Foundational Historical Component in Epidemic Control COVID-19 Success Stories



South Korea



Vietnam



Japan



Taiwan



Singapore



New Zealand



China

US Contact Tracing in the COVID-19 Pandemic

- **lack of preparedness, slow mobilization and loss of control from the outset**
- **high fraction of asymptomatic cases never tested so trace chain never launched**
- **high proportion of contacted individuals can't (won't) provide details of close contacts**
- **difficulty of tracing contacts > 48 hr before, particularly for users of public transportation or visits to large population venues**
- **no metrics on compliance of contacted individuals to isolate**
- **financial hardship for lower income households asked to isolate**

Superspreading Events (SSE)

- **outsized contribution to overall transmission**
- **analysis of 60 SSE SARS-CoV-2 episodes***
 - **R_0 mean of 19.7 cases**
 - **extreme outlier of 187 cases in Hong Kong apartment**
- **logic for prevention of large gatherings of susceptible individuals and isolation/vaccination of select individuals for pandemic control**

*F. Wong and J. Collins (2020) PNAS 117, 29416

COVID-19: Perceptions of Contact Tracing Institute of Global Health Innovation Global Report (2020)

- **survey of 19 countries on public response to request for contact information**
- **% of population unwilling to provide**
 - **Vietnam 4%**
 - **Germany and USA 20%**
 - **France 25%**
- **shortcomings in public health messaging**
- **public trust, decline of social cohesion and political divisiveness**
- **distrust greater in US African American community (all aspects, including vaccination)**

Individual Rights Versus Public Good



A Well Traveled Advocate for Mask Wearing

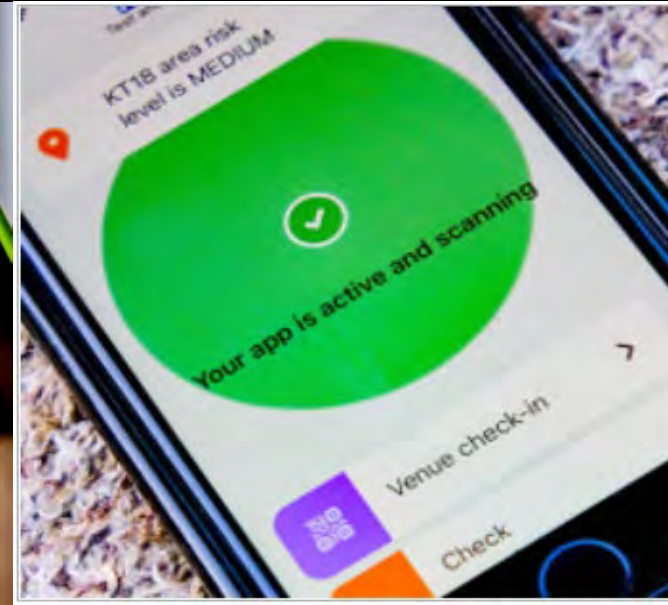


The SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Landscape

post-recovery and correlates of immune protection

- infected and vaccinated individuals
 - antibody detection
 - neutralizing antibody (Nab) titers and duration
 - ratio Nab:non-Nab
 - T cell responses
 - CD4, CD8
 - inflammatory marker panels

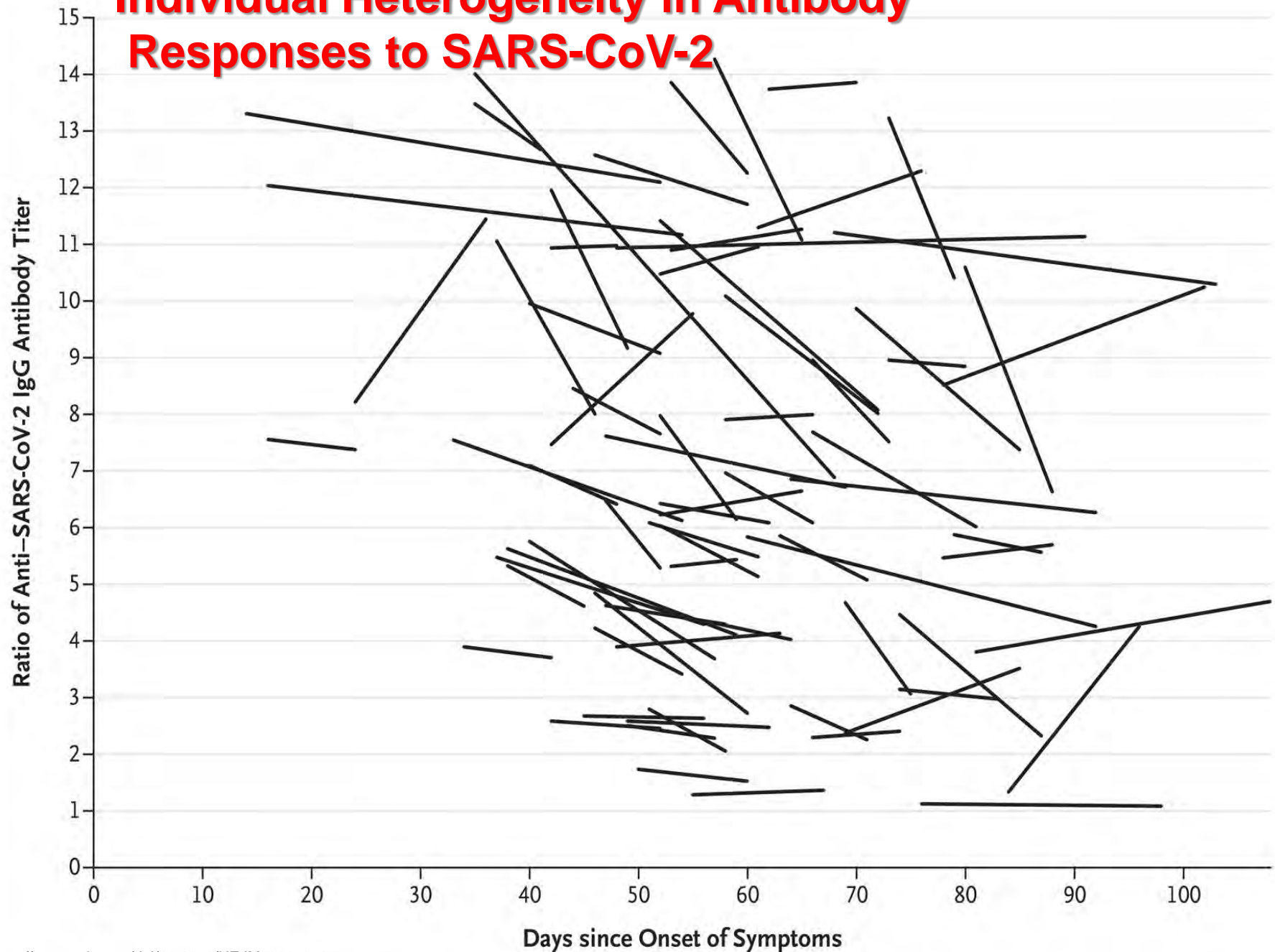
Mobile Phone Apps, Contact Tracing and “Immune Passports”



“Vaccination (Digital) Passports”

- **mobile phone-based QR validation of vaccination**
- **restore ease of international travel and other currently restricted activities (work, schools)**
- **trustworthy, traceable, verifiable and internationally recognized**
- **attractive but over simplified concept**

Individual Heterogeneity in Antibody Responses to SARS-CoV-2



Immunity Passports:

A Scientifically and Ethically Questionable Concept?

- **ill-defined determinants of true immune protection**
 - **antibodies (neutralizing (Nab) vs non-Nab titers**
 - **T cell responses**
 - **duration of immune protection (natural vs vaccine)?**
- **risk from tests with inadequate specificity (false positives) and low sensitivity tests (false negatives with low antibody titer)**

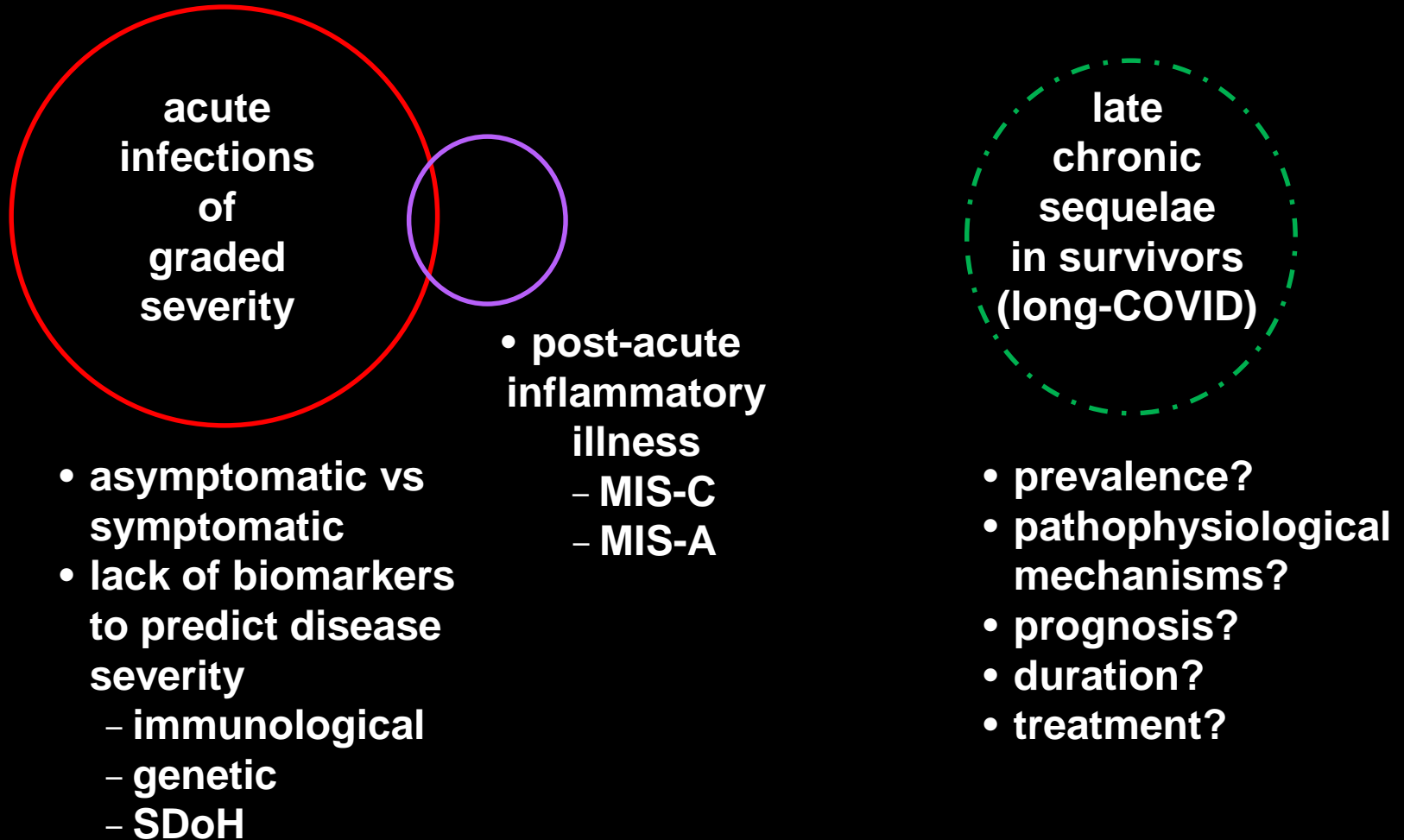
Vaccination (Digital) Passports

- **extend to unvaccinated individuals with validated evidence of natural infection?**
- **antibody titers highly variable in both natural and vaccine-induced immune responses**
 - **protection threshold definition?**
 - **test standards for antibody measurements?**
- **duration of protective immunity and frequency of passport renewal?**
- **vaccines may reduce transmission but risk that some vaccinees may still be contagious?**

Vaccination (Digital) Passports

- **creation of a discriminatory two-tier world of vaccination haves and have-nots?**
 - **delayed access to vaccines (risk categories, poorer countries)**
- **criminal black markets and other fraud risks**

SARS-CoV-2 Infections: Disease Spectrum, Prevalence and Extended Timelines



Host Inflammatory and Immune Biomarkers and Prediction of Clinical Deterioration in Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients

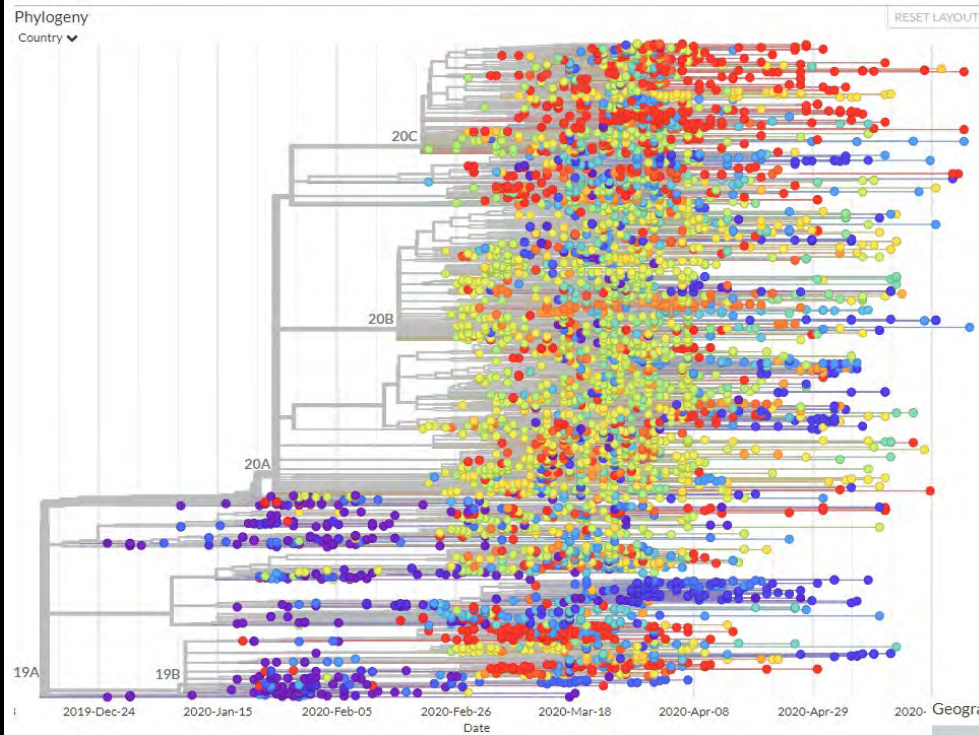
- **multiparameter clinical risk algorithms**
- **cytokine storms**
- **autoantibodies to IFN-I**
- **decoupling of CD4/CD8 T-Cell responses**
- **genetics**
 - **hypo-and hyper-inflammatory response genes**
 - **ACE2 receptor polymorphism**
 - **HLA genotypes**
 - **chromosome 3 Vindija 3.3.19 Neanderthal alleles?**

“Long/Long-Hauler” COVID Patients

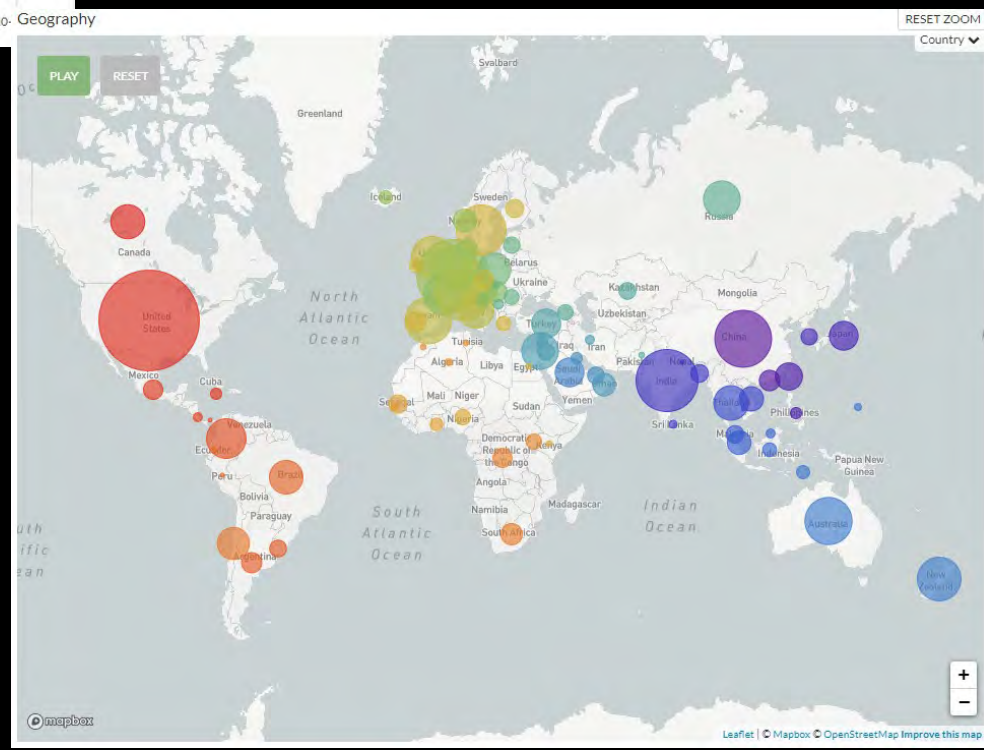
- **CDC estimate**
 - **30-35% patients with persistent symptoms**
 - **1 in 10 with multi-organ symptoms lasting 12 weeks or longer**
 - **higher in women than men**
- **manifest in all age cohorts**
 - **relapsing and remitting clinical course**
- **‘syndromic’ constellation of symptoms defies uniform COVID-related diagnosis**
- **new dedicated recovery clinics and patient registries**

Chronic Disease in Post-Acute COVID Infections: “Long/Long-Hauler” Patients

- **multi-organ involvement but high inter-patient variation**
- **cardiovascular, pulmonary and renal effects**
- **“neuro-COVID”**
 - **higher incidence in older, severe infection recovery with comorbidities**
 - **mental fog, impaired memory, anxiety, depression, fatigue**
 - **risk of myalgia encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS)**
- **delayed neurologic sequelae in other viral infections**
 - **SARS-CoV-1, MERS, HIV, Ebola, polio, H.zoster**



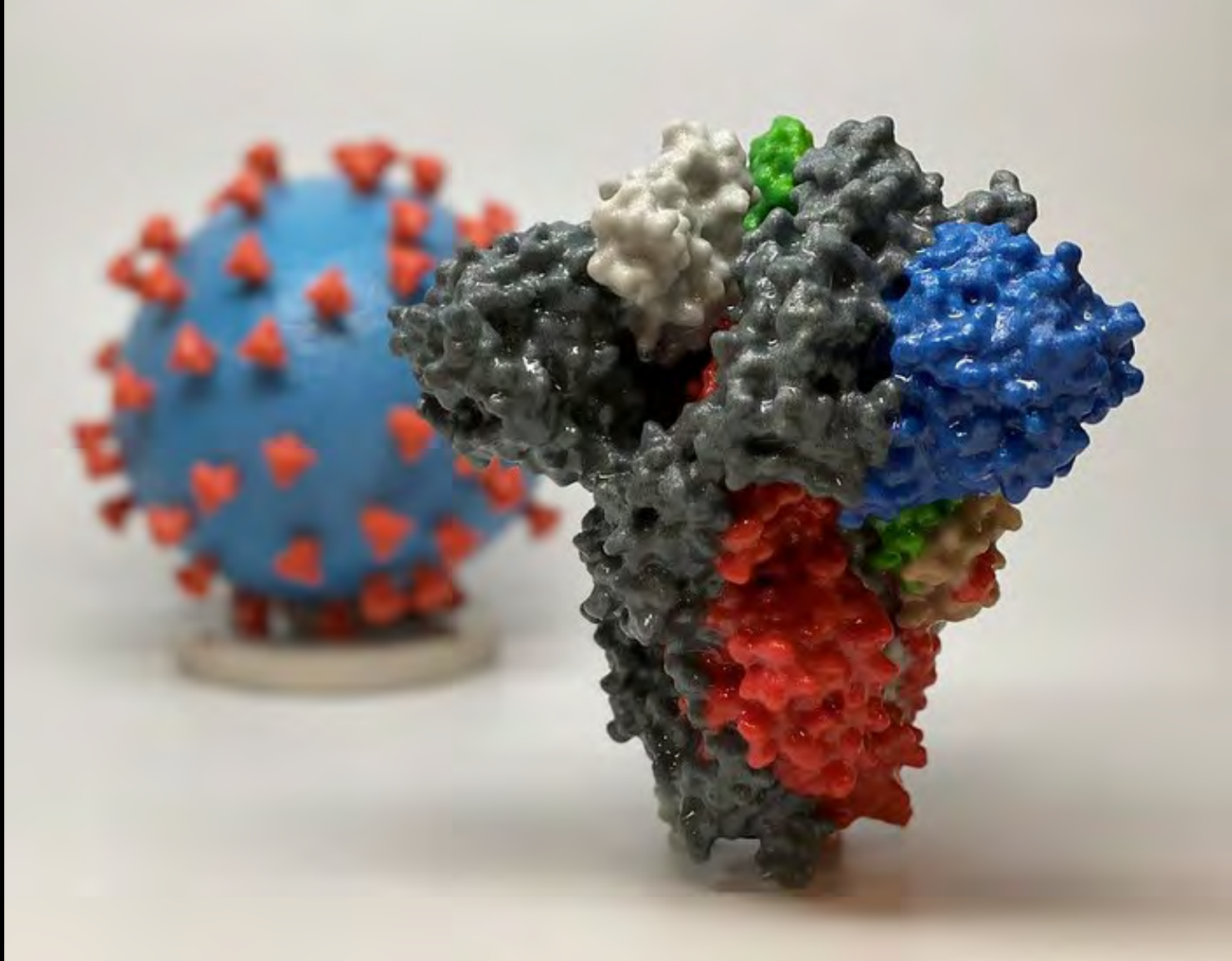
Global Tracking of Mutational Changes in SARS-COV-2 Samples



The Need for Coordinated National/International Campaigns for Large Scale Genome Sequencing to Identify and Track New SARS-CoV-2 Variants

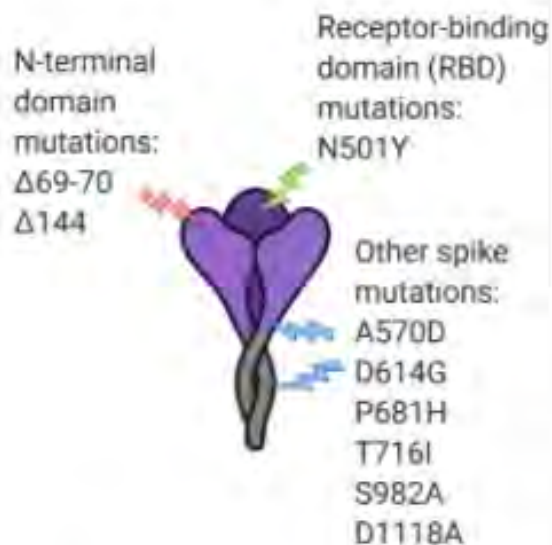
- **altered transmissibility and/or virulence**
- **contact tracing and containment actions**
- **accuracy of Dx and serology tests**
- **evasion and/or reduced efficacy of Rx (Mabs)
and vaccines**

Global Biosurveillance of Mutations in SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein Implications for Increased Transmission and/or Reduced Vaccine Efficacy



Effect of SARS-CoV-2 mutations on vaccines and therapies

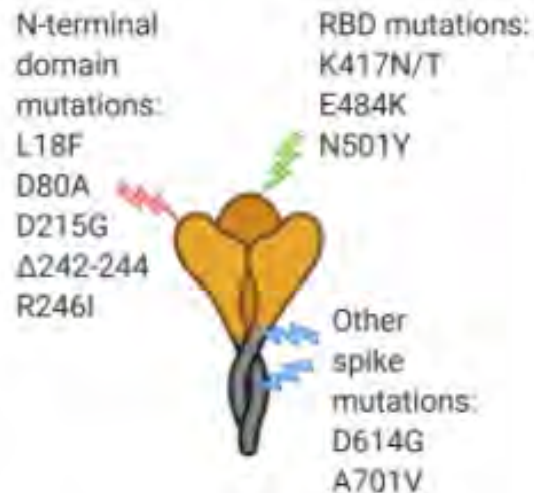
U.K. variant (B.1.1.7 lineage, 501Y.V1)



Impact on efficacy

- ✓ Likely little (vaccines)
- ✗ Possibly high (some mAbs)

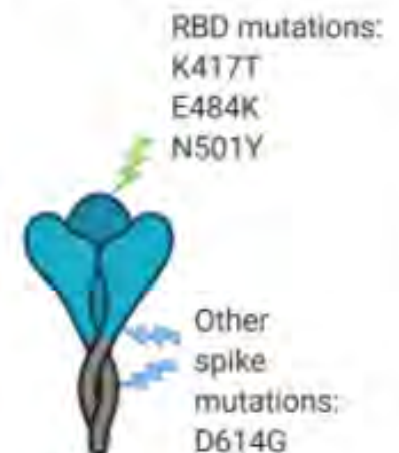
S. African variant (B.1.351 lineage, 501Y.V2)



Impact on efficacy

- ✗ Low to moderate (vaccines)
- ✗ High (some mAbs)

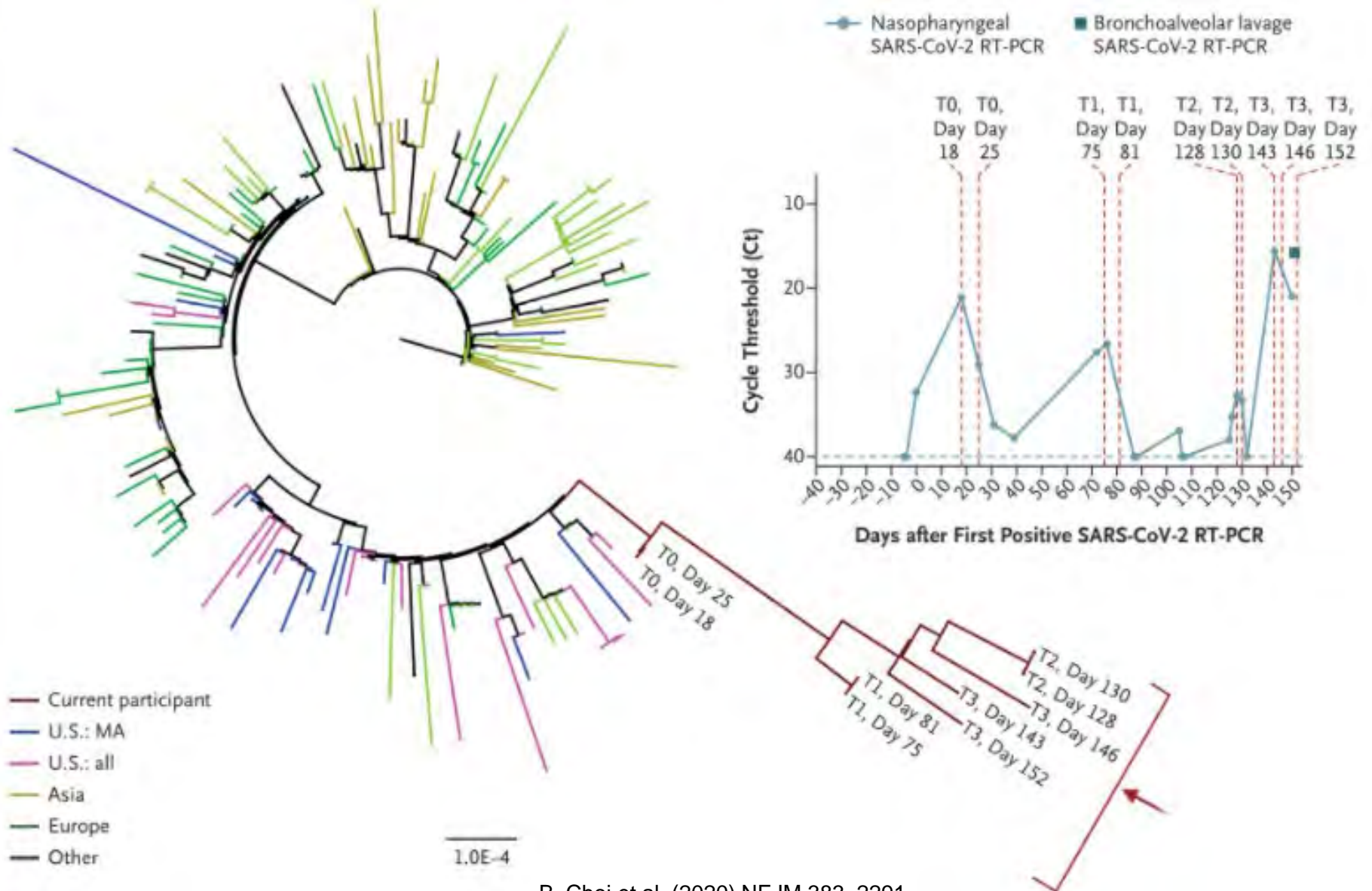
Brazilian variant (B.1.1.28 lineage, 501Y.V3)



Impact on efficacy

- ✗ Low to moderate (vaccines)
- ✗ High (some mAbs)

Global SARS-CoV-2 Phylogenetic Trees and Rapid Evolution in an Immunocompromised Patient *



Comprehensive Biosurveillance of Potential New Zoonotic SARS-CoV-2 Reservoirs and Novel Mutational Drift

- cull of 17 million mink (Denmark) due to emergence of new SARS-CoV-2 variant (“cluster 5”)
 - suspected human to mink transmission (spill-back)
- six countries (5EU, USA) reported mink infections to WHO



Evolution or Deliberate Design of SARS-CoV-2 Variants: Challenges for Future Vaccine Design and an Expanded Bioterrorism Threat



SARS-CoV-2 Outbreak: USS Theodore Roosevelt April 2020

Increased Dual-use Risk from Open Literature Publications?

Rapid reconstruction of SARS-CoV-2 using a synthetic genomics platform

Tran Thi Nhu Thao, Fabien Labrousseau, [...], Volker Thiel *Nature* **582**, 561–565(2020)

Diagnostic Tests: Forensic Analysis and Attribution of Infectious Episodes of Suspicious Origin

- **biowarfare (nations states)**
- **bioterrorism (substate actors but may have national sponsors)**
- **bioerror (containment breaches)**

The Origins of SARS-CoV-2

**Bat-Derived Zoonose?
Additional Intermediate Host ?**



Wuhan Visit by WHO Panel (1/21)

**Biocontainment Breach at Wuhan
Institute of Virology ?**



**2021 Intensified Chinese State
Media Propaganda of US Origin**

Social Media Conspiracy Theories: Chinese and Russian Campaigns to Undermine COVID-19 Vaccination Programs

- highlight 'deaths' (Norway) and 'side effects' for Pfizer/BNTech, Moderna and AZ/Oxford vaccines
- Russia
 - expansion of prior anti-Vaxx propaganda
- China
 - increased disinformation efforts after SinoVac vaccine only achieved 50.4% efficacy
- cyberattacks on US/EU vaccine companies and EU regulatory agencies
 - industrial espionage

A Critique of the US Response to COVID-19

- **politics plus science = politics = consistent inconsistency**
- **lack of coherent national policies and assignment to individual states**
 - **erratic and policies and variable implementation of testing and 'lock downs'**
 - **states forced to compete for purchase of critical PPE and diagnostic resources**
- **ambivalent Federal and State actions on value of face masks and social divisions**
- **conflict and confusion in USG messaging plus proliferation of disinformation on social media**
- **failure of top USG officials to model best practices**

- **what went wrong?**
- **how can control measures be improved rapidly to address persistent problems?**
- **how do we develop robust preparedness against an inevitable future pandemic?**
- **evaluation of public policy and institutional competencies, infrastructure and investment in preparedness**

Enhanced Biosecurity: Will COVID-19 Be The Much-Needed Wakeup Call?

- **biosecurity must be prioritized by governments as having equivalent status to macroeconomic and trade policies, foreign affairs and military threat doctrines in national security policy**
- **implementing this objective may be the most important challenge of the next quarter century**
- **radical institutional reforms and sustained investment**
- **need for greater sophistication and technical knowledge among political leaders**



The Threat from Pandemic Influenza Remains!



The Relentless Ever-Changing Dynamics of Infectious Diseases

**old foes resurgent:
Rx – resistance**



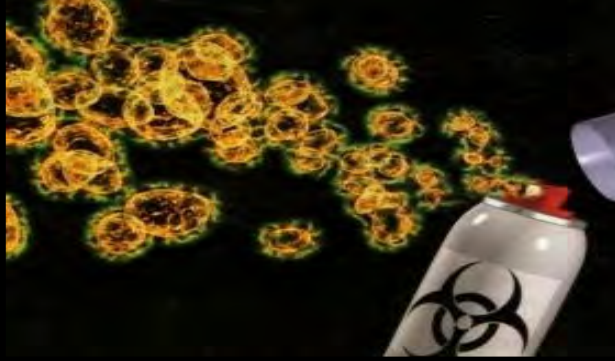
**omnipresent
pandemic threats**



**new foes:
emerging infectious
diseases**



**climate change and
new vector ranges**

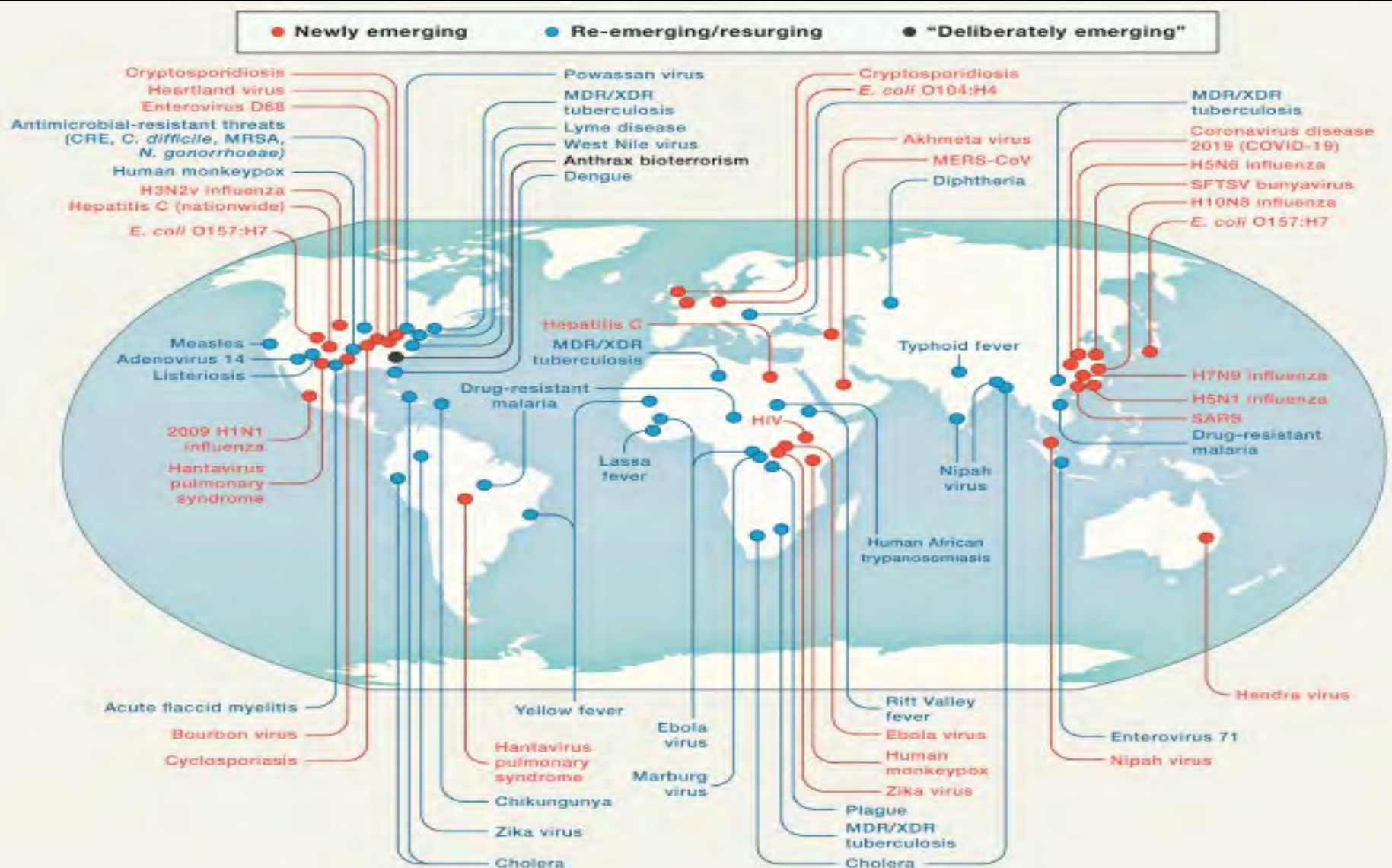


**bioterrorism and
bioweapons**



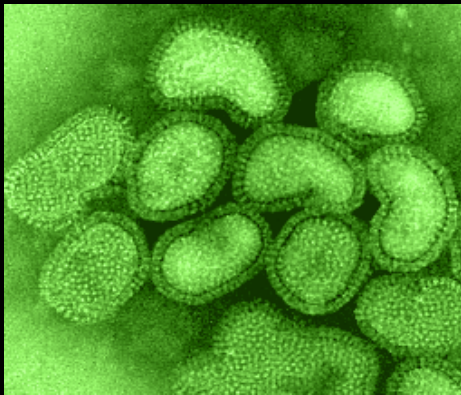
**dual-use
research of concern**

Recent Emerging Infection Diseases

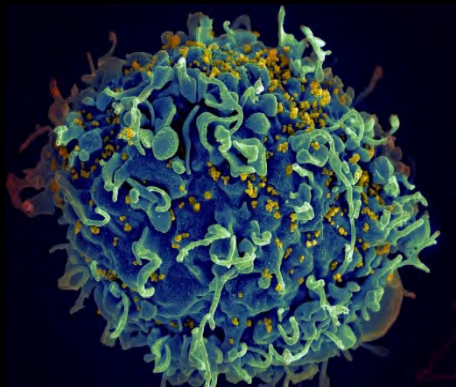


“One Health”- The Importance of Zoonotic Diseases as Human Health Threats: A Rich Reservoir for EIDs and Genetic Manipulation

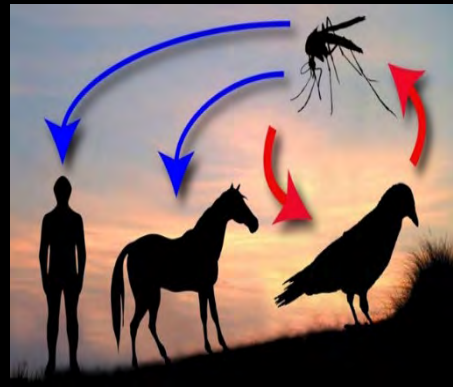
**pandemic (avian)
influenza**



HIV



**West Nile
virus**



MERS- CoV



**Ebola
virus**



**bush meat
food chain**



**Zika
virus**



**what's
out there?**

Urbanization and Mega-Cities in Developing Countries and the Increased Threat of Exotic Zoonotic Diseases

High Population Density With Inadequate Biosurveillance



Expanded Eco-niches and New Zoonotic Exposures/Risks



Major Gaps in Health Infrastructure and Rapid Disease Reporting



Anthropogenic Effects on Ecosystem Stability and Altered Patterns of Infectious Diseases

famine



contaminated water



no water and desertification



depletion of natural resources



**climate change and
new vector ranges**



new vulnerabilities

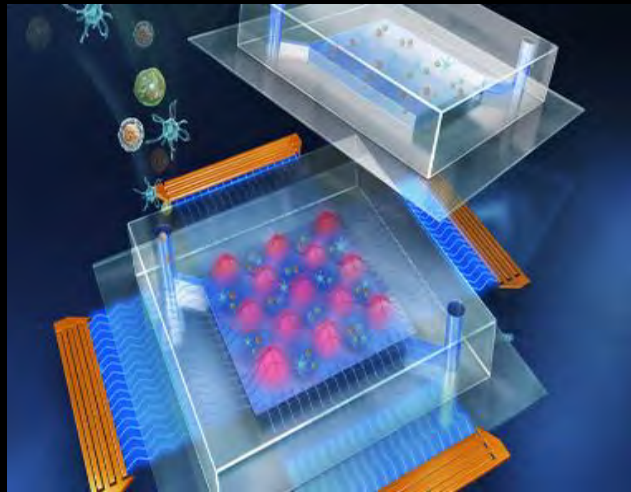
Faster Detection Saves Lives:

The Primacy of Diagnostics in Biosurveillance and Preparedness Mobilization

Profile:
signatures of infectious agents



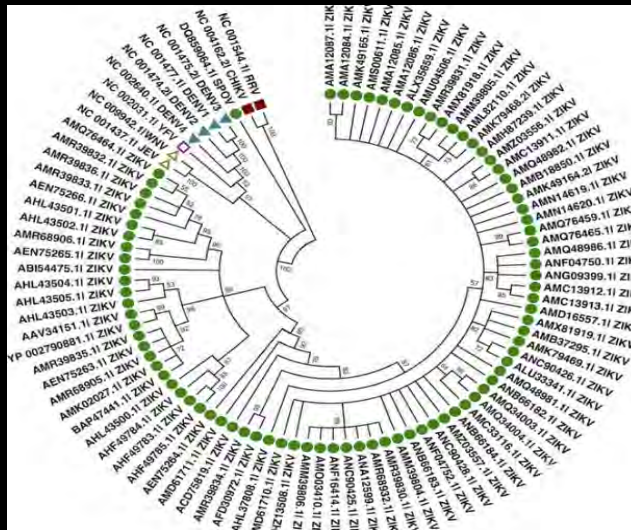
Detect:
rapid automated PON/POC diagnostics



Act:
real-time situation awareness, decisions



**surveillance
sans frontières**



**genomics of
pathogen evolution**



**dual-use research and
engineered biothreats**

Proactive Investment in Preparedness

**Public Sector Responsibilities
and Private Sector Incentives**

Large Scale Molecular Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Vaccines for COVID-19: Critical Dependence on Private Sector Innovation and Investment



Society's Love: Hate Relationship With the Biopharmaceutical Industry: Taking Innovation for Granted

- **estimated two-decade lifetime expansion in lifespan from 1950 onwards**
 - **heart disease/diabetes**
 - **infectious diseases (antibiotics and vaccines)**
- **among the most technologically sophisticated and highest R&D investment of any industry**
 - **\$1.5 to 2 billion per Rx/10-15 years R&D**
 - **600-800million per vaccine/5-25 years R&D**



‘Market Failure’ Lack of Incentives for Development of Medical Countermeasures (MCMs)

- **new incentives for private sector to undertake high risk/high-cost R&D absent guaranteed markets and ROI**
 - **neglected diseases of the developing world**
 - **antibiotic resistance**
 - **MCMs for biowarfare select agents**
 - **emerging infectious diseases**

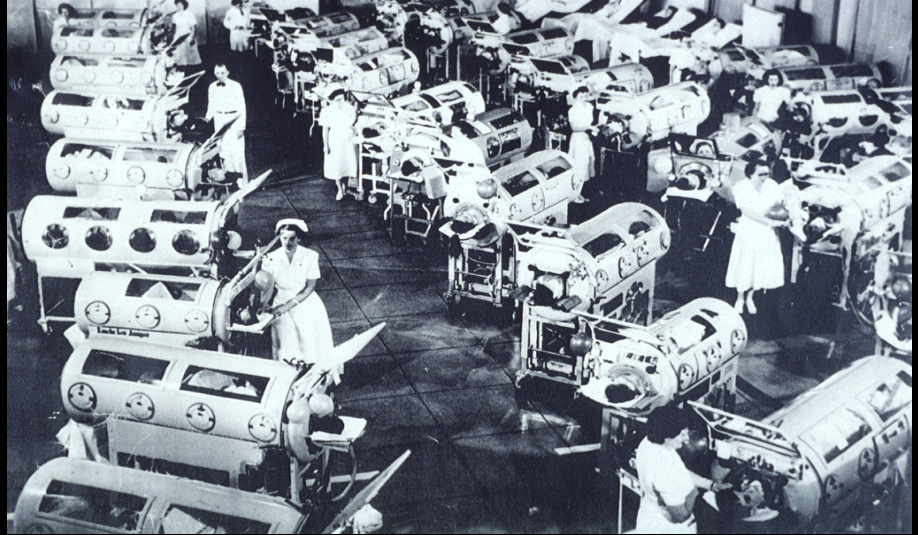
Unfortunate Truisms in Public Health: Comfort and Complacency Erode Robust Preparedness

Out-of-Sight, Out-of-Mind

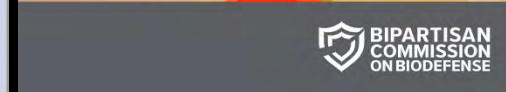
If Nothing Happens, the Preparedness Budget Gets Cut

Why Don't We Learn from History?

Comfort and Complacency: The Enemies of Vigilance and Preparedness



“Fits and Starts: Reactionary Biodefense” From Complacency to Crisis and Back to Complacency



Presidential Encounters with Infectious Disease



WH Directives and Memoranda

- Presidential Policy (PPD)
- National Security (NSPD)
- Homeland Security (HSD)
- National Security Memoranda (NSPM)



- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military Medicine: force protection and projection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Nile • PPD (x3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthrax • PEPFAR • SARS • HSD 4,10,18, 21 • NSPD 17,33 • PPD 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H1N1 influenza • MERS • Ebola • Zika • Chikungunya • HSPD 17 • PDD (X2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPM 7, 14 • PRC - espionage • SARS-COV-2 • ??? |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|

U.S. National Security Policy and Biodefense

BIODEFENSE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



APRIL 2004

NATIONAL BIODEFENSE STRATEGY

2018



NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY *of the United States of America* 2019



COUNCIL on
FOREIGN
RELATIONS



Independent Task Force Report No. 78

Improving Pandemic Preparedness *Lessons From COVID-19*

*The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE*

CONSENSUS STUDY REPORT

A STRATEGIC VISION FOR BIOLOGICAL THREAT REDUCTION

*The U.S. Department of Defense
and Beyond*



Preventing Global Catastrophic Biological Risks

*Lessons and
Recommendations
from a Tabletop
Exercise Held at the
2020 Munich Security
Conference*

BETH CAMERON, PH.D. • JIA MEYASSIR, PH.D. • JACOB JORDAN, PH.D. • JACOB ROLES, M.P.H.

United States Health Security National Action Plan:

*Strengthening Implementation of the International Health Regulations
based on the 2016 Joint External Evaluation*

October 2018



Report to Congressional Committees
NATIONAL SECURITY
Long-Range Emerging Threats Facing the United States
As Identified by Federal Agencies
December 2018

GAO
U.S. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

CRIMSON CONTAGION 2019 FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE AFTER-ACTION REPORT

JANUARY 2020

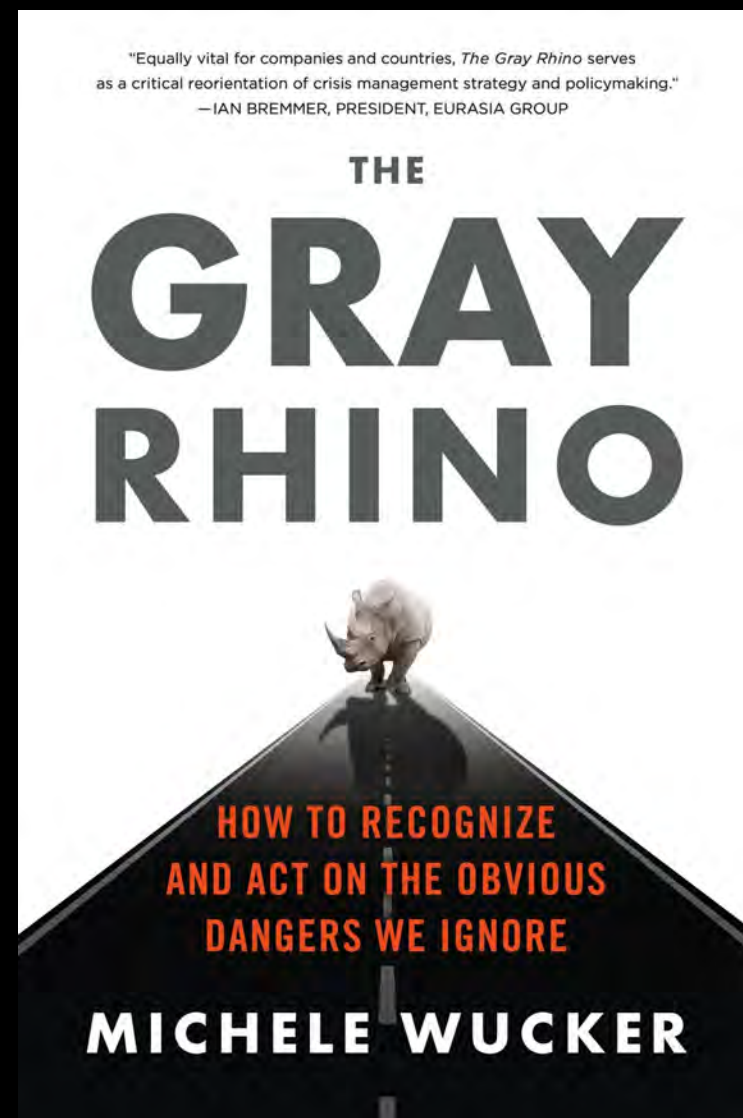
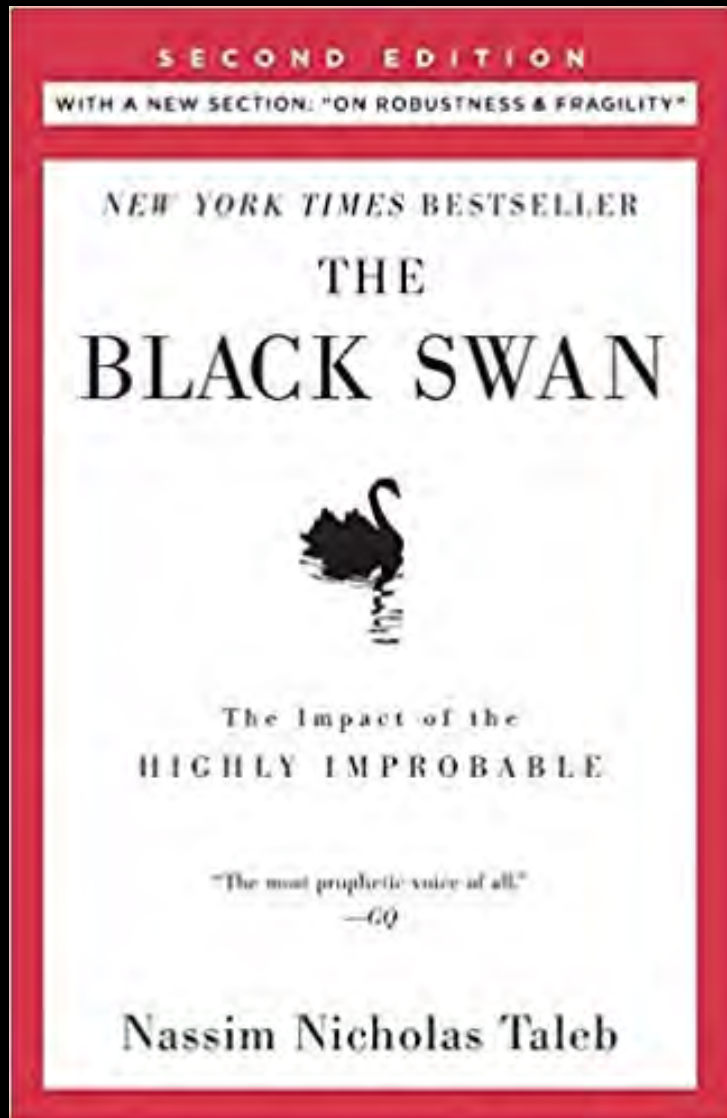


NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

JANUARY 2021



Risk Awareness and Risk Perception: Black Swans Versus Gray Rhinos





‘Black Swans’

- **highly improbable and/or unimaginable events**
- **no apparent ‘prodromal’ warning signs**
- **intellectually lazy and disingenuous excuse that nothing can be done to prepare**
- **warning signals always there but widely ignored and/or denied**
 - **2008 financial crash: derivatives; sub-primes**
 - **escalating cyber attacks by Russia and PRC**
 - **intensity of PRC industrial espionage and IP theft**



‘Black Swans’: The Delusion of the Inability to Plan for Known Risks

- encourages willful ignorance
- obfuscates accountability
- short-termism as major barrier to longer – term risk assessment and preparedness
 - governments, corporations, society



Gray Rhinos

- **slow moving but with the potential for profound disruption**
- **documented risk but typically dismissed incorrectly as low probability threats**
- **prior warning signs (acute or cumulative)**
- **resulting disruption reveals the stark consequences in public policy, preparedness and crisis management competences**



The Global Risks Report 2021

16th Edition

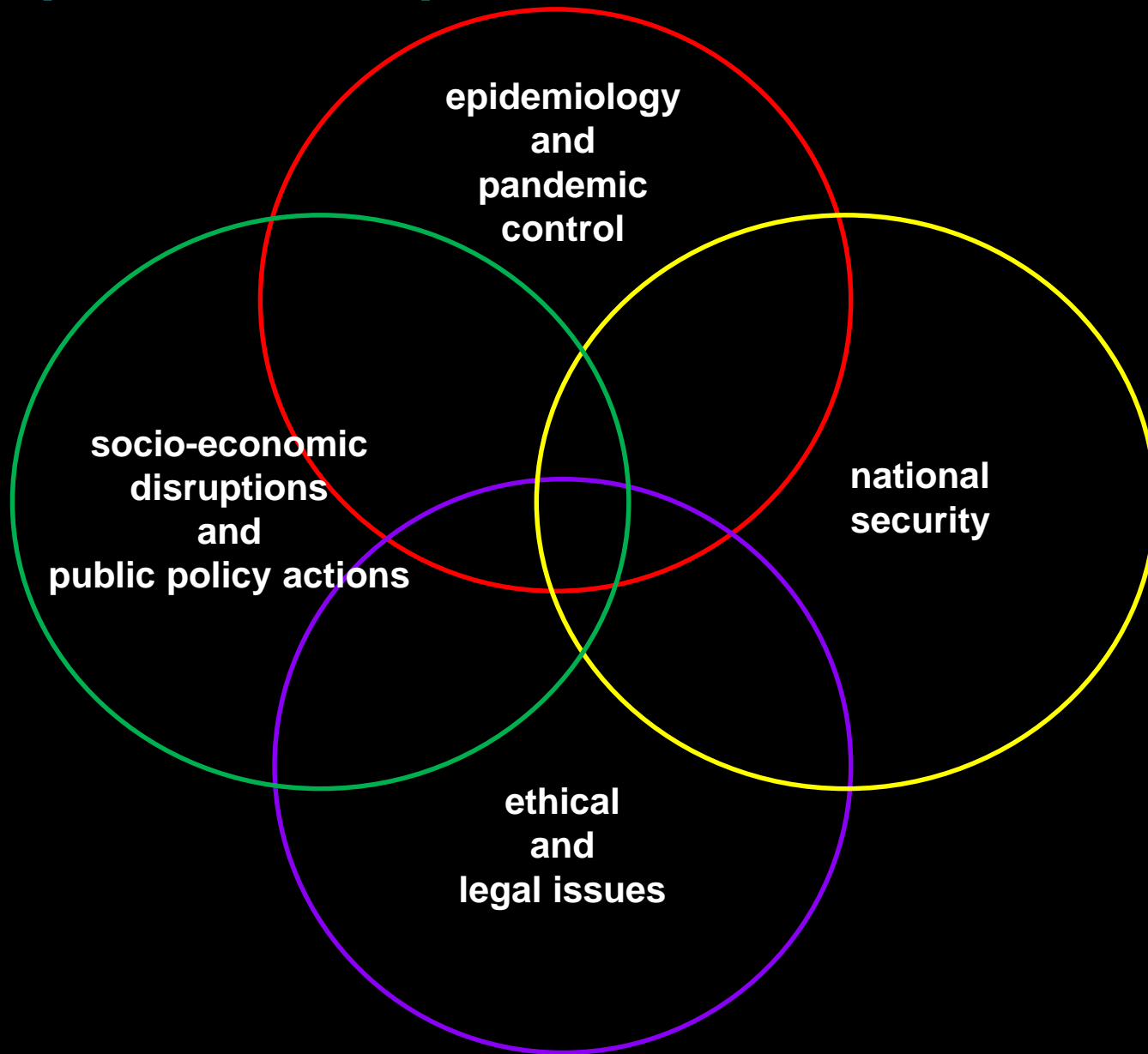
INSIGHT REPORT

In partnership with Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group

The Curse of Contemporary Governance: ‘Quick Fixes’ and the Retreat from Complexity

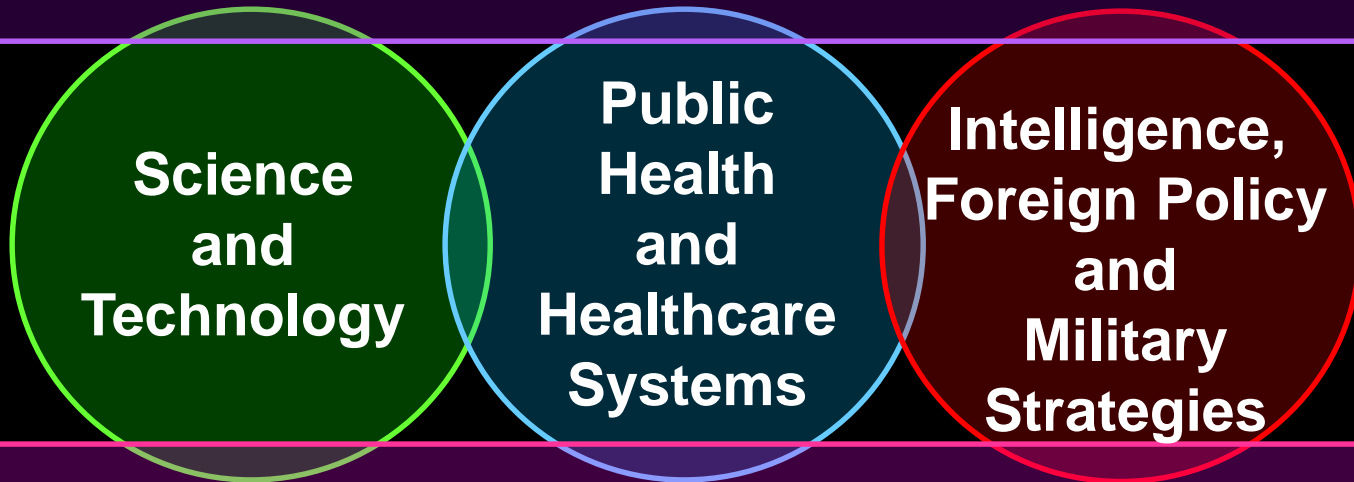
- **false comfort and complacency**
 - **society increasingly “cocooned” from complexity and risk**
- **pervasive and dangerous scientific illiteracy among legislative and policy makers about biosecurity**
- **“quick fixes” unidimensional, short term policies that**
 - **do not address long term, multidimensional complexity**
- **public policy defined increasingly by length of legislative terms**
- **influence of media in shaping public policy priorities and potential compromise of operational preparedness**

The Complex Landscape of Pandemic Disease



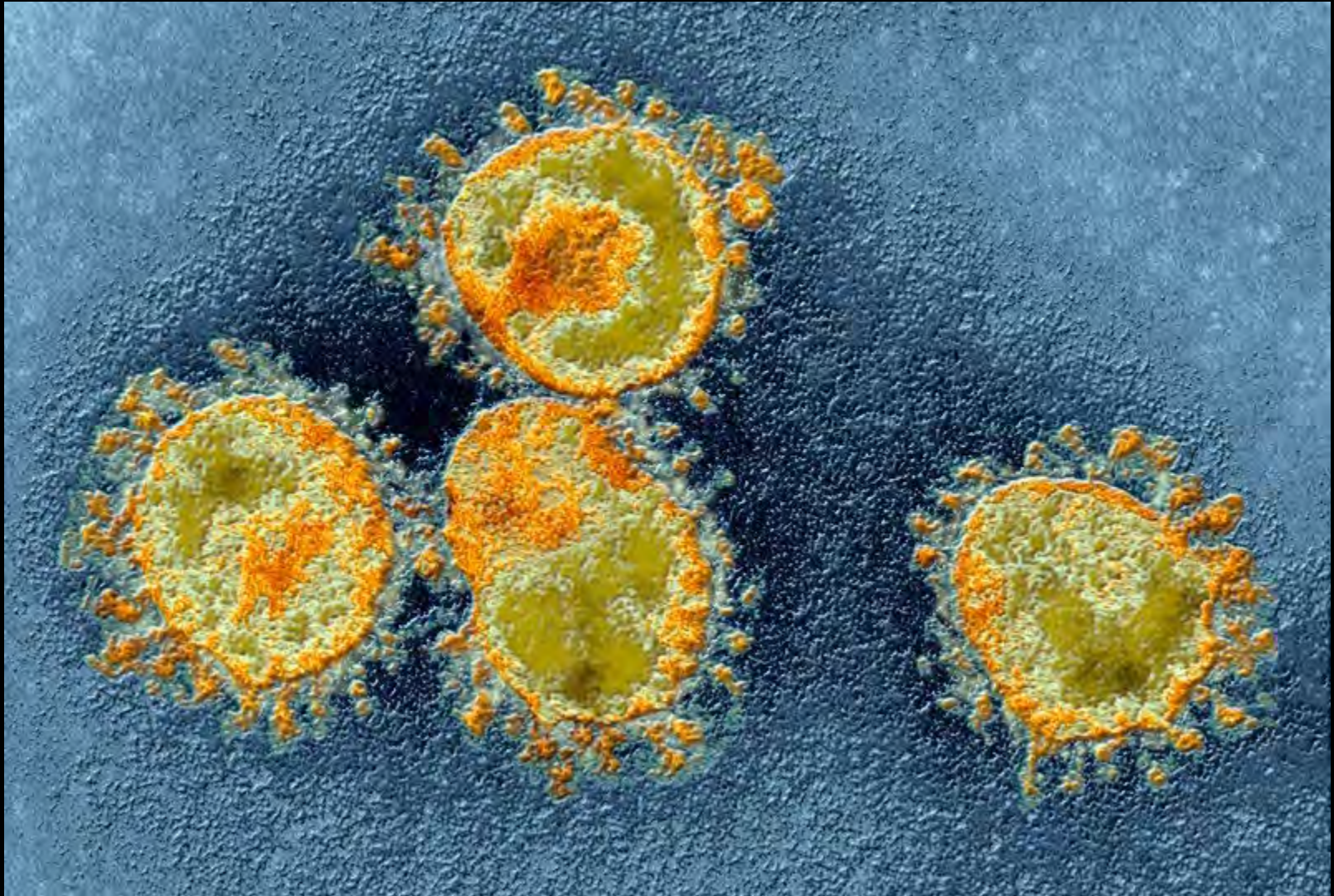
Biosecurity: A Classic Complex System of Systems Challenge

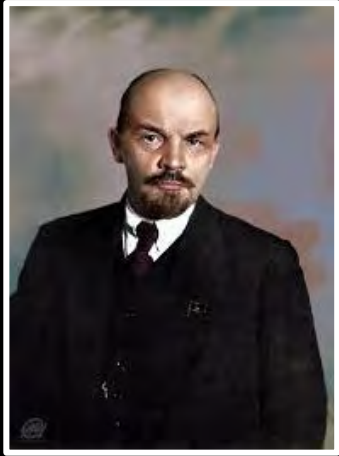
- global perspectives
- biological, socio-economic, and political ecosystems



- societal priorities and cost of biosecurity
- proactive preparedness
- conflicting political ideologies, intents and capabilities (global and national)

A World Transformed By SARS-COV-2





**“There are decades where nothing happens
and there are weeks where decades happen.”**

Vladimir Lenin (1917)



**“Every few hundred years throughout Western history
a sharp transformation has occurred
In a matter of decades, society altogether rearranges
itself**

**- its world view, its basic values,
its social and political structures,
its arts, its key institutions .”**

Peter Drucker (1992)

Harvard Bus. Rev. Reprint 92503

**“Politics is the art of the possible,
the calculated science of survival”**

Prince Otto von Bismarck



**“Survival owes little to the art of politics,
but everything to the calculated application
of science”.**

**Professor Rudolph Virchow
(in reply)**



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<https://casi.asu.edu/?q=presentations>

